



Cobras Striking Success

From the Principal...

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Dear Parents,

First, let me note that our Back to School Night was a huge success and we thank those parents who were able to attend.

As we begin the fall season, our outreach for those less fortunate becomes a goal for our school and our county. Central Middle School along with other cluster schools has made significant contributions to the Harvest for the Hungry -KIDS HELPING KIDS program. Help us help others by making either a food or monetary contribution. This fall at the Anne Arundel County food bank, we were recognized for our donations of cash and food. Our school contributed 100,833 lbs. of food. The cash collected was \$12,883.00. Each dollar donated equals 8 pounds of food. This year the Kids Helping Kids food drive will begin October 2 through October 31. Donated food items will be collected weekly from Advisories.

Our NJHS is already gearing up for an exciting food drive with a fundraiser through Charlestonwrapstore.com, and planning our second annual faculty vs Student basketball game.

Our 2017 students are off to a great start. We have worked through many foot traffic problems and schedule conflicts. At this time we are settled into learning. Walk through visits find students discussing literature, solving real world math problems, and engaging in many hands on activities. These learning experiences are difficult to make up when students are absent, and the discussions not heard affect the extent of learning in some cases. The absent student is really placed at a huge disadvantage when they return to class. It is important to schedule vacations and appointments around the school calendar as much as possible. All students were given a calendar to take home for your reference. All students are allowed to make up the missing assignments, however their ability to perform will be affected by a lack of instruction.

The first student conferences will be held this year on October 19. These conferences are for students who the teachers see has struggling with

adjustments to the school year. These struggles take on many different forms and the collaboration between the teachers and parents with help support the student's needs. ***Team leaders with be inviting parents using Sign-up Genius online.*** We look forward to working with you. More information will be coming home soon

Our daily advisory classes continue to be a big hit with both parents and students. Overall, our students performed extremely well. However, young adolescents have a very difficult time with organization and time management causing them and parents stress at times. We will be working diligently to support all students in these areas as well as academics by providing support. The students have made very good use of the advisory period by reading, doing homework, or seeking additional help from their teachers. On Fridays, teachers teach an advisory lesson designed to meet middle school students needs in a variety of topics *.Please be mindful of our reasons for our advisory period, and avoid having them dismissed early.* This is important time set aside to assist students academically.

In addition to advisory, after-school Help Days are available to your students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Every teacher is available either on Tuesday or Thursday to assist students with academic concerns. The teachers' help days are listed in this newsletter. This includes missed assignments due to absence, lack of understanding and/or those whose work does not meet a proficient level on standards. Some students may be bringing a letter from the principal informing you that they need to attend a help session. These sessions are not a disciplinary action. They are a supportive intervention for students to work to their full potential. Central Middle School is committed to making sure every student meets their academic potential and performs at high academic levels. Sometimes students need extra support to do this. Please support your teacher's requests by encouraging your child to participate in the various support programs. We hope these efforts will elevate all students and eliminate all achievement gaps. Our goal is to have all students' college and career read when they leave Central Middle.

Our PTSA executive board will be meeting every second Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM in the main office conference room. Please try to become involved in our PTSA. For more information contact Kelly Purnell our president. All members are sent a PTSA Blast email informing parents of up-coming events. Please join the PTSA. Over the past three year they have contributed nearly \$30,000 for the purchase of chrome books for student use in classes. We are at 700 plus devices with 1200 students through their efforts and that of curriculum coordinators. The goal for us is 1200 one for every student.

Active involvement of parents is important to a child's education. Our parents are extremely supportive and passionate about their child's education and as the principal I am grateful for this involvement. Let us know your concerns and questions. Together we truly will make a difference!

Sincerely,

Millie Beall,

Principal



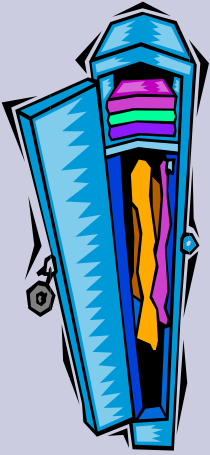
Our Mission

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



Messages from our PTA...

COMING SOON



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 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 (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.

