

MSA Family Newsletter: Week of September 28th

Volunteering with CPS: MSA has many volunteer activities to offer parents. Reach for the Stars and Mark Sheridan school events allow parents, guardians, and even grandparents to engage us to support student learning and our community events. These experiences are mutually rewarding to students, parents, Reach for the Stars, and Mark Sheridan Academy. There are two different levels of volunteer involvement and commitment, Level I and Level II. Please note that parents and grandparents are invited to go through this annual process. Yes, it needs to be completed each year! More information, including an overview of this process, is attached to this email. Thanks to all our busy families who have taken the time to complete this process in order to be an integral part of the fun at MSA!

Prioritizing What Matters: Mental Health Awareness Week: This week, we join the global conversation to emphasize the importance of mental well-being, reduce stigma, and foster a supportive environment for everyone in our community. Mental health is an essential part



of overall health, and taking proactive steps to care for our minds is just as critical as taking care of our bodies. Join with us this week to build lasting habits, offer kindness, and ensure no one navigates their mental health journey alone.

Throughout this week, we encourage everyone to:

- **Connect:** Check in on friends, family, and colleagues with an open heart and an attentive ear.
 - **Pause and Reflect:** Practice mindfulness, rest, and incorporate stress-management habits into daily routines.
 - **Seek Support:** Remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. Resources, professional counseling, and community tools are always available. We have two of the very best school counselors on our staff, Mr Morgan and Ms. Fisler. Please reach out to either with any concerns at RGMorgan@cps.edu, and AFisler@cps.edu.
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MSA Walkathon for Technology! The 2026 Sheridan Walkathon for Technology was a hit! We surpassed our goal of \$40,000 and nearly hit our stretch goal of \$50,000! So far we have raised \$47,262 to replace, repair, and upgrade our school's technology. Thank you to all who donated, volunteered, and supported this endeavor. We are especially grateful to our Reach for the Stars parent group who worked endlessly on making this a Walk to REMEMBER! Well done, Sheridan! We have proven that we can do hard things! We are still accepting donations, both through school and through the website, through October 9th. Stretch goal, here we come!



From Reach for the Stars: We have blown past our initial goal of \$40,000 and are well on the way to make it to our stretch goal of \$50,000! We are SO grateful for the ways the MSA community has stepped up to ensure our school has the resources it needs to proudly maintain their premier academic programming. The kids had a blast completing their Walk-a-thon event activities. Big shout out to our volunteers - these days don't happen without you! Let's keep the momentum going and see how far we can reach!



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MSA Attendance: Our current Attendance Rate this week as a WHOLE school is 97.19%, 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.



REMINDER: Fall Photos will be taken on Thursday, October 1st. If you would like your order shipped to the school, the last day to order is on 10/5 by midnight).

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 100F 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

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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.

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.

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- 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.

Hispanic Heritage Month Trivia: Test your wits with these questions on Hispanic Heritage. We have been sharing some of these interesting facts in our morning announcements.

- 1) Which Mexican and Latin American holiday honors dead loved ones by decorating gravesites with candles, marigolds, and the favorite foods of deceased relatives in an attempt to persuade the loved ones to return for a family reunion? *Dio De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)*
- 2) Which Chilean-American actor stars as Din Djarin in the award winning Disney+ show, *The Mandalorian*? *(Pedro Pascal)*
- 3) Which Puerto Rican singer and guitarist recorded in both English and Spanish, has earned over 40 platinum and gold albums internationally and became famous in the United States for this cover of the Doors' song "Light My Fire"? *(Jose Feliciano)*
- 4) Born in Puerto Rico, who was the first Latin American player inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame? *(Roberto Clemente)*
- 5) In 1993, the first Hispanic woman to travel into space aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery, spending nearly 1,000 hours in space! Who is she? *(Dr. Ellen Ochoa)*
- 6) Which Mexican artist is world-famous for her vibrant folk-art paintings that celebrated indigenous Mexican culture and inspired generations of artists? *(Frida Kahlo)*

General Reminders:

- Please make sure to pay your \$125 student fee by **OCTOBER 1st** 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

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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!

Mark your Calendars!

Dates	Event
Thursday, October 1st	Fall Pictures
Thursday, October 1st	Taffy Apple Sales begin
Monday, October 5th	Last day to order Fall Photos (for school delivery)
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