

MSA Family Newsletter: Week of September 21st

Parent/Guardian Notification

This school year, our teachers will complete the **Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA)** to help us better understand and support your child's social-emotional growth, well-being, and skill development across eight core areas (such as self-management, relationship skills, and decision-making).

DESSA-Mini: An 8-question universal screening survey completed by teachers for all students to guide classroom-wide support.

DESSA Diagnostic: A more detailed survey completed *only* for students who show a need for additional, targeted social-emotional support or personalized interventions.

2026–2027 Assessment Schedule: Teachers may complete assessments throughout the year (after a student has attended for at least 4 weeks), with primary cycles taking place during these windows:

- **Fall (BOY):** Sept 21 – Oct 9, 2026
- **Winter (MOY):** Feb 1 – Feb 26, 2027
- **Spring (EOY):** Apr 26 – May 21, 2027

Your Privacy Rights: Under Illinois' Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA) and Chicago Board of Education policy, parents and guardians have the right to inspect, review, and request access to their child's survey results. For details on submitting an access request, please visit the CPS Parents' Rights webpage.



This week is National Peace Week: Peace Week is a dedicated time focused on promoting harmony, empathy, and conflict resolution within our community and around the globe. Often celebrated in tandem with the United Nations' International Day of Peace, this week encourages individuals, schools, and organizations to come together through educational workshops, community service, and open dialogues. It serves as a powerful reminder that creating a culture of peace starts with small, daily actions—like practicing kindness, listening to diverse perspectives, and actively

working to bridge divides. Today, in our morning announcements, our students shared the Peace Pledge:

We believe that we must and we can Build the Peace every day. Every person, in every family, school, community, city, and country. We believe that our own thoughts, words, and actions make a difference. Therefore, from this day forward, we pledge in our daily life to : respect all life, reject violence, share with others, listen to understand, preserve the planet and rediscover solidarity. We must and we can build a “beloved community”.

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MSA Walkathon for Technology!

Reach For The Stars is excited to kickoff our 2026 Fall Walk-a-thon Fundraiser for Mark Sheridan Academy! The annual Walkathon is our single biggest opportunity to protect the top-tier academic experience that we offer. Every dollar raised goes directly back to our students, with this year's funds targeted at desperately needed technology upgrades. We need 100% family participation to make this event a success—whether by donating what you can, volunteering your time, or **asking your employer if they offer matching grants to multiply your impact**. Please keep an eye out for upcoming event details, ensure your student is signed up, and thank you for your incredible ongoing support and dedication to our Sheridan community!

Walkathon Challenge: We are trying to get donations from all 50 states by October 9th. If we reach all 50 states, MSA will automatically be entered into a raffle to win \$1000! Please see the attached map for how we are doing so far. If you have family or friends out of state, please reach out to solicit donations!

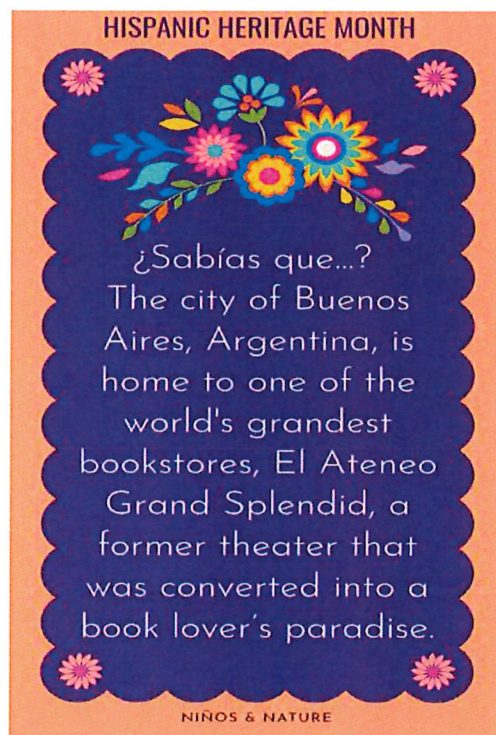
WALKATHON To do's:

- Register your child for their online fundhub site using the QR code on the Flyer.
- Share with friends, family, and neighbors to help us reach our fundraising goals.
- Fundraise for your school! Kids can earn incentives and classrooms can earn pizza parties! (see flyer for more details)
- This year we are primarily raising money to bridge funding gaps for technology resources. This includes needed updates and upgrades that the CPS-provided budget doesn't easily make room for, like Chromebooks for students and classroom equipment.

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- With your help, we hope to fulfill many parts of MSA's technology wish list! In this time of budget cuts and uncertainty, it is more important than ever that our community can come together to raise funds for our school. Does your employer match donations?
- Please submit for those matches! We have opportunities for business sponsors as well!
- Please reach out to info@msa-rfts.org for more information. Donations are accepted both online (credit/debit) and in school (cash/check). For in school donations, please include the student's name and homeroom, and make any checks payable to Reach For the Stars NFP.

Walkathon Updates: We are 87% to our \$40,000 goal! We have raised \$34,841.75. Thank you to all who have contributed so far. The classes in the lead currently are: Team Cawood (Room 120-8th), Team Monahan (Room 104-2nd), Team Brown (Room 201-5). Team Alynovich (Room 203-3) is close behind! **The donation window will remain open until October 9th while classrooms continue to compete for the pizza party and bragging rights!**



MSA Attendance: Our current Attendance Rate this week as a WHOLE school is 97.20%, which is a bit under last week's attendance. Our goal is to keep our attendance rate above 98%. Please make sure to prioritize your child being at school every day and on-time! We can do even better with everyone's support. Please see the guide below for when you should keep your child home.

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Too Sick for School?

4 Questions to consider:

Is Your Child Running A Fever?

If your child is running a fever, they should stay home from school. Typically, a fever over 100°F is a sign that your child may be ill. A child should not return to school until at least 24 hours after the fever broke without fever-reducing medication.





Can Your Child Participate in Class?

If your child seems too sluggish and lethargic to pay attention to their lessons, they should be kept home from school. Rest will help your child recover so that they are feeling better and ready to learn again.

Is Your Child Contagious?

If your child is sick with an illness that may be contagious, like strep throat or pinkeye, they should be kept home from school. This will prevent them from spreading their illness to their classmates, or worse, having it passed right back!





Are the Symptoms Disruptive?

If your child is running to the restroom and back, chances are they won't retain much of their lessons. Keep your child home until symptoms subsided at least 24 hours.

Patient First

Calling all kid inventors and entrepreneurs! Young entrepreneurs wanted! **Made in Bridgeport, Jr.** is inviting young people ages 7–13 to sell their handmade or kid-created products at the Young Makers Market on Sunday, September 27, at the Ramova Theatre—and keep the money they earn. Families are also invited to attend from 1:30–4:30 p.m. See attached flyer for more information!



After-School Care: Apollo Afterschool: For families seeking after-school care, **Apollo Afterschool** provides fantastic on-site care for Sheridan students.

Registration: You can register your child directly through the [Apollo Afterschool Registration Portal](#).

Questions? Please visit their website at www.apolloafterschool.com or call their main office at 1-855-543-7277.

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Key Transportation Reminders: Please adhere to these guidelines in the interest of SAFETY.

Please do not double-park when dropping off or picking up your child. Also, do not let students out of the vehicle on the street side. This is dangerous and may result in a serious injury.

Drop-off & Pick-up: Doors open at 7:30. We do provide supervision after 7:15 AM. Please review the below information and our arrival map [link] to help traffic flow safely. VERY IMPORTANT: Please do not park in handicapped spots, as these spaces are reserved for those with accessibility needs.

Morning Drop-Off

- Student Morning Drop-off is one-way on 27th Street going East.
- Pull up your vehicle as far as possible to the person stopped before you.
- Be fully stopped before your child(ren) exits the vehicle.
- We will have Student Ambassadors helping us with this starting next week.
- Always use the crosswalk when crossing the street (students & parents).
- Cars may not be double-parked in the street. You may be ticketed.
- Never leave your child or vehicle unattended.
- You may not exit your vehicle in the pick-up line or during the dismissal window.
- Note that U-turns are both illegal and very dangerous.

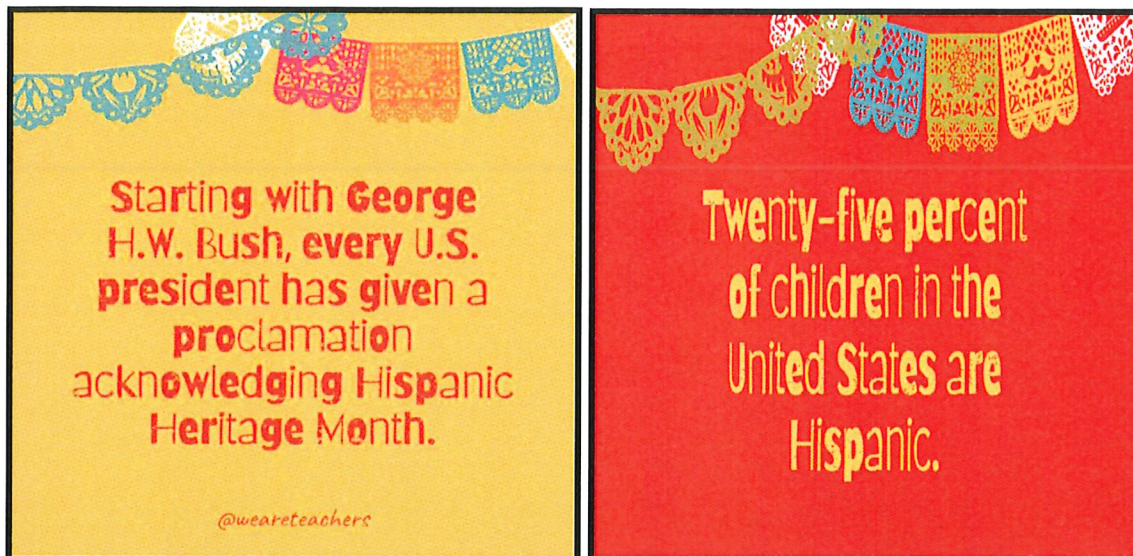
Car Drop-Off & Pick-up Route/Map

Dismissal Procedures: Please be considerate and follow these procedures faithfully. Failure to do so will create a traffic backup that poses a potential danger.

27th Street is a One Way STREET going East during the dismissal window of 2:15-3:00 PM.

- Dismissal for non-bussed students begins at 2:35 PM.
 - Pick-Up Line: The only entrance for the pick-up line is from Wallace onto 27th Street.
 - Arrive at your designated pickup time & do not cross in front of buses.
 - Vehicle Pick-up for Families is at 2:30 PM
 - Pull to the curb and behind the vehicle in front of you.
 - At approximately 2:45 PM, after the car pick-up line has cleared, the vans and buses going to after-school program locations will be allowed to move through the same pick-up line.
 - Make sure your child can identify your car.
 - Be courteous to other drivers when entering and exiting the pick-up line.
 - For your safety, please use the crosswalk at all times.
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General Reminders:

- Please make sure to pay your \$125 student fee by September 15th through Aspen. If you need additional information, [this LINK will provide you more guidance](#). **Need Help Setting Up Your Account?** If you are new to the Aspen Parent Portal or need technical support, please contact **Ms. Christy Zhang** in the Main Office at LZhang10@cps.edu.
- There is a CPS Parent Tech Support Hotline available to parents Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM- 4:30 PM. They can be reached at 773-417-1060.
- **Family Handbook & Website:** Please review the attached Student & Family Handbook, which serves as your comprehensive guide to being an active part of our school community. This handbook should be your go-to resource for school policies and information throughout the year. You can also visit our official school website anytime at www.sheridan.cps.edu.



Volunteering: If you plan to volunteer at school events or with students, you must complete the CPS Level II Volunteer Approval process. More information can be found on the CPS Website at cps.edu under the Parent tab. Grandparents are also welcome to volunteer through the same process!

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Mark your Calendars!

Dates	Event
Thursday, September 24th	MSA Walkathon for Technology
Friday, September 25th	No School for Students
Thursday, October 1st	Fall Pictures
Thursday, October 1st	Taffy Apple Sales begin
Friday, October 9th	Deadline to submit Walkathon Pledges
Monday, October 12th	No School for Students
Friday, October 16th	MSA Trunk or Treat
Friday, October 16th	Taffy Apple Sale Ends
Wednesday, October 28th	Taffy Apple Pickup

“Guard your light and protect it. Move it forward into the world and be fully confident that if we connect light to light to light, and join the lights together of the one billion young people in our world today, we will be enough to set our whole planet aglow.” ~ Hafsata Abiola

