



August 2019



## Cobras Striking Success

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### Message from the Principal...

Dear Parents:

The 2019-2020 school year is going to be an exciting year and will 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: Anne Miller, Mathematics, Charles Renaldo, Mathematics, Erin Kraemer, English Language Arts, Megan Kramer, Social Studies, Amanda Spafford, Science, Stephanie Spano, Mathematics, Sara Given, Special Education, James McMahon, English Language Arts, Meghan Eaton, English Language Arts, William Lauhoff, Social Studies, Brandie Steve, Digital Palette, Paige Petroziello, Dance, Tim Jessilonis, Music, Andria Smith, Health/PE, Fei Meng, Chinese, and we have two position yet to fill a STEM counselor and a student support position ALT-One teacher.

Preparations for our opening of the 2019-2020 school year have been on-going all summer with schedules being built, staff hiring, installation of technology, repurposing spaces for additional classrooms, and cleaning. Our sixth graders will arrive on September 3. 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. The sixth graders will enter the front door and be escorted to the cafeteria where they will be welcomed. They will meet their advisory teachers who will escort them to the sixth-grade advisory class.

All students will arrive September 4 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 through 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 advisory 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 advisory teachers will read their names and escort them their advisory class. Posters will also display student names listed alphabetically with their Advisory class and teacher.

Due to our increased enrollment the Central Middle School Annual Back to School Night will be held on two nights. The sixth graders on September 5 beginning at 5:30 with the review of the Family Life materials. This is followed by a PTSA general meeting at 6:00. The classroom visits will begin at 6:30. **There will be no early admissions to the classrooms.** On September 19 we will welcome our seventh and eighth grade parents for their Back to School Night beginning at 6:00.

This year we will begin the year with students starting their day in their Advisory class. This will allow us to build relationships and set expectations for the 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. For Central Middle to remain a safe and orderly learning environment, it is important that each student understand the expectations for behavior, attendance and academics.

Our school newsletter is published monthly on our website and the calendar is updated as events are added. 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 and electronic devices.

This year we begin our school year with approximately 1300 students enrolled. Your child's safety and security are our top priority. While sign-in procedures and traffic procedures are inconvenient at times please follow them. The safety of 1300 students is a huge responsibility and routines and procedures are extremely important for the safety of all students. We ask you to observe sign-in procedures, and traffic patterns.

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. Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:00 am. There is no supervision prior to that time, and it is not safe to leave your child unattended. Please do not enter the bus lot in front of the building between the hours of 7:30 and 4:15. This area is for buses only.

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. **You must have your identification to enter the building.** Please do not leave it in your car. The system alerts us to if the person is not allowed in schools and helps us know who is in the building in case of emergencies.

Central Middle School has a very active and strong PTA/CAC and we encourage every family to join. The PTSA has sponsored assemblies, funded technology for students use, funded outdoor seating and the creation of our outdoor classroom, and assisted with after school clubs to mention just a few supportive actions. They publish online their PTSA BLAST for all who wish to receive it. This is a very informative publication covering events of interest that are held both at school and in the community at large. To receive the PTSA BLAST you need to provide the PTSA your email address.

We look forward to another exciting and successful year and encourage you to contact us with any concerns or questions you might have now or later.

Sincerely,

*Millie Beall*

Principal  
Central Middle School



## What happens when the school administration is made aware of threats?

- If a student brings any threatening situation to the attention of the administrative team it is responded to immediately.
- Whenever weapons of any kind are a part of the threat description the police department is notified, the office of school security, the communication center and the Regional Superintendent, Mr. Truffer.
- The school team takes written statements from the students reporting as well as the witnesses. The alleged offender is interviewed and detained in the office.
- All information is shared with the police when they arrive. The police conduct their investigation. The police interview students in the presence of their parents. The school administration fully cooperates with the police and provide all contact information and access to students involved. The actions the police determine appropriate are not in place of disciplinary actions to be taken by the school administration.
- Each incident is assessed and responded to based on the available information provided at the time. The school administration follows the Student Code of Conduct. All students are provided due process rights and the established policies and procedures are implemented.
- All parents of students involved in the investigation are contacted by school administration.
- All parents are informed of the threat and a letter is posted on the website and sent out through the Connect Ed messaging service.

### Our Vision

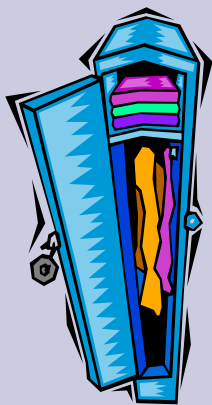
*Central Middle School will continuously strive to become a collaborative community of staff, parents and students where active engagement in instruction is tailored to students needs and interests.*





### 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.



## 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.....

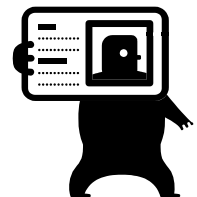
When you visit our school you will be asked to present a government/state issued photo ID (i.e Driver's License) to a staff person in the school office. The ID will be scanned and the following information collected: your photo, name and date of birth. This information will be utilized to check you in,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

Thank you for your help in keeping Central Middle School safe.



## 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.

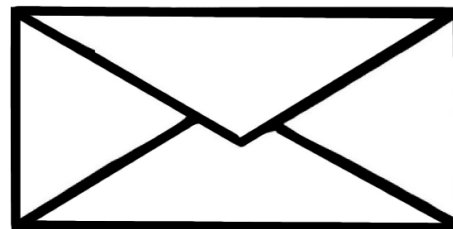
Though every effort is made to maintain locker security, students are encouraged NOT to store valuables in them.

## Newsletters

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

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

# N Newsletter



## 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 3:05 until 4:05 are Extracurricular Activity Days at Central Middle.

Activities include intramural sports, Yearbook 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 .

Additionally, a comprehensive list of Clubs/Activities can be found on our website.



## Parent Connect

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



## Attendance at Central Middle

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 an unexcused tardy to school or an unexpected 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 Portal account, you can log in to 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 Portal 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 by the teacher first.*

According to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, children who are absent six or more days of school per semester regardless of the 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) OR the student may bring their note to the Main Office. 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.

## 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 2:50 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.

## 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](http://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.

