



September 2019



## Cobras Striking Success

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### Message from the Principal...

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our 1283 students are off to a great start. Our number one objective in these first few weeks of school is building relationships between teachers and students. We are settled into learning. During walk-through visits students are observed discussing literature, solving real world math problems, and engaging in many hands-on activities. Teachers are pre-assessing student knowledge in their contents to ensure we are meeting students where they are and moving them forward. This year each teacher will be academically mentoring 3-4 students who have not yet reach the career and college readiness performance level on the state assessment. Currently, we are in the process of identifying these students and matching them to a teacher. The teachers will contact parents to introduce themselves and explain their role. These mentors will build relationships that allow them to provide academic support and monitor students' grades.

The first **parent-teacher conferences will be held this year on October 15-16**. These conferences are for students who the teachers see are struggling with their adjustment to the school year. These struggles take on many different forms and the collaboration between the teachers and parents will help support the student's needs. ***Team leaders will be inviting parents using Sign-up Genius online.*** Be sure to respond to team leaders request for email addresses so that you get information regarding school events in your students' grade team. The **team leaders, assistant principals, and counselors are listed in the attachment accompanying this newsletter**. We look forward to working with you.

Our annual outreach for those less fortunate is very important to 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 food drive. Help us help others by making either a food or monetary contribution. Once again Central Middle was recognized by the Anne Arundel County food bank for our donations of cash and food. Our school contributed 70,966 lbs. of food. The cash collected was \$8,870. Each dollar donated equals 8 pounds of food. This year the Kids Helping Kids food drive will begin October 1 through October 31. Donated food items will be collected weekly from Advisories. Our NJHS is already gearing up for an exciting food drive with our fourth annual Faculty vs Student basketball game, a major fundraiser, for this important cause. This game is the highlight of the year with spirit and excitement that rivals that of a final four championship. South River High School partners with us by allowing us to fill their gymnasium. The cheering moves the sound meter to the top and above. It is a great time! The date is yet to be determined.

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 Wednesdays and Fridays, teachers teach an advisory lesson designed to meet middle school students needs in a variety of development areas. *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 and with social and emotional challenges typical of young adolescents.

In addition to advisory, after-school Help Day is available to your students on Tuesdays. Every teacher is available on Tuesday to assist students with academic concerns. 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 8:30 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 several years they have contributed nearly \$30,000 for the purchase of chrome books for student use in classes, purchased outdoor seating off the cafeteria for a classroom and picnic area, and sponsored several exciting and enjoyable assemblies.

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

## Changes in emergency contacts and picking up students.

This year anyone picking up a student must be the Contact 1 or Contact 2 in the student information system. This is the parent or guardian with whom the student resides. We can no longer just use the emergency cards. These cards do not replace a permission letter from the parent on the day of pick-up. The Instructional Data Division of Anne Arundel County Public Schools explanation for this change has been copied and pasted below.

There have been several questions regarding how contacts are being handled in the upgraded PowerSchool platform. Many of those questions are coming from parents and guardians. As you know, we no longer store unlimited contacts in the student information system. That decision was made based on the safety and security needs of all students. Permission from a parent or legal guardian is required for a child to be picked up by another adult, in a non-emergency situation. This should be provided in writing on an as-needed basis.

As part of the data conversion process from SMS to PowerSchool, we found three main issues:

Invalid contact relationship information was identified for Contacts 1 and 2. For example, we had babysitters, neighbors, and friends listed as the primary contact for students.

Schools were using the "Can Pick up" flag in SMS as blanket permission for that person to pick up the student from school, in any situation and for any reason. In many cases, this data was potentially inaccurate and possibly many years old. This created a situation where a student could accidentally be released to the wrong adult based on data collected once a year.

Contacts in PowerSchool are now "linked," meaning there is a single record of data for a given contact. This means when a phone number is updated for a contact at one school, it is now reflected for other students the contact is linked to at other schools. Therefore, we are limiting contacts stored in the system to parent/legal guardian relationships.

Only the following contacts should be entered into PowerSchool:

Contacts 1 and 2 should reflect the parents/legal guardians of the student. The address of Contact 1 should reflect the physical address of the student.

For contacts 3 or more, ***only those contacts*** with one of the following relationships should be entered: Mother, Father, Stepmother, Stepfather, Foster Mother, Foster Father, or Legal Guardian. It should be noted that stepparents are not legal guardians and would require permission from the parents to pick up a student, so they should not be flagged as "Can Pick Up."

With this type of change, we need all schools to share a consistent message with our parents and legal guardians. We understand that family dynamics can look very different depending on the student, but we need to err on the side of caution when it comes to protecting our students and who AACPS contacts on their behalf. Please use the information above to answer any questions the school receives about the changes to recording contact information in PowerSchool. We appreciate your support in sharing this information with your families. Please contact me with any questions. Thank you.

## IDT TEAMS

|                            |                                   |                                    |                                      |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Team 6A <i>STEM</i></b> | <b>Team 6B</b>                    | <b>Team 6C <i>S.E.</i></b>         | <b>Team 6D</b>                       |
| <i>BIEBER/STEM CLR</i>     | <i>BIEBER/ NORTON</i>             | <i>WESCOTT/NORTON</i>              | <i>WESCOTT/NORTON</i>                |
|                            |                                   |                                    |                                      |
| COOK                       | HARDING                           | SPRAGUE/ STAPLER                   | <b>ROLFES(TL)</b>                    |
| <b>CLINE (TL)</b>          | FELDMAN                           | <b>LUTZ(TL)/</b><br><b>KOBIN</b>   | SZACHNOWICZ                          |
| SPENCER                    | SPAFFORD                          | WAGNER                             | BERKELY                              |
| KRAMER                     | <b>HANSON(TL)</b>                 | HOMAN                              | SMITH, M                             |
|                            |                                   |                                    |                                      |
| <b>Team 7E <i>STEM</i></b> | <b>Team 7F</b>                    | <b>Team 7G <i>S.E.</i></b>         | <b>Team 7H</b>                       |
| <i>BIEBER/STEM CLR</i>     | <i>BIEBER/ELLIOTT</i>             | <i>BIEBER/ELLIOTT</i>              | <i>BIEBER/ELLIOTT</i>                |
|                            |                                   |                                    |                                      |
| SHANK                      | KRAEMER                           | TOPA/RICE                          | ZIPFEL                               |
| <b>ELLS(TL)</b>            | MILLER                            | SPANO/GIVEN                        | <b>WAPLE(TL)</b>                     |
| SIEBER                     | DORANBROWN                        | SMITH                              | NICHOLSON                            |
| BARNETT                    | <b>CLAUTICE (TL)</b>              | <b>AKERS(TL)</b>                   | DONEHOWER                            |
|                            |                                   |                                    |                                      |
| <b>DC TEAM</b>             | <b>Team I <i>STEM</i></b>         | <b>TEAM J</b>                      | <b>Team K <i>S.E.</i></b>            |
| <i>WESCOTT/MCMILLAN</i>    | <i>WESCOTT/STEM</i><br><i>CLR</i> | <i>WESCOTT/</i><br><i>MCMILLAN</i> | <i>WESCOTT/MCMILLAN</i>              |
|                            |                                   |                                    |                                      |
| KICK                       | BRIDGES                           | MCPMAHON                           | EATON/ RICE                          |
| GOTTSCHALL                 | <b>STEWART(TL)</b>                | <b>SHINN(TL)</b>                   | <b>CASCIATO(TL)/</b><br><b>SCOTT</b> |
| MARCUS-WENGER              | DOMINGUEZ                         | RUBIN                              | MAGNO                                |
| SCARBOROUGH                | SCHWALJE                          | DENNSTEADT                         | LAUHOFF                              |
|                            |                                   |                                    |                                      |
|                            |                                   |                                    |                                      |
|                            |                                   |                                    |                                      |
|                            |                                   |                                    |                                      |
|                            |                                   |                                    |                                      |
|                            |                                   |                                    |                                      |

Team Leaders are listed in bold print. *STEM COUNSELOR TBD*



## What happens when the school administration is made aware of threats?

- If a student brings any threatening situation to the attention of the administrative team it is responded to immediately.
- Whenever weapons of any kind are a part of the threat description the police department is notified, the office of school security, the communication center and the Regional Superintendent, Mr. Truffer.
- The school team takes written statements from the students reporting as well as the witnesses. The alleged offender is interviewed and detained in the office.
- All information is shared with the police when they arrive. The police conduct their investigation. The police interview students in the presence of their parents. The school administration fully cooperates with the police and provide all contact information and access to students involved. The actions the police determine appropriate are not in place of disciplinary actions to be taken by the school administration.
- Each incident is assessed and responded to based on the available information provided at the time. The school administration follows the Student Code of Conduct. All students are provided due process rights and the established policies and procedures are implemented.
- All parents of students involved in the investigation are contacted by school administration.
- All parents are informed of the threat and a letter is posted on the website and sent out through the Connect Ed messaging service.

### 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.....

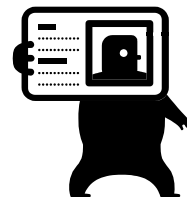
When you visit our school you will be asked to present a government/state issued photo ID (i.e Driver's License) to a staff person in the school office. The ID will be scanned and the following information collected: your photo, name and date of birth. This information will be utilized to check you in, 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.

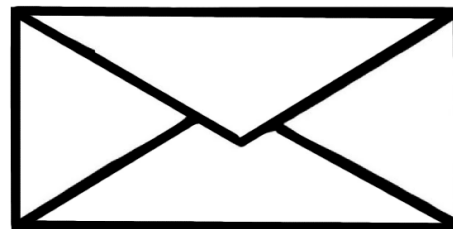
Though every effort is made to maintain locker security, students are encouraged NOT to store valuables in them.

## 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.

# N Newsletter



## 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 .

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



## PowerSchool for Parents

All parents/guardians of students in grades 1-12 will need to create a new Parent Portal account. Please take a moment to review ALL literature sent home as there are many changes this school year.



## 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.

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 Portal 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 Portal 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.

