



Central Middle School Newsletter

Volume 38, Issue 2



Cobras Striking Success

September 2014

Special points of interest:

- Back to school night is Thursday, September 11 at 6:30 PM, Club Expo begins at 5:30
- Sept. 30 Federal Survey Forms online and sent home with students

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From the Principal.....

Dear Parents,

During the summer months, our scheduler Mr. Ravanbakhsh, has worked diligently creating the appropriate schedules for nearly 1100 students. Where possible we have tried to accommodate requests for changes this summer, however it is not always possible. The encore staffing is done in the Spring based on student selection. We will not be making any schedule changes in encore classes. In the core subject areas, we reviewed achievement data to insure that all students were appropriately placed. All placement decisions were made following AACPS course criteria, so that all of our students will be College and Career Ready.

Our Back to School Night is September 11. The parents will experience a typical day in the life of their middle school student by following their child's schedule. At 5:30 our PTSA will be having their annual Club Expo and general meeting. Also at 5:30 pm the Physical Education and Health department will present the Family Life and Human Sexuality program to sixth grade parents. The program materials will continue to be available for parents to review. We hope everyone finds the evening informative. If you have additional questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

The student led conferences will be continued this year. Student-led conferences are held November 24 and 25. Watch for more information in the weeks to come. Parents will have an opportunity to visit each of their child's teachers and see a portfolio of selected pieces of your student's work.

Our School Improvement team will be revising our School Improvement plan. In order to continue our tradition of excellence. We analyze the data and revise our plan based

on this review. The changes to the School Improvement plan are an on-going action. If you would like to be a part of the School Improvement Team please contact Ms. Beall. The team meets the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm. in room 223. It is through this work that Central Middle School can elevate all students' achievement.

Extended day Help

Days are available to your students on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the afternoon. Every teacher is available either on Tuesday or Thursday afternoon to assist students with academic concerns. The help may include missed assignments due to absence, lack of understanding or work that does not meet 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 time to do this. Please support your teachers' requests by insisting your child stays.

Active involvement of parents is important to a child's education. While students are fighting for independence and experimenting with social/emotional goals, we must be there to help them take the right path. Vigilance and involvement are never as important as they are now. The adolescent is someone who reacts emotionally to situations and responds to the situation with little or no thought. Research supports the fact that the area of the brain which controls impulsivity is under developed during adolescence. It is not the time to back

away. As parents, it is our responsibility to see that our children have adequate supervision, healthy choices of recreation, proper rest, food, exercise, and entertainment.

Stay involved in your child's learning. Communicate with your child's team of teachers through the agenda book or email. Many of the teams have set up Blackboard sites to assist parents and students with their expectations. Be sure to visit the site to see what is out there. In addition, parents now have access to their child's grades on line using the Parent Connect program. If you signed up last year, you do not need to sign up again this year. Sixth grade parents DO NOT need to sign up this year. If you still need to set up your account you can do so on the intranet. See page 7 of this letter for further information. The Connect Ed system will be back up and running on September 9. Together, we truly will make a difference! Visit us and get to know us. Remember the principal's door is always open and parents are encouraged to communicate directly.

Sincerely,

Millie Beall

Principal

mlbeall@aacps.org





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



EMERGENCY DRILLS

During each school year, various drills are conducted at every school to ensure that staff and students are prepared in the event of an emergency. These drills include monthly fire/evacuation drills.

In addition five drills with scenarios developed by the school system's Office of School Security and based upon various possible emergency scenarios are done each year. These include, but are not limited to: evacuation for natural gas emergencies; shelter for tornado and earthquake; shelter for outside hazardous materials release; lockout for danger outside of the school building, reverse evacuation back into the school for students and staff outside; and lockdown for a person with a weapon inside of the school.

These drills are discussed with staff prior to the drill, evaluated once the drill is complete. In some cases, the drills may be discussed with students before they take place.



dures.

Back-To-School Night

Central Middle's Back-to-School night will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

PTSA Club Expo - 5:30 pm

You will follow your child's schedule and begin your day in their first period class. Teachers will present their instructional programs and their policies and proce-

Please plan to join us for a very informative evening!



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.





A little birdie told me...
Central Middle
is now on Twitter!
Follow us
@CentralMidaacps
Get news and updates
from our school and AACPS

If you are picking your student
up early, please arrive before 2:30.

Thank you for your cooperation.



REMINDER FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

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.



STEM at Central Middle School

The 2014-2015 school year at Central Middle School will be full of STEM opportunities for students! Did you know that Central Middle School has a number of teachers who have been trained in teaching STEM for over three years? This training has allowed the STEM team to develop a true understanding for the rigor of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Over the summer, CMS STEM teachers planned authentic and exciting STEM design challenges for students. This year each grade level will focus on a STEM centered theme through their Advisory class. Our 6th grade will delve into just what is STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Seventh grade will discover what engineering is while 8th graders will focus on innovation - improving the future through STEM. In addition to the design challenges, each grade level expects to offer STEM field experiences and some students will be able to apply for advanced studies in STEM. Be on the lookout for different opportunities throughout the year.

Save the date - Our second annual STEM Expo will be held on Thursday, February 19th (snow date February 26th). If you are interested in helping out at the Expo or volunteering for a STEM event/activity throughout the year, please email CMS STEM Department Chair, Kristy Fidyk kfidyk@aacps.org. Please state the grade level(s) that you would like to help. If you have a business that wants to present a STEM topic at the expo please email Kristy Fidyk with - Business for Expo - in the subject line. Please provide a brief description of your business and how you would like to participate in the Expo. Volunteers will be contacted when grade level needs arrive throughout the year. Thank you to all of the parents that helped with last year's STEM Expo! We are looking forward to another year of STEM excellence!



Candid Photographs

Periodically candid photographs of students are taken for publication in the yearbook. Local newspapers, or presentations concerning school programs or events. If you do NOT want your child photographed under these or similar circumstances, please complete and return the tear-off form below.



_____ I do NOT want my child's photograph to be included in any candid photos.

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Parent Signature _____

**Mark your
calendars.....**

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. Busses will start on Sept. 9

Information about extracurricular activities is communicated via morning announcements and the school website.



Federal Impact Aid Survey Form

On Tuesday, September 30, 2014 your child will bring home a Federal Impact Aid Survey form. Please assist us by filling out the information requested on the form and return to the Anne Arundel County Public Schools in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided.

The US Department of Education has now requested a separate survey form for each child and each survey form must be signed and dated by the Parent/Guardian.

If needed, additional forms may be obtained from the school or downloaded from the AACPS website (www.aacps.org) under **Students, Forms**. The Federal Impact Aid Survey form for 2014-2015 will be available to download on September 30, 2014. We will also be using our Connect-Ed Automated Telephone Notification System to remind everyone about the significance of completing and returning this survey. The school system receives approximately \$2 million in funding from the Federal government in support of our children after the forms are processed.

Thank you in advance for your support and assistance. Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Ms. Donna Barker at 410-222-5200.



Newsletters

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

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



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. Please contact Mr. Ravanbakhsh if you need more information or have a question regarding our procedures.



Cobras Striking
Success

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.

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 3:00 P.M. The first week of school expect some delays due to students getting used to lockers, schedules, and bus numbers.

Parents New to ParentCONNECTxp



ParentCONNECTxp (PCxp) is an easy-to-use tool for communicating student progress that will allow you to take an even more active role in your child's education.

Parents and/or legal guardians who do not have an active account or parents new to AACPS are encouraged to request an account.

During the year, parents of students in grades 1-12 can log onto the secure website to access their child's grades and attendance.

On-line registration begins Tuesday, September 9, 2014.

For more information go to:

<http://www.aacps.org/html/parents/parentconnect/parentconnect.asp>



ParentCONNECTxp
Be Connected...

Cell Phone No.

Day Phone No.

Cell Phone No.

Other children in the family

My child may be released to the following in case of illness and/or early dismissal:
Note: Special pick-ups not listed must have written permission, signed by parent/guardian

Age	School Attending	Name	Relationship	Day Phone No.

In the event of an unplanned emergency, such as an early dismissal, what are the procedures for your child?

Phone No.

Student's Dentist

Phone No.

Allergies? (check all that apply)

Does your child require medication during the school day? Yes No
(Complete medication administration form if medications are needed in school.)

If your child has asthma, diabetes, any chronic illness, or life threatening condition, please contact your school nurse to discuss specific plans for your child.

Does your child use Epi-Pen?
Other (Please Describe)

Note: This information may be accessible to school office personnel.

For Parents of Secondary Students Only

Military/Higher Education

The Higher Education Act requires AACPS to provide military and veterans of higher education access to secondary school addresses, and telephone listings. Parents/guardians may request that this information not be released to military recruiters or institutions of higher education.

AACPS will not release this information to military recruiters without your prior written consent, check the box below.

Do you consent to release this information?

AACPS will not release this information to military recruiters without your prior written consent, check the box below.

Do you consent to release this information?

Youth Tobacco At-Risk Behavior Survey (YTRBS)

The Youth Tobacco and Risk Behavior Survey will be conducted in selected Maryland high and middle schools beginning in the fall of 2014. Your middle school or high school student may be in a class selected to take the survey. For complete information about this survey, please see the back of this form.

I do not give permission for my student to participate in the survey.

Pesticides

Yes No Do you want to be placed on a separate notification list prior to pesticides being applied in the school?

(Please visit www.aacps.org/schools/info regarding universal written pesticide notification.)

Media Release

Yes No Consent for images, audiovisual accounts, and artwork of child to be used in AACPS and other media ventures

Yes No Consent for child's photos in school yearbook

Social Media

Yes No Consent to use social media for instruction

For a full explanation, see the back of this form.

I certify that this card to be true, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

1900/24 (Rev. 6.14)

Parents/Guardians: The highlighted section on this Emergency Notification card labeled "Media Release" and "Social Media" Release is HIGHLY important. For your information, checking "no" for media release means that your child's name will NOT be released to the newspapers for any reason (including honor roll publication). Additionally, your child's artwork will not be allowed to be displayed outside of this school. Failure to check any box defaults to "no".

Visit MyPaymentsPlus Online...

Your One-Stop-Shop for all School Payment Needs



Use MyPaymentsPlus to:

Make online payments for:

- Agenda Book & Communication Folder
- Art Fee
- Combination Lock for Student Locker
- Science Fee
- Gym Lock & Uniforms

It's just like making payments for your child's lunch program!

Free sign-up:

- You will need your child's Student ID No.
- Visit MyPaymentsPlus.com
- Click "Register a Free Account"
- Follow the simple, onscreen instructions



You will need your child's Student ID No. to setup an account in MyPaymentsPlus. If you do not know your child's Student ID No., please contact their school.



MyPaymentsPlus™

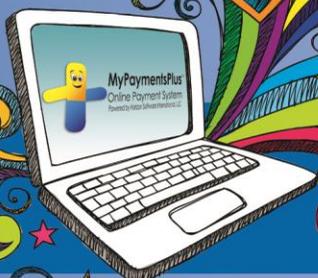
Formerly known as MealpayPlus

Once you complete your FREE registration, enter your log-in information below

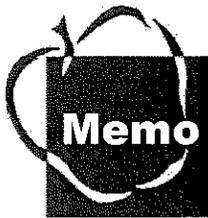
My Username: _____

My Password: _____

www.MyPaymentsPlus.com



Create your FREE account today by visiting www.MyPaymentsPlus.com



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To: Principals and Senior Staff

Date: August 12, 2014

From: Alex L. Szachnowicz, P.E. *ALS*
Chief Operating Officer

Instructions:

Copies to: Bruce Lamartin

Subject: Student Accident Insurance 2014-2015

Student Accident and Interscholastic Football insurance coverage will be provided for the 2014-2015 school year through **K&K Insurance Group, Inc.** The company's contact information is on the web at: www.studentinsurance-kk.com, Phone: (855) 742-3135. Rates are as follows:

<u>Plan</u>	<u>Low Option</u>	<u>High Option</u>
24-Hour Accident	\$ 80.00	\$118.00
At-School Accident	\$ 25.00	\$ 34.00
High School Football	\$130.00	\$199.00

By August 15, 2014, each school will receive a packet containing enrollment flyers that need to be sent home with students. Schools do not need to collect completed forms or money. The flyer directs the parent/guardian to the **K&K Insurance Group, Inc.** website that provides steps for enrolling online and additional details about the program.

Attached is a letter to the parents/guardians that can be reproduced for your student body or included in your school newsletter. It provides additional information to assist parents/guardians in understanding the benefits of student accident insurance.

Effective Date of Coverage

Coverage is effective on the day the completed application and premium is received by the company. There is no cut-off date for securing coverage. Some students may need to enroll during the year or in the spring for interscholastic sports. If, in the case of interscholastic sports, coverage is needed immediately, it should be secured through online enrollment.

Claims Procedures

All claims will be administered by **K&K Insurance, Claims Department, 1712 Magnavox Way, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2338, Phone: (800) 237-2917.** Any questions related to coverage or claims should be directed to **K&K Insurance Group, Inc.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bruce Lamartin, Risk Management Specialist, in the Insurance and Safety Management Office, (410) 222-5223.

ALS/brl
Attachment



**TO ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS
OF
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Each year, school children have accidents. Medical costs can be expensive, and unexpected bills can cause hardships. Even if you have other insurance, it is often not enough as coverage can require high deductibles or co-insurance payments.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools **does not** purchase blanket accidental medical or dental insurance for sports, school sponsored activities, or student activity while school is in session. However, we have made arrangements with **K&K Insurance Group, Inc.** to offer accident coverage to all enrolled students at a modest premium. Through this program, parents/guardians have the opportunity to purchase this protection for their child.

Some of the advantages of this insurance include:

At-School Accident coverage: This provides insurance for the hours and days when school is in session and while students are attending school sponsored and supervised activities on or off school premises. Coverage is provided during:

- The school day, on school premises, while school is in session
- Direct and uninterrupted travel to and from home and scheduled classes
- School sponsored and supervised sports (excluding high school football)
- Travel to and from school sponsored and supervised sports while in school approved vehicle

◆ Once effective, coverage continues until the earlier date where the enrolled students coverage has been in place for twelve months or the first day of the next school year.

24-hour Accident coverage: This provides insurance coverage around-the-clock, anywhere in the world. Coverage is provided:

- Before, during and after school
- Weekends, vacation and all summer including summer school
- School sponsored and extracurricular sports (excluding high school football)

◆ Once effective, coverage continues until the earlier date where the enrolled students coverage has been in place for twelve months or the first day of the next school year.

*All coverage becomes effective on the date that the completed application and premium are received by **K&K Insurance Group, Inc.** or online enrollment is completed.*

YOU CAN APPLY AND PAY ON-LINE AT: www.studentinsurance-kk.com

You have a choice of different benefit schedules. The insurance information that the student in your household brings home will provide the information necessary to guide you in your decision-making.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call **K&K Insurance Group, Inc.** at (855)742-3135. Their representatives are available to assist you in your inquiries or go to www.studentinsurance-kk.com.

AACPS Magnet Information Sessions!

Online Magnet Applications Open in October 2014

Magnet Programs, part of Anne Arundel County's Programs of Choice, offer motivated students the opportunity to engage in a specialized course of study that differs from the traditional curriculum offered in AACPS. Eligible Magnet students will engage in rigorous and relevant learning experiences in subject areas in which they have great interest. For more information about the Magnet Programs offered in AACPS and information about the online application process, attend one (or more!) of the information sessions below, talk to your School Counselor, or visit our website: www.aacps.org/magnet.

General Magnet Information Evenings – 6:00 – 8:00 PM

These sessions are targeted for all interested 5th and 8th grade students and their families.

September 22 – Old Mill High School
September 30 – Annapolis High School

*Will you be a 5th or 8th Grader?
Consider applying for a
Magnet Program in the
2015-2016 school year!*

Specific Magnet Program Information Nights/IB Expos - 6:30-8:00 PM

BioMedical Allied Health (BMAH) High School
October 22 - Glen Burnie High School

Center for Applied Technology (CAT) High School

October 16 - CAT North, 6:30-8:30 pm
November 5 - CAT South, 6:00-8:00 pm

Performing Visual Arts (PVA) Middle School

October 9 - Bates Middle School
November 3 - Brooklyn Park Middle School

Performing Visual Arts (PVA) High School

October 8 - Annapolis High
October 21 - Broadneck High

IB Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) Middle School

October 16 - Annapolis Middle School
October 29 - MacArthur Middle School
October 28 - Old Mill Middle North

IB Diploma Programme/Middle Years Programme (IB MYP/DP) High School

October 15 - Annapolis High School
October 23 - Meade High School
October 23 - Old Mill High School

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) High School

October 14 - North County High School
October 2 - South River High School

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Middle School

October 7 - Central Middle School*
October 20 - Lindale Middle School
October 15 - Old Mill Middle South

*At these **specific magnet information sessions**, we will provide an overview of the magnet program offered at the host school, provide a tour, and answer specific school-based magnet-related questions. We will also answer general AACPS magnet-related questions. Computers will be available for families each evening so that interested parties can initiate the magnet application process on-site.*

* Central Middle School is projected to open SY 2015-2016, pending funding.

Questions? Contact the Magnet Office at 410-222-5391 x1 or 410-222-5342.

The Magnet Application for Fall 2014 for *on-time* applicants is projected to be opened from noon October 1, 2014 and will close at noon, December 3, 2014.

Consult www.aacps.org/magnet for updates.

Got Homework? Get a card...

from the Anne Arundel County Public Library

An Anne Arundel County Public Library card is one of the most important school supplies a student can have, and it's free! A library card gives students access to a world of both print and electronic resources to help them succeed in school. Students have access to subscription resources such as eBooks, magazine and journal articles, practice tests and language learning software from their computer - or one of the library's PCs. Have a question? Students can chat live with a librarian 24 hours a day using Maryland AskUsNow, and get real-time online homework help with subject specialist tutors from 2 PM to midnight with HelpNow from Brainfuse. Links are available on the library's website, www.aacpl.net. And don't forget - the Library still has print books, audiobooks, DVDs and CDs!

Databases and eResources:

The Anne Arundel County Public Library subscribes to authoritative databases and other electronic resources to ensure that students can access the most current and accurate information available. *See the reverse side of this sheet for a complete list of the Anne Arundel County Public Library's online resources for students.*

Our databases and eResources:

- Work through the Internet, but are not Internet sites.
- Are subscription-based and paid for by the library.
- Provide access to authoritative articles, information, eBooks, tutoring and more.
- Are created and published by companies that also produce print resources.
- Are chosen by library staff to support educational and curriculum needs.
- Are accessible from home with a valid library card.

**To learn more about the homework resources at the Library,
visit your local branch or go to www.aacpl.net.**



Anne Arundel County Public Library
www.aacpl.net • 410.222.7371



****HelpNow/Brainfuse****

Elementary, Middle, High

Chat live with a tutor, 2 p.m. till midnight, seven days a week. Science, math, English, social studies and writing help. Available in Spanish.

****Maryland AskUsNow****

Elementary, Middle, High

Chat live with a librarian 24/7 at www.aacpl.net/help

Biography in Context

Middle, High

People past and present

CultureGrams

Elementary, Middle, High

Culture, history and customs of countries and states.

Discovering Collection (STEM)

Middle, High

Literature, history, science and biographies.

Funk and Wagnall's New World Encyclopedia

Elementary, Middle, High

General Encyclopedia

Global Issues in Context

High

Country and international issues resources.

History Reference Center

Middle, High

U.S. and world history resources.

Kids Infobits (STEM)

Elementary

Beginning research.

Literature Resources from Gale

Middle, High

Author biographies, criticism, excerpts, and plot summaries.

National Geographic Kids (STEM)

Elementary, Middle

Magazine 2009-current (last three months excluded), 200 National Geographic Kids books and 500 kid-friendly, downloadable images.

National Geographic Virtual Library (STEM)

Middle, High

National Geographic magazine back to 1888. Includes images and videos.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context

Middle, High

Articles and information on current events and social issues.

Primary Search

Elementary

Full text access to many magazines.

Science in Context (STEM)

Middle, High

Current research for students, including science experiments.

Science Reference Center (STEM)

Middle, High

Full-text periodicals, reference titles & encyclopedias. Includes science experiments.

Student Resources in Context

Middle, High

Full-text articles, biographies, essays and timelines.

U.S. History in Context

Middle, High

U.S. history from the colonial period to the present.

World History in Context

Middle, High

World history through the ages.

Learning Express Library

Elementary, Middle, High

Practice subject and grade-specific tests, ASVAB, AP, ESL, GED, SAT

Testing and Education Reference Center

High

Practice SAT, AP and other exams. Also financial aid and scholarship info.

Muzzy Online

Elementary, Middle

Fun and interactive language learning.

Transparent Language

Middle, High

Learn over 80 languages, including ESL.

3M Cloud Library

Elementary, Middle, High

Downloadable popular eBooks and eAudiobooks.

DK (Dorling Kindersley) (STEM)

Elementary

eBook versions on popular DK children's books.

Gale Virtual Reference Library

Elementary, Middle, High

eBook versions of reference titles.

OneClickDigital

Elementary, Middle, High

Downloadable eAudiobooks .

Overdrive

Elementary, Middle, High

Download popular eBooks and eAudiobooks, includes a reading room.

Safari Tech Books (STEM)

High

Technical eBooks on programming, certification, web design, etc.

TumbleBooks

Elementary

Interactive eBooks and educational games.

Novelist Plus

High

Search for fiction and nonfiction titles by author, plot, read-alikes, curriculum, lexile level and more.

Novelist K-8 Plus

Elementary, Middle

Search for titles by author, plot, read-alikes, curriculum and more.

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Meet the teachers

Touching base with your child's teachers at the beginning of the year helps establish a relationship that makes it easier to communicate later. Attend a back-to-school night or parent orientation session. If you can't make it, send emails or notes to introduce yourself and share a little about your middle grader.

Last word

Does your tween insist on having the last word during disagreements? If so, try working on her conflict resolution skills. The next time there's an argument, suggest compromising—and letting it go. ("Both of us should've remembered to return the movie. Let's put a reminder on the door next time.")

Family time—on foot

When your child is going somewhere within walking distance, consider joining him for a walk instead of driving him. You might head to the library or to the store for project supplies. You'll both get some exercise and a chance to catch up.

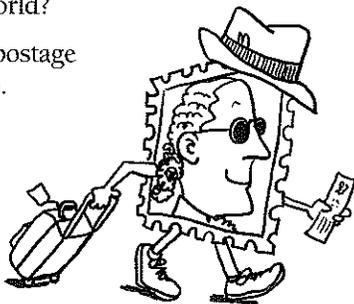
Worth quoting

"Kindness is always fashionable."
Amelia Edith Barr

Just for fun

Q: What stays in the corner but travels the world?

A: A postage stamp.



A+ organizing

What's one of the biggest differences between elementary school and middle school? A greater need for organization! With multiple courses and more homework, your tween can benefit from strategies like these to keep her stuff straight.



Locker

An organized locker will help your tween quickly grab what she needs. It's a good idea to place textbooks in the order of her classes on a shelf with the spines showing. A shoebox could store extra supplies like pens, erasers, and calculator batteries. Periodically, she should clear out clutter and take home items she isn't using.

Homework area

Whether your middle grader works at a desk or the kitchen table, keeping supplies handy will make study time more efficient. Perhaps she'll arrange them in a shower caddy or in clear jars. Also, have

her develop a system for storing old tests and assignments. She might cover empty cereal boxes with construction paper and label one for each subject.

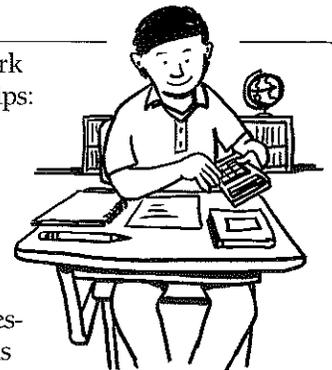
Backpack

Busy students tend to dump everything into their backpacks and leave it there. Suggest that your child clean out her bag after school every Friday. Soon it'll become a habit, and she'll be ready for a fresh start each Monday. 👍

All set for class

Being ready before class starts lays the groundwork for your child to do his best in school. Share these tips:

- Suggest that he get out books, notebooks, and supplies when he takes his seat. Preparing to pay attention right away will help him focus and catch important information announced when class begins.
- If he has time before the bell rings, he might skim yesterday's notes or textbook chapter. Doing so can jog his memory and help him participate in class discussions.



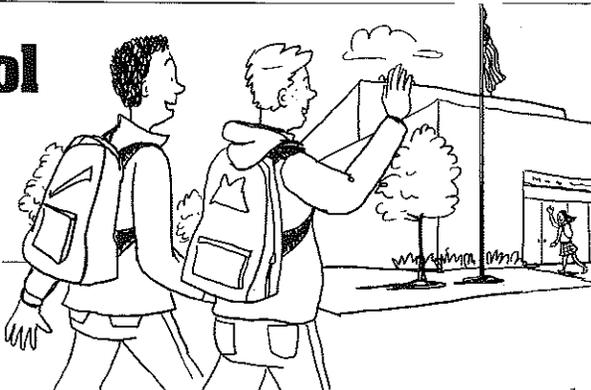
After he does homework each night, he could peek ahead to the next day's lesson. That way, he'll be prepared for what the teacher will be presenting. 👍

It's a middle school social life

Feeling accepted is important for middle graders. But your tween's classes might be filled with students he's never met, and old friends may have moved away or made new friends. Here is advice that can make it easier to navigate the changing social scene.

Be approachable. Tell your child to think of everyone he meets as a potential friend. By smiling and saying hi in the halls or cafeteria, he could strike up conversations with people he may want to spend more time with.

Make (and keep) plans. Suggest that your youngster take a chance and invite new friends over for pizza and a movie on a



weekend, for instance. It's best to plan ahead—if he waits until Friday afternoon to ask, they might already have plans. *Tip:* Encourage him to stick to his plans (even if something better comes up) so people know he's reliable.

Think of conversation starters. Help your tween come up with topics to talk about so he won't feel tongue-tied. Staying up-to-date on music or sports can give him things to discuss that other kids are likely to be interested in. Also, include him in adult conversations so he'll hear potential topics. 👍



Q & A Word wise

Q I've heard that a good vocabulary makes students better readers and writers. How can my daughter increase hers?

A You're right—a bigger vocabulary lets your middle grader understand more of what she reads and gives her new words to choose from when she speaks and writes.



Encourage her to use words she learns in school on a regular basis. Make it into a game by having her track how many times she says a new science term for a week—and then she can try to beat her "score" by using a social studies term the next week.

When she studies, she might have fun illustrating new words (say, a brick wall for a *barricade*). Or she could list related words, such as *police* and *cautious* for *vigilant*. Hanging the pictures or lists over her desk can make the words become familiar—and a part of her vocabulary. 👍

Jazzed about learning

Help your child find fresh ways to get motivated for a new school year. Try these three suggestions.

1. Talk about how classes will help her outside of school. For example, an economics unit could help her manage money. Or if she's learning Spanish, she'll be able to talk to neighbors or storekeepers who speak Spanish.
2. Enthusiasm is contagious, so show excitement about what your tween is studying. Ask about math topics she's working on, or let her describe a new form of poetry that she read.
3. Point out connections to current events and the latest technology. You might show her an article about the Mars rover if she's studying the solar system or suggest that she look for a drawing app if she's taking art. 👍



Parent to Parent Cyber "health"

I was surprised when I took my son Sam for a checkup and our pediatrician brought up cyber safety. My friends all seem to have different rules for their kids about computers and phones, so I was interested in hearing the doctor's thoughts. He said he is in favor of keeping laptops in the family room or kitchen where parents can supervise children online, and he thinks it's a good idea to set up parental controls on kids' phones.

At home, I brought up the issue again with Sam. I told him that he isn't allowed to share personal

information or chat with strangers online. And I explained that because it's my job to make sure he's safe, I need to be around when he uses the computer. He doesn't have a phone yet, but when he gets one, I'm going to look into the safety features that are available.

It was good to hear this information from someone we trust. Now even though his friends might not have the same rules as he does, at least my son got to hear the doctor's professional opinion. 👍



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,
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www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1540-5540

Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

September 2014

Central Middle School

Millie Beall, Principal



Book Picks

Timmy Failure (Stephan Pastis)

Timmy's first mistake was letting his mom's Segway get stolen. Now he's trying to get it back by starting his own detective agency. But with a lazy polar bear as his business partner, his chances of success seem slim in this hilarious, cartoon-filled story.



Magic Up Your Sleeve: Amazing Illusions, Tricks, and Science Facts You'll Never Believe (Helaine Becker)

Readers can amaze friends and relatives with this collection of magic tricks. Balance a cup on the edge of a playing card, lift an ice cube without touching it, and more. Each trick includes an explanation of the science behind the magic.



City of the Beasts (Isabel Allende)

Alexander Cold doesn't want to stay with his grandmother, and he really doesn't want to accompany her on a quest to find a mythical beast in the Amazon rain forest. Soon the 15-year-old has more to worry about than the mysterious creature they're hunting. (Also available in Spanish.)

Maps and Geography (Ken Jennings)

Calculate how fast the earth spins, explore time zones, and visit the tallest and the smallest places on the planet. The light tone and the pages filled with activities and amusing quizzes make learning about geography fun. Part of the Junior Genius Guide series.



Moving up: Reading more complex books

When your child steps out of his comfort zone and reads tougher books, he stretches his abilities and grows as a reader. Ease the way with these tips for guiding him toward more challenging materials.



Use picture books

Simple books can help your youngster understand harder ones. If he's frustrated by a history chapter on the American Revolution, for instance, have him read a picture book like *George vs. George* by Rosalyn Schanzer. The illustrations and simpler descriptions will boost his knowledge and make it easier to understand the more complicated explanations in the other book.

Bring in the real world

Use your child's natural curiosity about the world to steer him to more challenging material. For example, he might be fascinated by tsunamis after hearing about one on the news. Suggest

that he find out more about them by reading a nonfiction book or a science magazine aimed at older readers.

Get the facts

Before tackling a difficult novel, it will help if your youngster knows a little about the book's time period or setting. Is he going to read a story that takes place in the Australian outback? He could look up information about the country's customs and geography in a nonfiction library book or online. Building background knowledge will put the story in context so it makes more sense to him. ■

Fun with Words

Spice up spelling practice

These ideas can make spelling practice more fun:

- Write two of your youngster's spelling words correctly and a third incorrectly. Can she spot the misspelled word and fix it? Trade roles, and let her try to stump you.
- Give each letter in the alphabet a random value (A = 1, T = 7, R = 3). Ask your child to spell her words and add up the points to find the "most valuable" one.
- Hold a contest to see who can create the most new words by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter at a time in a word on her list. For instance, drop the *f* from *refuse* to make *reuse*, or change *s* to *g* to get *refuge*. ■

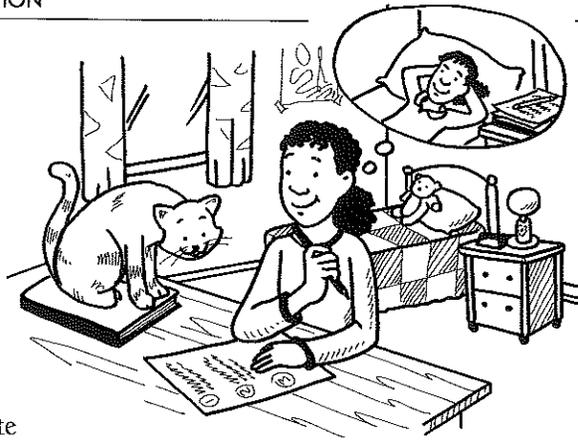


Here's what I think

In school, your youngster will be expected to master “persuasive writing.” Have her practice at home by making an argument in writing for something she wants to do.

1. The point. What does she hope to accomplish? She can begin by introducing her case. “Now that I am 10, I think I am old enough to stay up later on school nights.”

2. The argument. Suggest that your child write at least three reasons she feels her claim is valid. These “supporting arguments” should clearly state her



reasoning and include relevant information. One might be, “Staying up an extra hour will let me spend more time with my family.”

3. The other side. Remind her to consider the opposing side and include ideas to address those concerns. “I will wake up on time by using an alarm clock. If I oversleep, I’ll go to bed earlier the next night.”

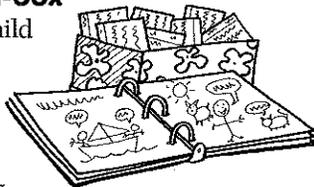
Tip: Use your youngster’s paper as a starting point for discussing her request. If you decide not to grant it, you can explain why and set up a time to revisit the issue in the future. ■

Family journaling

Shared journals offer a great way for your family to enjoy writing—and collecting memories—together. Try one of these formats.

Journal-in-a-box

Let your child decorate a small box and label it “The (Your Name) Family Journal.” Then, fill the box with “memory cards.” Each day, family members can write entries on separate index cards (be sure to put your name and date on each one). *Example:* “I helped make dinner tonight. Our fish tacos were delicious!”



Q&A Read for pleasure

Q My son read a lot over the summer, but now that school has begun, he has less free time. How can he fit reading for pleasure into his busy schedule?

A Your son can still find time to read—it just may take some planning. For starters, suggest that he aim to finish homework and chores early in the evening so he has plenty of time to read before bed.

Then, encourage him to make sure he always has a book with him. That way, he can read during unexpected pockets of time. For instance, he might get in a chapter while he’s waiting for a ride home or before his sister’s softball game begins.

Finally, turn off or put away electronics (TVs, phones) so he won’t be tempted to choose them over books. And don’t forget to ask him what ideas *he* has—readers will always want to find time to read! ■



Life illustrated

For this journal, each person adds a daily drawing to a shared notebook. You don’t have to be an “artist”—doodles or stick figures are fine. Include captions or speech balloons to tell a story about something that happened that day.

Tip: Keep your journal where everyone can see it (living room coffee table, kitchen desk), and read through it together often. ■

Parent 2 Parent Participating in conversations

Our daughter Ava has always been shy, and until recently she didn’t speak up much during family conversations. What changed things? A picnic!

At a family reunion picnic this summer, my aunt wrote icebreaker questions on each paper plate. Mine said, “What’s the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?” Ava’s said, “Name something you’re proud of.” We took turns reading our plates and using the questions

as jumping off points for conversations. Ava got caught up in the discussions—and forgot to notice that she usually doesn’t like to join in.

In fact, she liked the idea so much that we’ve tried it at home. When we set the table, we write questions on slips of paper and tuck them under our plates. Having a topic to discuss is helping Ava feel more comfortable talking—and our family conversations are more interesting, too. ■



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(Central Middle School ID# 00980)

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and a year of A+ School Rewards. Starting October 3, 2014 through March 19, 2015 _____ Central Middle _____ will have the opportunity to earn cash through Giant A+ School Rewards Program.

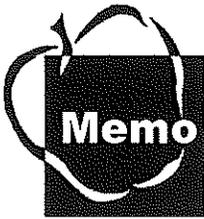
All you have to do is:

- Log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus select **CUSTOMER REGISTRATION** to register online using your Giant Card
- OR**
- Return this form to school with your child and include your Giant Card Number (13-DIGITS) _____, Last Name _____ and telephone number _____

NEW THIS YEAR: If you registered your card last year, you **DO NOT** need to re-register this year. You can visit the website to verify correct school assignment. Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean more Cash for our school.

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Giant using your Giant Card earns CASH for our school. Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Giant website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at www.giantfood.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

****Phone numbers may not be used to designate.
If you do not know your 13-digit Giant CARD number, call the
Card Hotline at 1-877-366-2668 and select OPTION #2***



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To: High School Principals
Middle School Principals

Date: August 28, 2014

From: Mary Tillan
Assistant Superintendent for
Advanced Studies and Programs

Instructions:

Copies to: Maureen McMahon
Cathy Herbert
Kathryn Kubic
Regional Assistant Superintendents
Walter Lee
Mary Austin
Mary Poisson
Kristina Gillmeister
Jennifer Lombardi
Zipporah Miller
Amy Smith
Elizabeth Elder

Subject: Fall 2014 USNA Saturday Physics Lab
Demo Brochures for Secondary Students

The Advanced Studies and Programs Office in partnership with the United States Naval Academy (USNA) are pleased to invite advanced high and middle school students to a series of three Saturday Physics Demonstration labs hosted by professors at the United States Naval Academy. Each lab uses state of the art, advanced equipment not currently available in the middle or high schools. The information provided by the professors will promote students understanding of the concepts demonstrated. Opportunities for student questioning and discussions are embedded in all activities. There is a cap of 100 students for each session. (Middle school students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.) Please see the attached flyer for dates and topics.

The attached flyer will be sent to your school, addressed to the science department chairperson, mathematics chairperson, AVID teacher, STEM lead, school counseling office, and IB/MYP/magnet site coordinator. The flyer and application can also be accessed online at the Advanced Co-Curricular Programs web page, <http://www.aacps.org/cocurricular>.

AACPS students may register at no cost by completing the application form, and returning it to Linda Rau/Advanced Co-Curricular Programs Office. Application forms can be found in the brochure or on-line. On-line applications should be downloaded and completed. Applications as well as parking pass requests for the first demonstration session must be received no later than **10 days prior to the first session**, to allow time for advanced communication.

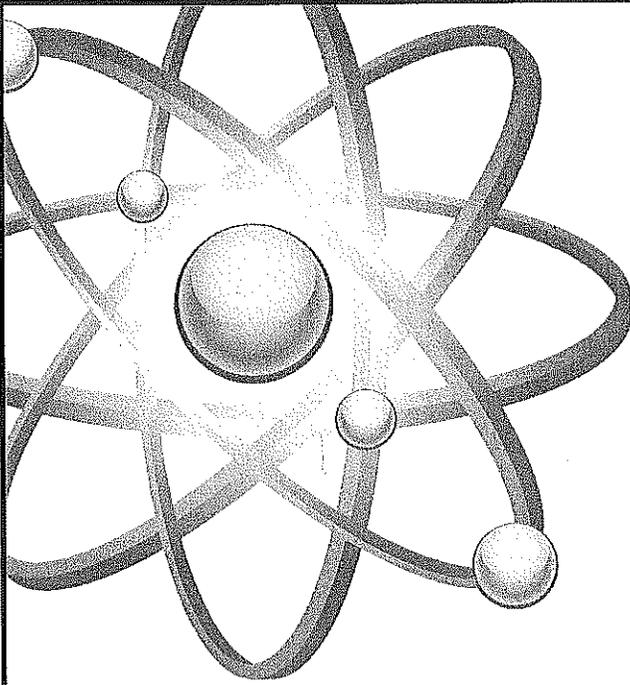
As of May 2014, visitor access to the Naval Academy has changed for base visitation. Prior to driving onto the academy grounds, you must obtain a parking permit. ([http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/ndw/installations/nsa annapolis/om/security/Pass and ID Office.html](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/ndw/installations/nsa_annapolis/om/security/Pass%20and%20ID%20Office.html)). Please mail the two page application to Professor Peter Guth, 107 Claude Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 no later than two weeks prior to the first session so that an embossed visitor pass can be sent to you. (*The Advanced Studies and Programs Office does not provide parking passes.*)

Thank you for promoting involvement of promising science students in this unique opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Elder, 410-222-5434, elder@aacps.org, in the Advanced Co-Curricular Office.

Attachments:

brochure: Fall 2014 USNA Physics Laboratory Demonstrations
MT/ee





*The U.S. Naval Academy
Advanced Study Program*

Physics Laboratory Demonstrations

Students in grades 6-12* are invited to join professors from the United States Naval Academy for a series of nationally acclaimed Physics Laboratory Demonstrations.

These demonstrations use advanced equipment not available in the high schools, and the professors will provide additional background for the high school students and answer questions.

For more information, see or call the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Advanced Co-Curricular Programs Office at 410-222-5430.

***While intended for high school physics students, middle school students may attend if accompanied by a parent.**

When & Where	Date	Topic
Saturday mornings 10:00 - 11:30 A.M.	September 27, 2014	Forces
at the US Naval Academy Chauvenet Hall	November 1, 2014	Energy
Physics Lecture Hall	November 22, 2014	Waves and Sound



Programs of Choice
Co-Curricular

**Complete the attached application and return it to Linda Rau,
Advanced Co-Curricular Programs Office, by September 10, 2014.**



Advanced Study Program Application— *Physics Lab Demonstrations*



Programs of Choice
Co-Curricular

1. Complete the information below. Select the labs in which you are requesting enrollment.
2. If you require a vehicle pass to access the Naval Academy, follow the instructions in section 2.

Please Print.

1. Student Information

Name	Grade	Is Student currently on an IEP or 504 Plan? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Parent/Guardian	School	
Home Street Address		
City	Zip	
Home Phone	Parent E-mail	

Check each lab for which you are requesting enrollment

Forces	September 27, 2014
Energy	November 1, 2014
Waves and Sound	November 22, 2014

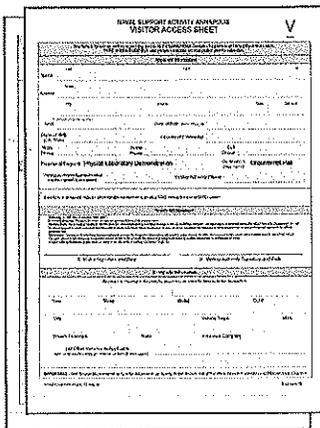
Parent/Guardian Permission (signature required)

Note: Parents of middle school students must attend with their student.

- The parent/guardian:
- Agrees to provide transportation to and from the U.S. Naval Academy
 - Has reviewed the lab selections and concurs with the choices
 - Has contacted Dr. Peter Guth for a car pass, if needed

Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
---------------------------	------

2. USNA Temporary Vehicle Pass (see instructions on the back of the Physics Lab flyer)



Unless you have a Department of Defense CAC card you must have an embossed pass in order to drive onto the Naval Academy.

To get a pass, complete the attached two-page application for each driver. **Your original, signed parking pass application (no faxes or scans) must be received at the Academy two weeks before the class** to allow for processing and return mail. Follow the instructions on the back of the Physics Lab flyer.

A downloadable, fillable, electronic version of the application, is available on the USNA website: www.usna.edu/Users/oceano/pguth/aacps. If you have any questions, please contact pguth@usna.edu with questions.

Please return this form to the Advanced Co-Curricular Programs Office by September 10, 2014.

Mail: Linda Rau · Advanced Co-Curricular Programs Office · Anne Arundel County Public Schools, 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

Fax: Advanced Co-Curricular Programs Office at 410-222-5608

If you have any questions, please call 410-222-5430.

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY ANNAPOLIS VISITOR ACCESS SHEET



This form is for use by visitors requesting access to the USNA/NSAA Complex for periods of thirty (30) or more days.
TYPE or PRINT LEGIBLY and ensure all blocks are completed prior to submittal.

I. Applicant Information

Name	Last	First	MI
Address	Street		
	City	County	State Zip Code
SSN	* provide complete number		
Place of Birth (City, State)	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)		
Work Phone	Home Phone	Cell Phone	
Purpose of Request	Physics Laboratory Demonstration		Destination (bldg name) Chauvernet Hall
Vetting Authority Name Printed <small>(required if applicant is not a resident)</small>	Vetting Authority Phone		

* If no SSN is assigned, indicate other identifying number such as USCIS immigrant visa or LPR number.

Privacy Act Statement

Authority: 5 USC 301, Executive Order 9397.
Principal Purpose: To apply for visitor access for periods of thirty (30) days or more.
Routine Uses: To provide a means of identification for visitors requesting extended access to the USNA/NSAA complex. All information is retained within the NSAA Security Department and will be primarily used to verify individual identities and to locate individuals when necessary. It may on some occasions be released to other government or law enforcement agencies for official purposes only.
Disclosure: Disclosure is voluntary, however failure to provide the requested information will result in being denied the intended services which could prevent admittance to the USNA/NSAA Complex, prevent admittance to designated secure areas, or be grounds for denial of privileges afforded to civilian employees or authorized persons.
Visitor Vetting Authority (VVA) must be listed in NAVSUPPACT ANNAPOLISINST 5530.1D

Visitor Signature and Date

Vetting Authority Signature and Date

II. Vehicle Information

Applicant is required to list vehicles desired to be used for access to the installation.

Year	Make	Model	Color
VIN	Vehicle Tag #		State
Driver's License #	State	Insurance Company	

List Other Vehicles as Applicable:
(use continuation area on reverse of form if necessary)

IMPORTANT - See Section III on reverse of form for information pertaining to the Department of the Navy Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program.

VISITOR ACCESS SHEET

III. Navy Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program

In accordance with policy set forth by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, personnel operating vehicles on Federal installations must furnish proof of compliance with applicable vehicle inspection and maintenance programs established for the State in which the facility is located. Applicants registering vehicles for use on the USNA/NSAA Complex should use the below area to self-certify compliance with this program.

- Ref: (a) Clean Air Act (CAA) 118(d)
- (b) ASN (EI&E) Memo dtd 20 Jul 2011
- (c) Navy ADMIN Msg dtg 291621Z May 13

Print Full Name

I, _____, certify the aforementioned vehicle(s) registered in my name complies with applicable state inspection and maintenance program requirements. This access request is with regard to my status as a visitor, and not as a contractor/vender or service provider. I understand that failure to maintain these requirements, as well as any misrepresentation thereof, may result in my denial of vehicle access privileges to the USNA/NSAA Complex. The last inspection certification for this vehicle was granted on _____.

mm/dd/yyyy

Visitor Signature and Date: _____

IV. Continuation Area

Pass is needed September 27, November 1, November 22.

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

September 2014

**Golden Cobras
Striking
Success!**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Labor Day 1 School Closed	Yellow A 2	Blue B 3	Red A 4	Yellow B 5	6
7	Blue A 8	Red B 9	Yellow A 10	Blue B 11 Back to School Night	Red A 12	13
14	Yellow B 15	Blue A 16	Red B 17 2-Hr Early Dismissal	Yellow A 18	Blue B 19	20
21	Red A 22	Yellow B 23	Blue A 24	Rosh Hashanah 25 School Closed	Red B 26 Interims	27
28	Yellow A 29	Blue B 30 Federal Surveys Home				

221 Central Avenue East
Edgewater, MD 21037
410-956-5800; fax 410-956-1266

