



## **From the Principal...**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The month of January has certainly been an exciting one. While it was disrupted by weather and numerous days off, our students did a great job staying focused and productive. The school participated in its first ever Polar Plunge and the Frozen Cobras did an outstanding job raising over \$9000. The Frozen cobras jumped into the 35 degree water and enjoyed their day. As principal, I only got up to the ankles but I was there to take pictures and cheer them on. It was a great day! We closed January with a celebration of Mr. Horwitz 42 year career and many stopped by to wish him well and to thank him. Delegate Malone and Mr. Ford both presented him with citations from the State delegates serving our county.

As the first semester ends and the school teams analyze student data, we pause to reflect on what changes are necessary to promote higher and higher achievement by all our students. In our last Leadership meeting, the team reviewed our mission which states academic achievement is attainable for ALL students. We are re-committing to the success of every child by making commitments to those who are struggling. Team leaders are working with their teams to identify students who may need us to take a more personalized approach. Each teacher member of the team will work with one or two students to provide one on one encouragement and strategies they can use to improve their grades and be successful. We have built advisory classes for all students. In these advisory sessions, we provide re-teaching, extra help, access to technology, students support, study skills, redo opportunities, and work completion. Additionally, many teachers are offering lunch help. Every teacher offers after school help sessions weekly on Tuesday or Thursday. Despite these efforts ALL students are not attaining academic success.

There will be a **parent information** night entitled “**Why Middle School Matters**” on **February 15<sup>th</sup>** in preparation for the selection of your child’s 2018-2019 courses. The information provided will include the AACPS’ criteria for accelerated and on grade level course placement, the impact of current grades, the impact of PARCC and AACPS Quarterly Assessments, parent input, and teacher recommendations. We will review the course sequences and how these affect high school pathways and graduation requirements.

**You won’t want to miss this meeting!**

Our **in-house registration** for rising 7th and 8th graders will begin **February 20<sup>th</sup>**. The grade level counselors will meet with students in social studies classes to explain the registration form and review the course description booklet. Following these registration sessions, students will bring their registration materials home to review their options with you. The materials include a course description booklet and registration form. The registration booklet can be found on line at the [aacps.org](http://aacps.org) website. Central Middle School cannot offer all courses listed in this booklet due to space and staffing. Only the encore subjects listed on their form will be offered. When completing and reviewing your child’s registration form, pay particular attention to the choices you make in the encore subjects.

Unlike the core program of studies, **student’s selections determine which encore programs are scheduled and staffed**. It is important that encore selections be made wisely. When scheduling, we attempt to give every student their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> choice. Students should number their preferences carefully and be sure to list their least favorite last. The numbering makes a difference as popular courses fill quickly. ***The courses offered next fall are determined now by the number of students choosing them at this time.*** ***Since the staffing is decided based on these selections, changes in encore will not be honored if the encore was a first, second, or third choice.*** Please review these materials carefully with your child. Both your signature and the student’s signature are required on the registration form to complete the registration process. **Completed and signed forms must be returned to the math teachers no later than March 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

As we close out this semester we are reviewing our year and looking for ways to improve. If you have feedback for us regarding areas of improvement be sure to email Ms. Beall, [mlbeall@aacps.org](mailto:mlbeall@aacps.org) . She wants to hear from you!

Sincerely,

*Millie Beall*



## Cafeteria

A message from “Mr. Tommy” – CMS Cafeteria Manager...

Dear Central Middle Golden Cobra Parents,

Breakfast and lunch meal prices have stayed the same price as last year to all students. Breakfast cost \$1.50 and Lunch cost \$3.00. Milk is included in the price. If your child is allergic to milk (or any other foods), you **must notify** the school Nurse and they will send a formal notification to the cafeteria. Once received, students’ milk will be substituted with orange juice at no extra charge. If you are in need of or want to see if you qualify for any of the school meals financial assistance programs, please visit the county website: [www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org), under the “School Meals” link near the top of the screen. If you are already enrolled in any of these programs, you must re-enroll every year prior to October.

Adding Money to your students’ account – you can send in cash, check or money order in a sealed envelope or zip lock bag with students’ name and ID number printed on it both envelope and memo section of check/money order. We encourage every parent to register their child on the “MyPaymentPlus.com” site. It costs nothing to register and to view what your child is purchasing. This service will notify you through email that your child’s account has a low balance and they need more money added to their account soon. However, if you use the “MyPaymentsPlus.com” service to put money on an account by way of credit/debit card, MyPaymentsPlus.com will charge you a 4.75% service surcharge.

If your child has a negative account balance, Anne Arundel County Public Schools allows up to five regular meals before an “Alternative Meal” will be served. Once resolved, regular meals will resume. Also, any time a **students’ account is in the negative**, the main contact person on record for that student will receive an **automated phone call every day after 5p.m. until that negative balance is paid**. Any student account that has a bounced check entered must pay with cash until both the check and related fees are paid. Bounced checks that are not paid will follow that student through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and jeopardize the student attending graduation activities until said bounced check is made good.



Messages from our PTA...

COMING SOON



## 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

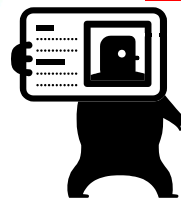
utilized to check you in, create an ID badge, and compare your information against sexual offender databases throughout the county.

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!





## 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 .



## Parent Connect

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





## **TRANSPORTATION:**

### **Bus Riders, Bike Riders, Car Riders and Walkers**

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.



### 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 (ConnectEd) each morning around 9:00 a.m. and in the evenings around 6:00 p.m. every time that a 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 ConnectEd 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 ConnectEd:

Ask your child if perhaps they were late to class or in the guidance office of 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.

Contact 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 for 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.



## 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)

