

## *Welcome from the Principal.*

Hello, Family! Welcome to School Year 2023-2024! We are DEFINITELY the place to be this year!



We are coming off of a summer where CCPCS students authored books, scripted, performed, and designed sets and costumes for their own play, and created podcast interviews. This year, every CCPCS student will have a stay-at-home laptop and hotspot to use for the entire school year. Our Community School Office will expand its programming and its space by moving into a classroom area where families can enjoy learning about, finding, and sharing resources in true village spirit. And that's just the beginning!

Our core elements of arts-integration, place-based education, and project-based approaches to learning are still front and center as students learn and master common core standards. Our Kindergarten students will flourish in their play-based classrooms once again as they develop and expand their academic and social-emotional skills.

Strong student attendance and consistent participation are essential and expected – and we are here to support achievement every step of the way by creating student-centered lessons and experiences that allow the children to OWN their learning by engaging in productive struggle. Want to know more? Don't worry – we will have parent sessions on this strategy.

We will continue to advocate for social justice and act as the stewards of our community: As the first Baltimore Peace Movement School, we continue to work in support of positive community outcomes and peace. As the 2023 DPW Eco-Warrior Challenge Elementary Division Winners, we will continue to engage in actions that protect the environment.

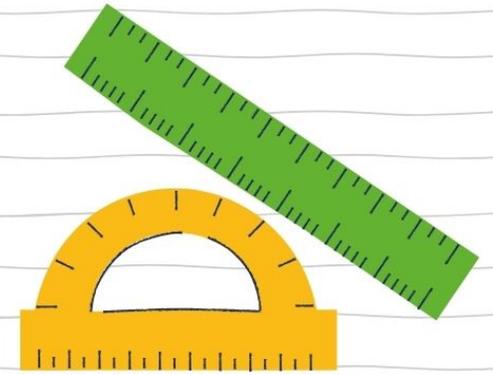
And the Village is as strong as ever – but only because we have YOU. This year, we will be actively seeking out:

- Class parents -- the cheerleaders for each homeroom, organize snack donations, etc. to support the teachers and provide another school-to-home connection.
- Village volunteers – the people who will come in when they can or support the school in offsite ways.
- Future CCPCS Board of Directors Members -- people who want to be specifically connected to the decision making and outreach that will position us to be around do another decade and beyond.
- New Students to join our Village – Tell a friend about the great things going on here. We'd love to have them join us!

There are so many wonderful things happening at Creative City this year, but nothing is more important than the learning and growing that students, staff, families, and the community will do together.

I KNOW I am here for it! It starts where WE stand.  
See you at 8:45 am on August 28<sup>th</sup>!

Traci Johnson Mathena, Principal



SAVE THESE DATES!

**Fri, 8/25, 2 - 3:30pm**    **Take a Peek at Your Seat**

**Sat, 8/26, 12 - 4:00pm**    **Back to School BBQ**

**Tue, 9/12, 5:30 - 7:30pm**    **Back to School Night**



For questions or for more information  
443-642-3600





It's time to get our students ready for ALL the success this year by making sure they are prepared with a few materials. Here is where you can start – We will have the rest!

Students should come the first day of school with the following items:

**All Students need a bookbag to carry items to and from school daily.**

### Grades K, 1 and 2

- TWO (2) plastic pocket folders.
- A pencil box (13.25 x4.75" x 2.5")
- One box of tissues (much appreciated!)

### Grades 3 and 4

- One (1) plastic pocket folders
- 1 Composition notebook (not spiral)
- A pencil box (13.25 x4.75" x 2.5")
- One box of tissues (much appreciated!)

### Grade 5

- One 4-inch binder
- One 5-tab divider pack (for the binder)
- One three-ring binder pencil case (must have holes so it can go into the binder)
- 1 Composition notebook (not spiral)
- One box of tissues (much appreciated!)

Families who need assistance with supplies should contact the school at 443-642-3600 or email Ms. Geraldine Johnson, Continuity of Learning Coordinator at [GBJohnson@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:GBJohnson@bcps.k12.md.us).

Donation of the other supplies to our whole-school supply closet are always welcome! If you desire to invest in our community in this way, we can always use:

- #2 pencils (Dixon Ticonderoga preferred)
- Crayons/Markers/Colored Pencils
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Wide Ruled Loose-Leaf Paper
- Copy Paper
- Glue Sticks (need lots of these!)
- Rulers
- Highlighters
- Dry Erase Markers

# Help Your Child Succeed in Elementary School: *Build the Habit of Good Attendance*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Participation in early education programs, like preschool and Head Start, lead to better attendance in kindergarten.
- Starting in kindergarten, missing 10% of school (or just 2 days every month) can make it harder to learn to read and cause children to fall behind in school.
- Good attendance, whether class is held in person or remotely, can help children do well in school, and eventually in the workplace and in college.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Communicate with the School

- Contact your child's teacher(s) and let them know how to reach you.
- Get and post your child's class schedule and log in information on the refrigerator or your child's desk.
- Practice logging in to virtual classes and make a plan for supporting learning for children. Contact the school if you need help logging in.
- Ask about the school's attendance policy.

### Make School Attendance a Priority

- Establish routines for bedtime, waking up and showing up for class.
- Identify a quiet place for your child to do school work. If you have multiple children, make a schedule. Or ask your school or community agencies if they have created places for distance learning, or if noise-canceling headsets are available for students.
- Develop back-up plans for getting your child to school or logging in to the computer if you can't be there to help. Find a family member, neighbor or older child who can help over the phone or who can help while wearing a mask and maintaining physical distance. Community-based organizations might also be able to help.
- When school is in session, avoid extended family trips and non-urgent medical appointments.
- Ask your child's teacher about attendance and tell the teacher any concerns you have.

### Help Your Child Stay Healthy and Engaged

- Monitor your child's attendance and participation; and contact the teacher to address any concerns.
- Make sure your child gets the flu vaccine and other required shots.
- Find out if your child feels safe from bullies. Make sure that school discipline policies don't lead to your child becoming disengaged or pushed out of school. If these are problems, work with your school to find a solution.
- If your child seems bored or anxious about school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Ask for help when you need it. School staff, after-school program providers, and other parents or community agencies are available to help families access online learning, obtain food or housing and address other experiences that make it difficult to attend and participate.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## 2023-24 Creative City Calendar Dates - events may be added!

Follow our most updated calendar at [www.CreativeCitySchool.org](http://www.CreativeCitySchool.org)

Fri	August 25, 2023	Take a Peek at your Seat, 2:30 - 3:30pm
Sat	August 26, 2023	Back to School BBQ, 12:00 - 4:00pm
Mon	August 28, 2023	First Day of School!
<b>Mon</b>	<b>September 4, 2023</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Labor Day</b>
Tues	September 12, 2023	Back to School Night, 5:30 - 7:30pm
Fri	October 6, 2023	Asynchronous Day (Students <b>at home</b> learning online and offline)
<b>Fri</b>	<b>October 20, 2023</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Professional Development</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>November 17, 2023</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Professional Development</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>November 22, 2023</b>	<b>Wellness Day: SCHOOL CLOSED Staff and Students</b>
<b>Thur - Fri</b>	<b>November 23 - 24, 2023</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
Fri	December 1, 2023	Asynchronous Day (Students <b>at home</b> learning online and offline)
<b>Fri</b>	<b>December 22, 2023</b>	<b>Wellness Day: SCHOOL CLOSED Staff and Students</b>
<b>Mon - Fri</b>	<b>December 25 - 29, 2023</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Winter Break</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>January 1, 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Last Day of Winter Break</b>
Tues	January 2, 2024	First Day Back from Winter Break
<b>Mon</b>	<b>January 15, 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>January 26, 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Professional Development</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>February 16, 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Professional Development</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>February 19, 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: President's Day</b>
Fri	March 1, 2024	Asynchronous Day (Students <b>at home</b> learning online and offline)
<b>Fri</b>	<b>March 15, 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Professional Development</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>March 25 - April 1, 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Spring Break</b>
Tue	April 2, 2024	First day back from Spring Break
<b>Tues</b>	<b>May 14, 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Primary Election Day</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>May 17, 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Professional Development</b>
Mon	June 10, 2024	5th Grade Closing, 9:30am*
Mon	June 10, 2024	Cele-K-tion (Kindergarten Closing), 12:30pm*
Tue	June 11, 2024	Anticipated Last Day of School
Wed	June 19, 2024	Juneteenth (All Schools and Offices Closed)

# Early Release Every Wednesday, Beginning at 1:30pm

*\* Closing Celebration dates are contingent on the last day of school. If the last day shifts, these events will shift as well.*

## Recurring Meetings

CCPCS Board Meeting: Every 3rd Monday

Staff Meetings: Every 4th Wednesday

Village Voices with Admin: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 9:30am

Community School Corner: TBD

*Peace Movement Weekends*

August 4-6, 2023

November 3-5, 2023

February 3-5, 2024

May 10-12, 2024