



August 2017

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Volume 40, Issue 1



Cobras Striking Success

Special points of interest:

- Back to school night is Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 PM
- Sept 5—6th grade begins
- Sept 6—7th & 8th grade begins

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From the Principal.....

Dear Parents:

The 2017-2018 school year is going to be an exciting year and going to provide opportunities in and out of the classroom for all students. It is a year of change and transition as we welcome the new members of our faculty who reflect both an increase in positions, and replacements for those who are promoted, retired, or seeking other opportunities.

We welcome to our faculty and staff this year the following: Sharon Homan-Zoller- LA6 and SS 6, Ruth Johnston- Spanish and French, Amy Mullin- Mathematics 7, Michele Pierson- Physical Education, Jennifer Smith Science 7, Matthew Smith- Social Studies 7, Joanne Sprague LA 8, Noel Wagner- Science 6, Lauren Walker- Choral Music, Julie Wright Health/ Physical Education, Rhonda Hackley-(counseling intern), Dr. Rachel Odom- school psychologist, and Leigh Fleckenstein ESOL teacher.

Preparations for our opening of the 2017-2018 school year have been on-going all summer with schedules being built, staff hiring, and as always a thorough cleaning of the building. Our sixth graders will arrive on September 5 to travel the building alone as a grade, and learn the ins and outs of navigating their way around their new school. The sixth graders will enter the front door and be escorted to the cafeteria where they will be welcomed and meet their teachers. Each teacher will read their first period list and escort their students to the sixth grade instructional area. They will begin their middle school experience alone for a full day of orientation, team building and academics. This is always an exciting day and we have every staff member ready to help and guide our sixth graders through their day.

All students will arrive September 6 for the official beginning of the school year. Our seventh and eighth graders will return for their first day of school. The sixth graders will enter the sixth grade entrance. This is located on the east front of the building. The teachers will be outside to assist sixth graders. Our seventh grade students will enter through the front of the building and go to the student activity center. Their teachers will meet them, read their names and escort them to class. The eighth graders will enter through the eighth grade entrance by the cafeteria on the west side of the building (next to South River High School) their teachers will read their names and escort them to class. Posters will also display student names listed alphabetically with their first period teacher's name and their 1st Period classes.

Central Middle School's annual Back to School Night will be September 14. We look forward to meeting and greeting our new student's parents as well as those returning each year. We spend time reviewing the AACPS Student Code of Conduct. We ask that you review the handbook when it comes home and ask your child if they understand the Code of Conduct. Each student signs off that they were explained the Code of Conduct and understand it. It is important that each student understand the expectations for behavior, attendance and academics. This year there have been some changes and this will be highlighted for students.



Our school newsletter is published monthly on our website. There are paper copies available in the main office at the beginning of each month for those who do not have access to the website. Please take a few minutes and review the contents of our newsletter. We highlight events, activities and students accomplishments monthly.

We like to highlight our students' out of school successes so let us know the good things your child is accomplishing.

Your active involvement in your child's middle school experience is encouraged here at Central Middle School. Parent involvement is essential to your child's academic success. You can stay involved by monitoring their homework, being aware of their activities after school, knowing their friends, monitoring their internet use, establishing daily routines and setting expectations. In this fast moving technological world, stay personally connected to your child by engaging in daily conversations. Do not let them isolate themselves with their cell phones.

This year we begin our school year with over 1200 students in attendance. Your child's safety and security is a top priority and we ask you to observe sign-in procedures, and traffic patterns.

We encourage visitors and welcome you to come by and see us in action. Please report to the front office to be checked in by our receptionist. Our security system requires the scanning of your driver's license. The system helps us know who is in the building in case of emergencies and counts our volunteer hours.

Those who drive your children to school are asked to drop students off in the Central Middle School parking lot and require them to cross using the crosswalk. Please do not drop them off at the high school and have them cross in the bus driveway. This is extremely dangerous and is not monitored crossing. Please do not enter the bus lot in front of the building between the hours of 7:45 and 4:15. This area is for buses only.

Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:10 am. There is no supervision prior to that time and it is not safe to leave your child unattended. Walkers and car riders will exit the building from the front of the building and proceed outside. All students are expected to use the crosswalk which brings them out between the handicapped spaces and the visitor spaces.

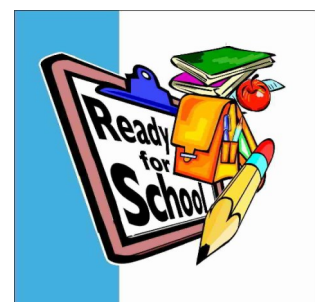
Central Middle School anticipates having a very active and strong PTA/CAC and we encourage every family to join. The meetings are held the second Thursday of the month. Please join us!

Back to school night will be September 14. Please be sure to read the flyers that come home this month regarding this very special and important event. The parents will follow the students' daily schedule and procedures of their child(ren). There will be no general meeting due to the size of the audience. You will report to first period and announcements will be made in place of the general meeting. The teachers look forward to meeting you and sharing their policies and procedures for the coming year. We look forward to working together to make a difference in all students' lives.

Sincerely,
Millie Beall
Millie Beall
Principal

Our Vision

Central Middle School will continuously strive to become a collaborative community of staff, parents and students where active engagement in instruction is tailored to students needs and interests.





Our Mission

In order to be productive citizens of the 21st century, all students will be actively engaged in opportunities to achieve high levels of performance on quality standards through rigorous instruction tailored to their diverse needs, cultures, and interests.



Opening Day - Welcome!

6th Graders will report to school on Tuesday, September 5. All other students will report to school on Wednesday, September 6.

Regular School hours will be 8:20 a.m. until 3:05 p.m.

Bus riders should look at the AACPS website for bus schedules and stops. Plan to be at your designated stop fifteen minutes early during the first few days of school.

Walkers should plan to arrive at Central Middle by 8:10 a.m. Upon arrival at

school, students will remain outside the main entrance until the 8:10 a.m. bell signals the time to enter the building. In case of inclement weather, students will be admitted to the small gym at 8:00am.

When sixth graders report on Tuesday September 5, they will report to the cafeteria. From there, they will be taken by their first period teachers to their classes where they will receive their schedules, lockers and other important information.

On Wednesday September 6, seventh graders will report to the Student Activity Center. Eighth grade students will report to the cafeteria. They will be assisted by their teachers.



Back-To-School Night

Central Middle's Back-to-School night will be held on **Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

You will follow your child's schedule and begin your day in their first period class. Teachers will present their instructional programs and their policies and procedures.

Please plan to join us for a very informative evening!



Video Camera System/V-Soft School Security

CMS is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building/grounds.

It is NOT monitored constantly, but is monitored during emergency situations. During events when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system. If you have any questions about the system, you should call the supervisor of School Security at 410-222-5083.

V-Soft by Raptor Ware.....

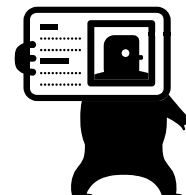
When you visit our school you will be asked to present a government/state issued photo ID (i.e Driver's License) to a staff person in the school office. The ID will be scanned and the following information collected: your photo, name and date of birth. This information will be utilized to check you in, create an ID badge, and compare your information against sexual offender databases throughout the county.

If your name appears on the list or you refuse to allow the use of your ID, you will NOT be allowed access to the school.

You will also be asked to check out with the office upon leaving. The information will not be shared outside of the school and is kept on a secure server. Your assistance in keeping students safe is appreciated.

All Parents and Visitors must have a government issued ID in hand upon entrance to our building.

NO exceptions!



NEWS....Central Middle has a clothing donation bin!

This bin will be permanently outside of Central Middle School. CMS will receive money based on how much clothing (and other items- see below) is collected throughout the year.

We accept the following Textiles in All Conditions:

1. All Clothing
2. All Shoes
3. Accessories (Handbags, backpacks, etc.)
4. Bed Linens (sheets, blankets, etc.)
5. Towels
6. Pillows
7. Toys (if made of cloth, NOT plastic)

We do **NOT** accept:

1. Items too Large to that fit inside the collection bin opening.
2. Furniture
3. Foam Cushions
4. Food
5. Hangars
6. Plastic Toys
7. Carpet (anything larger than small rug)

It is a great way to educate children on the importance of recycling and help their school.

All collected clothing in:

- good or better condition is given a second life at thrift stores here in the U.S. **Reworn**
- less than good condition will be **Repurposed** (I.E. items worn out could be turned into rags)
- poor condition or less will be processed for recycling. **Recycled**

Recycling happens as the final option. We accept ALL Clothing, in ALL Conditions, this is what makes Clothing to Cash unique.

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Central Middle School PTSA
Thank you for being involved!



Book Bag Policy

Our Book bag policy is as follows:

- ⇒ Students may use book bags to carry materials to and from school
- ⇒ Students may NOT carry book bags during the school day
- ⇒ Students will have access to their lockers at the start and end of the school day

and at lunchtime
This policy was designed to maximize your child's educational experience at Central Middle in that:

- * Complies with medical findings that carrying heavy book bags can permanently injure a child or interfere with his/her physical development
- * Reduces the amount of materials being carried by

our students, reducing the opportunity for injuries

- * Assists students in developing organizational skills and helps students become more responsible for planning their academic day
- * Minimizes students' capacity to bring inappropriate items to school



Lockers



Locks must be purchased from Central Middle School for \$5.00

Students will use the same lock for the years he/she is a student at CMS.

The school will not assume responsibility for stolen items

Students should not share lockers!

Students are responsible for the contents of their lockers.

Only school related items and outerwear should be stored in lockers.

Administrators have the authority to search lockers at any time

if they have probable cause.

Though every effort is made to maintain locker security, students are encouraged NOT to store valuables in them.

Student Conduct

CMS follows all county guidelines regarding student conduct. Early in the school year we distribute and review two booklets pertaining to behavior. One of these booklets is the county's *Student Handbook*, and the other is our Central Middle School Student Handbook. The former details the county's Code of Student Conduct. As your child to share these booklets with you.

Any student who receives two office referrals in a 45-day period will have a letter mailed to his/her home to inform parents. If a third offense occurs within the 45-day period, that student will be suspended from school as per county policy. As always our goal is to establish and maintain a safe learning

environment for all students. We appreciate your support of our efforts.

Newsletters

Newsletters are posted on the AACPS website the first of every month.

IF you do not have computer access, please contact Mrs. Muldoon in the office and we will distribute a hard copy of the Newsletter to your student to bring home.



Agenda Books and The CMS Handbook

The first week of school your child will be given an agenda book. The cost of this book is Teachers use this book to encourage students to write down their homework assignments. The first 11 pages of the agenda book are the **Central Middle School Handbook**. This handbook contains information about everyday life at Central Middle School.

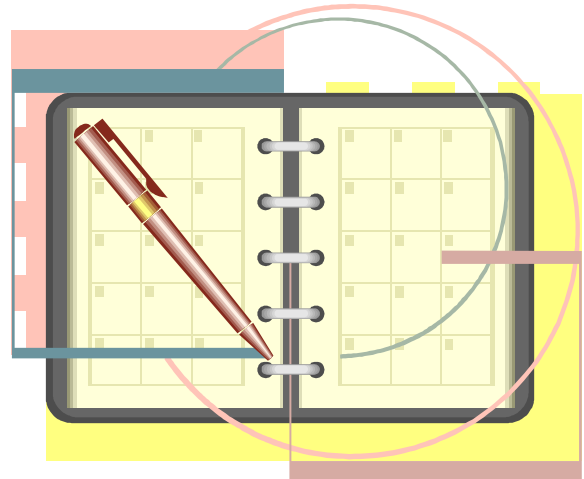
Together with the AACPS handbooks, it

will help you to understand our policies and procedures. We hope that all students will use good judgment and cooperate in all school activities.

We are always happy to answer any questions you have concerning our school.

Please feel free to contact us at any time with your questions and suggestions.

The cost of the Agenda book is \$5.00



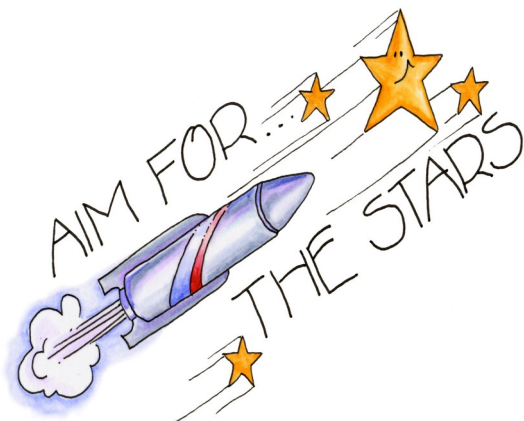
Holiday/Birthday/Gift Protocol



To minimize any disruption in the cafeteria, classrooms or busses, Central Middle School established the following guideline:

NO balloons, snacks, food/beverage items, gift or fruit baskets are to be brought into school. Thank you for your cooperation.





Extracurricular Activity Programs

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:55 until 3:50 are Extracurricular Activity Days at Central Middle.

Activities include intramural sports, Year-book Club, Science Club Mathematics Club, French Club, Drama Club, Robotics, and instrumental and choral music programs.

Student transportation is provided by activity buses.

Information about extracurricular activities is communicated via morning announcements .

Federal Impact Aid Survey Form

On Wednesday, September 30, 2017 your child will bring home a Federal Impact Aid Survey form. Please assist us by filling out the information requested on the form and return to the Anne Arundel County Public Schools in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided.

The US Department of Education has now requested a separate survey form for each child , the complete address of the parent/guardian's employer if they work on federal property, the complete address of the federal property on which they work, and each survey form must be signed and dated by the parent/guardian.

If needed, additional forms may be obtained from the school or downloaded from the AACPS website (www.aacps.org) under **Students, Forms**. The Federal Impact Aid Survey form for 2017-2018 will be available to download on September 30, 2017. We will also be using our Connect-Ed Automated Telephone Notification System to remind everyone about the significance of completing and returning this survey. The school system receives approximately \$2 million in funding from the Federal government in support of our children after the forms are processed.

Thank you in advance for your support and assistance. Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Ms. Donna Barker at 410-222-5200.



Parent Connect

Applications and password assignments are now ONLINE. Please register on the AACPS website.



Attendance at Central Middle School

Anne Arundel County Public Schools has an attendance tracking system for all middle schools. Attendance is taken for each student for every period of the day through the county's student data system. Hopefully, the following information will be helpful to parents.

Parents will receive phone calls from the Anne Arundel County Public School system (Connect ED) each morning around 9:00 a.m. and in the evenings around 6:00 p.m. every time that their student is recorded as being absent—either all day OR just for one period during the day. A tardy message is also sent out via Connect Ed whether there is a tardy to school or a tardy to class. Parents can do the following to check on their child's attendance when they receive phone calls from Connect Ed:

Ask your child if perhaps they were late to class or in the guidance office or health room—if the period was coded by the teacher as an absence, that code can be changed to an excused tardy to class if the student had a pass.

If you have a Parent Connect account, you can log on and see your child's attendance for the day. You will see a code for each period by holding the cursor over the attendance icons. Parent Connect will also let you see tardies. Then:

Touch base with the teacher when you see an unexcused absence for a period and your child isn't sure why they were marked absent. If a correction needs to be made, the teacher will contact the Attendance Secretary. "Tardy to class" questions should be addressed first by the teacher.

According to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, children who are absent six or more days of school per semester regardless of cause, are considered "excessively absent". We are always willing to work with parents and students to address issues which impact your child's attendance.

Make sure that when your child is absent, you send in a note to the student's first period teacher explaining the absence(s). Any absence due to illness of more than 5 days requires a doctor's note. Vacations during the school year are considered unexcused absences under Maryland State law and Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

"We believe everyone deserves a safe, supportive, and orderly learning environment."



TRANSPORTATION:

Bus Riders, Bike Riders, Car Riders and Walkers



Cobras Striking Success

Parents, teachers, administrators, bus drivers and students all need to work together to ensure a safe arrival and departure for everyone each day.

BUS RIDERS: You are expected to board the bus at **your** designated bus stop. Please be **on time** each day. While on the bus, all school rules are in effect. **We expect each student to behave well so that bus drivers can pay attention to their driving.** Students who cannot comply may have the privilege of bus transportation taken away.

Teachers will review bus behavior standards written in the “Student Handbook” during the first week of school.

Changes in bus transportation arrangements can be made only by filling out an **Exceptional Transportation Request** form, available in the main office. Where possible, we ask that this form be submitted **at least three days before** the change is to take place. **Emergency** situations will be handled on an individual basis. All requests are subject to verification prior to final approval by the Supervisor of Transportation

Types of requests that will be approved include long-term child care arrangements, medical requests. **Requests for transportation to athletic practices, doctor appointments, employment and visits to friends’ houses will be denied as per Board of Education policy.**



PARKING: Our parking lot spaces are for staff and visitors to Central Middle. Any other cars parked in our areas are subject to being towed.

STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP: Please honor the “Do Not Enter” signs leading into the main driveway in front of the school. Drop off your children in the morning by pulling into the parking lot and proceeding to the area opposite the crosswalk (between the two handicapped parking signs).

CAR RIDERS, BIKE RIDERS, AND WALKERS: Car riders, bike riders, and walkers report to the cafeteria after the 3:05 bell. They are to remain there until the buses depart. **This is a safety issue** for both students and parents. Buses pulling into their slots can NOT see students coming out from behind other parked buses.

In the event you need to pick up your child from school, **please wait for your child** in the portion of our parking lot **closest to the high school**. Students will be dismissed from the cafeteria about 3:15 P.M. The first week of school expect some delays due to students getting used to lockers, schedules, and bus numbers.

REMINDER FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

If your student feels ill during the school day, please let them know to report to the Health Room (located near the main office). The Health Room staff will assess the student and then call a parent.

Students are not allowed to use their cell phones in the classroom for texting or any other purpose. After the second offense, the phone will be held for a parent to pick it up from the office.



Blackboard

Check Blackboard often and stay informed

www.aacps.org (Anne Arundel County's homepage)

- . username: centralms (all lowercase and all one word)
- . Type in the password: cobras (all lowercase)



If you are picking your student up early,
please arrive before 2:45.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Greetings and Introduction from Your School Psychologist

Greetings Central Middle parents and family! I wanted to take the time to introduce myself before the “hustle and bustle” of the 2017-2018 school year officially begins. My name is Dr. Rachel L. Odom and I will be serving Central Middle as your school psychologist. I am excited to be working with a school community that is so dedicated to supporting our middle school students. Middle school is a crucial time to foster self-identity, positive self-esteem, and academic formation in preparation for high school and the “real world”. I look forward to working with you, whether it be directly or indirectly, in effort to meet the needs of our students and help them reach success.