



**From the Principal...**



Cobras Striking Success

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Happy New Year! The beginning of the new calendar year is here, and the end of the first semester is approaching. This week I received official notification that Mr. Alex Horwitz is retiring on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Horwitz has served the Central Middle School community for 40 years. He has taught many of our parents and even taught some of them to drive. As the Student Government advisor he has provided numerous students opportunities to learn leadership skills. He will be honored on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at Central Middle School. There will be an open house from 2:30p until 4:00p, so that the community can come by and wish him well as he begins another chapter in his life. Please join us for this wonderful celebration of a great educators' career.

This month, the students are completing **Quarterly Assessments** in Language Arts, Social Studies, Foreign Language and Mathematics. The assessment calendars have been sent to parents in team emails. Students will be assessed on one or more Quarterly Assessments between January 8 and January 31. Be sure to talk with your child(ren) about studying, getting a good night's sleep, and eating a nutritious breakfast. The Quarterly Assessments and PARCC scores are used as placement criteria by teachers when scheduling all students for next year. These assessments should be taken seriously. Every student should do their best to ensure appropriate placement is accomplished.

Our counselors and administrators are preparing for the next academic year by scheduling articulation meetings with the elementary schools and the high schools. Our in-house registrations are scheduled February 20 to February 26. We will continue to offer inventive courses in both English Language Arts and Mathematics as an encore selection. These courses are recommended by teachers and parents will be notified if their child is selected. It is always important to emphasize that encore classed are scheduled based on student selections. **The encore courses will continue to be offered based on students' interest. The staffing and master schedule is built based on the number of student requests.**

When your course selection sheets come home they will only have the courses we can offer at Central Middle School. We cannot offer all of the courses in the booklet due to limited space and teaching staff.

Our students will be placed in classes that are appropriate to their academic level and we will use AACPS curriculum criteria for placement. The data points considered are PARCC scores, IOWA scores, GATES scores, grades, and teacher recommendation to determine student placement levels. The course selection sheets are completed by the teachers and then sent to parents to complete encore selections. All classes in Language Arts, Social Studies and Science are using one curriculum, however, we still need to know who is a standard leveled student and who is an advanced leveled student, so that appropriate instructional planning can be implemented.

The winter months are here and with them comes the possibility of early closing, late openings and school cancellations. Be sure you have arrangements for your child(ren) in the event of an early closing and review the plans with them. We will continue to use the telephone messaging system, AACPS website, and the media to communicate school closings.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at any time. Our counselors, assistant principals and teachers are also available to help with your concerns. All of our parents are available to help with your concerns. All of our parents are welcome to come in and visit, however, you may want to arrange your visit through your child's team leader to avoid a testing day.

Sincerely,

*Millie Beall*

Principal

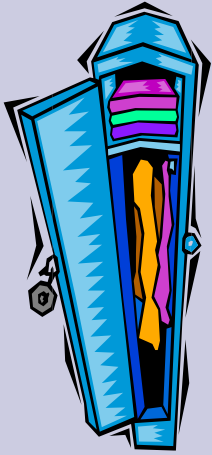


**Messages from our PTA...**

**COMING SOON**

**Our Mission**

All Students will achieve high levels of performance on quality standards through active engagement in instruction tailored to their needs and interests. .



### 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.*

## 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.

## 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

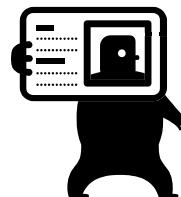
utilized to check you in, create an ID badge, and compare your information against sexual offender databases throughout the county.

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 2:55 until 3:50 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 ConnetEd 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

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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)

Greetings and Introduction from Your School Psychologist



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

Thank you for your cooperation.

