



From the Principal...

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we close out February, we have been reminded just our precious life is and that our children are very vulnerable. At Central Middle, we have revisited all of our procedures and our environment to ensure the safest environment possible for our students. The faculty has met and discussed facility improvements such as shades over door windows, locking windows on the first level, and checking exterior doors whenever we walk by them. These are small things that can make a huge difference. Additionally, the principal has met with student groups that are sharing concerns and want to make a difference. They want to do something that will reduce school violence. The SGA wanted to know why we didn't practice intruder drills monthly like fire drills. The student group work will be shared in next month's newsletter.

In addition to the in school review, we have invited Mr. Doyle Batten, chief of AACPS School Security, to observe us conduct an intruder functional drill, which will occur during the opening of the school day. Prior to this drill, students will have an opportunity to prepare by working with teachers and peers to think about how they would respond. Following the drill, Mr. Batten will provide consultation to the administrative team on how we might improve this type of response. The students will debrief with their advisory teacher and have attendance taken prior to starting our regular school schedule.

As we gear up for the registration of our students for the 2018-2019 school year. Central Middle School is projected to enroll 1222 students next year. Our state capacity is 1295, this is not the actual enrollment. The enrollment for any school year is finalized on September 30. Our staffing of teaching positions is based on a ratio of 22 students per teacher is based on the projected enrollment. Class size is affected by the leveling of students and the number of encore classes offered, which may require higher student teacher ratios in some classes. The leveling of students is done by the teachers using the AACPS leveling criteria. The criteria includes the use of PARCC scores, quarterly assessments, grades, and Gates scores.

In our February 15 meeting, each department chair explained how students were placed. The PowerPoint presentation from this meeting entitled "Why Middle School Matters", can be found on the website and in the PTSA Blast. *It is very important that every student perform at their absolute best on assessments, so that, proper placement can be achieved.* Please encourage your child to do their best.

Our eight grade students have selected their courses, and parent night has already been held at the high school. Our in-house registration of 7th and 8th grades for next year is currently taking place. The grade level counselors are meeting 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. 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 social studies teachers no later than **Friday, March 2.**

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 selections determine which encore programs are offered and staffed.



The staff roster will be finalized in May. As a result, it is important that encore selections be made wisely. **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 may not be honored due to class size limitations and number of classes available.**

We are gearing up for the administration of the PARCC assessment and the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA). The MISA is the state assessment for science. This assessment is only given to 8th graders. **Our eighth graders will be administered the MISA on March 6 and 7.** Please be sure your child is in attendance during their assessment weeks. This will minimize the need for make-up testing and disruptions to your child's schedule. All students are to be tested and any subsequent make-ups that are required. We appreciate your help in getting your child to school and avoiding doctors' appointment during the assessments.

Save these dates in May for the PARCC assessment. The primary testing dates are as follows: Sixth, seventh, and eighth grades ELA May 7, 8, 9, 10. Due to the assessments being completed on chrome books and computers the seventh grade will be tested in the afternoon. The mathematics assessments for grades six and eight will be May 14,15,16. The seventh grade mathematics will be May 17, 18, 21. All mathematics assessment will be given in the morning

MSDE regulations state that NO cell phones or other electronic devices are allowed in the classroom during testing. We strongly recommend that you have you child leave them home during their week of testing. Central Middle School is not responsible for lost cellphones or watches.

As the end of the third marking period approaches we become increasingly concerned about our students remaining engaged and finishing the year successfully. Please help us by continuing to hold your child accountable for their school responsibilities. Check Parent Connect and stay involved.

Happy St. Patrick's Day,

Mildred Beall, Principal



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, 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 12th 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

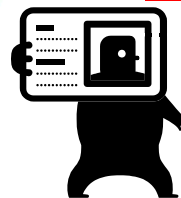
utilized to check you in, create an ID badge, and compare your information against sexual offender databases throughout the county.

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 (Anne Arundel County's homepage)

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

