



Cobras Striking Success

From the Principal...

Dear Parents,

Central Middle School wishes to thank all of those who have given generously to the Kids Helping Kids food drive. We do not have the totals but will pass this information along in the next letter. The students have responded well to the drive. Our SGA sponsored a Spirit week to help raise money and this was very successful and lots of fun. Mrs. Nickels and the NJHS have done a great job sponsoring fun activities to raise as much money and collect as much food as possible. It has been a true schoolwide effort this year. Our final activity was a student/teacher basketball game Friday, October 27. It was awesome and very competitive. The students won 48 to 44 with the teachers threaten at the last seconds of the game.

American Education Week is November 13-17. Please stop by and see your students at work in their classrooms. Due to the limitation on parking, I have designated the following days for each grade: sixth grade Monday, seventh grade Tuesday, and eighth grade Wednesday. If you cannot make it on your grade's assigned day, you may stop by on Thursday. You will be very pleased with what you see here at Central Middle. All of us are looking forward to your visit.

Our second Parent, student, teacher conference will be held in December, and will continue to conduct the student led conferences. These conferences are designed to allow students to present portfolios of their work to their parents. The benefits of this format has been that students are more accountable for their work and are accepting ownership of their achievement. All AACPS middle schools use this format for conferences. The new Common Core curriculum assesses speaking and listening skills which students practice in this authentic setting. This will be an open house schedule no appointment necessary. Students will escort their parents through their schedule to show off their work.

Student Led conferences will be held on Friday, December 7 from 8:05 to 3:05. Lunch for teachers is 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please schedule your visit between 8:05 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 3:05 pm.

Student Help Day Sessions are available on either Tuesday or Thursday. We are requiring some students to stay so that they can be re-taught some

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standards they have not mastered. The participation in these sessions is very important. Our teachers will be contacting parents if they need your child to stay. Students who wish to stay must notify their teacher ahead of time. All students need parent permission to stay after school. We have a form that teachers use informing parents when teachers are requesting their child to stay for help day. Any child who receives a D or lower in any subject should be staying after school one or both of these days. Parents are requested to send a note in by Tuesday to let teachers know their child has permission.

In addition to these help sessions, we have also scheduled students in their daily advisory sessions so that every Central Middle School student can receive intervention that fits their particular academic needs. The teachers and administrators are meeting every other week to discuss student achievement. When students have not met standards, appropriate strategies are selected to increase student achievement through re-teaching intervention advisories or help sessions. The South River High School students have joined us again this year to assist us in providing small

group or one on one tutoring. Some tutors are coming in to help during advisory and work in the classroom with our students. **THANK YOU, SOUTH RIVER STUDENTS!**

Please remember that we are all here to assist you and your child. There are many resources available to your child here at Central Middle and we encourage you to take advantage of our in-school resources. The counselors, administrators, nurses, media specialist, and teacher teams are all here to help. In addition to these human resources there are internet resources such as, Blackboard, Edmodo, team emails, and Parent Connect. Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,

Millie Beall
Principal

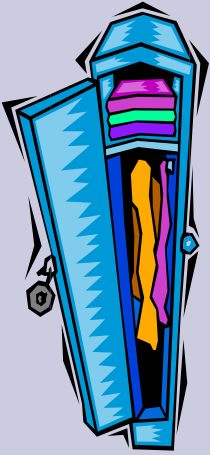


Messages from our PTA...

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, 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.

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

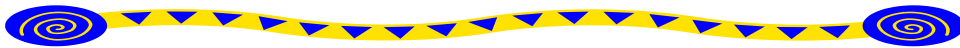


Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:55 until 3:50 are Extracurricular Activity Days at Central Middle.

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 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

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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 (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.

