



# Central Middle School Newsletter

October 2018



## Cobras Striking Success

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### Message from the Principal...

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Our Back to School Nights were well attended and we thank those parents who were able to attend. This was our first year having two nights and we made some communication errors. The encore teachers and teachers out on extended leave should have been communicated to the parents ahead of time. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Overall the response was positive despite the errors.

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. We were third in the county for food and cash donations totaling 106,400. The cash collected was \$13,300. Each dollar donated equals 8 pounds of food. We collected 4331 pounds of food. This year the Kids Helping Kids food drive will began October 1 through October 31. Donated food items will be collected weekly from Advisories. Our goal this year is 5000 pounds and \$18,000. We hope that you help us reach our goal and help hungry children in Anne Arundel County. Back by popular demand is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Faculty-Student Basketball game which will be held on November 2. All proceeds will go to Harvest for the Hungry. The series is tied at one win each.

Our 2018 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. **Vacation absences are considered unexcused and making up the work is at the discretion of the teachers.**

The first student conferences will be held this year on October 23. These conferences are for students who the teachers see has struggling with their adjustment 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 Mondays and 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

Our PTSA executive board will be meeting every second Friday of the month at 8:30 AM 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 1287 students through their efforts, and that of curriculum coordinators. The goal for us is a fully loaded Cart in every classroom.

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

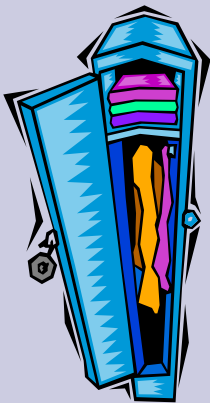
**Our Vision**

*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.*





**Our Mission**  
**In order to be productive citizens of the 21st century, all students will be actively engaged in opportunities to achieve high levels of performance on quality standards through rigorous instruction tailored to their diverse needs, cultures, and interests.**



## 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!**

Thank you for your help in keeping Central Middle School safe.



## NEWS....Central Middle has a clothing donation bin!

This bin will be permanently outside of Central Middle School. CMS will receive money based on how much clothing (and other items- see below) is collected throughout the year.

We accept the following Textiles in All Conditions:

1. All Clothing
2. All Shoes
3. Accessories (Handbags, backpacks, etc.)
4. Bed Linens (sheets, blankets, etc.)
5. Towels
6. Pillows
7. Toys (if made of cloth, NOT plastic)

We do **NOT** accept:

1. Items too Large to that fit inside the collection bin opening.
2. Furniture
3. Foam Cushions
4. Food
5. Hangars
6. Plastic Toys
7. Carpet (anything larger than small rug)

It is a great way to educate children on the importance of recycling and help their school.

### All collected clothing in:

- good or better condition is given a second life at thrift stores here in the U.S. **Reworn**
- less than good condition will be **Repurposed** (I.E. items worn out could be turned into rags )
- poor condition or less will be processed for recycling. **Recycled**

Recycling happens as the final option. We accept ALL Clothing, in ALL Conditions, this is what makes Clothing to Cash unique.

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Central Middle School PTSA  
Thank you for being involved!



## Book Bag Policy

Our Book bag policy is as follows:

- ⇒ Students may use book bags to carry materials to and from school
- ⇒ Students may NOT carry book bags during the school day
- ⇒ Students will have access to their lockers at the start and end of the school day

and at lunchtime  
This policy was designed to maximize your child's educational experience at Central Middle in that:

- \* Complies with medical findings that carrying heavy book bags can permanently injure a child or interfere with his/her physical development
- \* Reduces the amount of materials being carried by

- our students, reducing the opportunity for injuries
- \* Assists students in developing organizational skills and helps students become more responsible for planning their academic day
- \* Minimizes students' capacity to bring inappropriate items to school



## Lockers



Locks must be purchased from Central Middle School for \$5.00

Students will use the same lock for the years he/she is a student at CMS.

**The school will not assume responsibility for stolen items**

Students should not share lockers!

Students are responsible for the contents of their lockers.

Only school related items and outerwear should be stored in lockers.

Administrators have the authority to search lockers at any time

if they have probable cause.

Though every effort is made to maintain locker security, students are encouraged NOT to store valuables in them.

## Student Conduct

CMS follows all county guidelines regarding student conduct. Early in the school year we distribute and review two booklets pertaining to behavior. One of these booklets is the county's *Student Handbook*, and the other is our Central Middle School Student Handbook. The former details the county's Code of Student Conduct. As your child to share these booklets with you.

Any student who receives two office referrals in a 45-day period will have a letter mailed to his/her home to inform parents. If a third offense occurs within the 45-day period, that student will be suspended from school as per county policy. As always our goal is to establish and maintain a safe learning environment for all students.

We appreciate your support of our efforts.



## Newsletters

Newsletters are posted on the AACPS website the first of every month.

**IF you do not have computer access, please contact Ms. Linthicum** in the office and we will distribute a hard copy of the Newsletter to your student to bring home.

## Holiday/Birthday/Gift Protocol



To minimize any disruption in the cafeteria, classrooms or buses, 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 .

Additionally, a comprehensive list of Clubs/Activities can be found on our website.



## Parent Connect

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



## Attendance at Central Middle

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 (Connect ED) each morning around 9:00 a.m. and in the evenings around 6:00 p.m. every time that their 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 Connect Ed whether there is an unexcused tardy to school or an unexpected tardy to class. Parents can do the following to check on their child's attendance when they receive phone calls from Connect Ed.

"We believe everyone deserves a safe, supportive, and orderly learning environment."

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

*Touch base with 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 by the teacher first.*

According to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, children who are absent six or more days of school per semester regardless of the 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) OR the student may bring their note to the Main Office. 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.



## TRANSPORTATION:

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



Cobras Striking Success

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 2:50 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.



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)



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

Thank you for your cooperation.

