

MSA Family Newsletter: Week of October 5th

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. There are two different levels of volunteer involvement and commitment, Level I and Level II. More information can be found on the CPS Website at cps.edu under the Parent tab. Please note that parents and grandparents are invited to go through this annual process. Thanks to all our busy families who have taken the time to complete this process! Please note that Trunk or Treat volunteers will need to complete the process for a LEVEL II volunteer.

MSA Walkathon for Technology! The 2026 Sheridan Walkathon for Technology is still accepting pledges. Reach for the Stars has upped the competition with more incentives for students and classrooms! We are still accepting donations, both through school and through the website, until October 9th. Thank you to all who donated, volunteered, and supported this endeavor so far!

School Lunch Menu Transition: As part of a district-wide menu update, our cafeteria will be introducing WOWBUTTER as a new option for the 2026-27 school year. WOWBUTTER is a peanut-free alternative nut butter that has been selected based on student preference and is one of many great choices available in our cafeteria. To view our full menu, please visit the CPS website. Please note: WOWBUTTER contains soy, which is a Top 9 food allergen. If your child has a soy allergy or sensitivity, please contact the school nurse as soon as possible to ensure appropriate accommodations are in place before this change takes effect at our school on October 6th.

MSA Attendance: Our current Attendance Rate this week as a WHOLE school is 97.13%, 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.



MSA Trunk or Treat: The annual Trunk or Treat event will be held on Friday October 16th, 5:00-7:30pm Reach for the Stars 11 th Annual Trunk-or-Treat! This spirited event features decorated cars, candy, music, themed games, inflatable themed maze, and more! Food concessions from area restaurants will be available for purchase. This is an MSA community celebration open to ALL children and their parents/guardians...bring your neighbors, friends, and family - under 16 yrs. old must have a chaperone!

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Vision Exams: The State of Illinois requires all kindergarten students and any child entering an Illinois school for the first time to have a vision exam per state law by **October 15th**. Please see the attached flyer for more information and locations.

This beautiful and informative bulletin board, to honor **Hispanic Heritage Month**, was created by students in Room 209-4th. We are so proud of the creativity of our students!



TEN INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE WHITE SOX! The kids have been learning a lot more about the White Sox in our announcements since they are having a remarkable postseason run. We thought we would share of of these facts with you!

1. 🏆 **The White Sox are more than 125 years old!**
The team began playing in Chicago in **1900** and became a Major League team in **1901**.
2. 🗣️ **They weren't originally called the "White Sox."**
Their original name was the **Chicago White Stockings**. Newspapers helped popularize the shorter name "White Sox" because it fit better in headlines.
3. 🏆 **The White Sox once beat the Cubs in the World Series!**
In **1906**, the Sox defeated the Cubs in the **only all-Chicago World Series ever played**. The Sox won the series four games to two.
4. 🗣️ **That 1906 championship team had an amazing nickname: the "Hitless Wonders."**

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They weren't great hitters—they hit only **seven home runs all season**—but their pitching was so good that they became World Series champions anyway. A great example of winning as a **team**.

5. 🎆 **The White Sox helped invent one of baseball's coolest celebrations.**
In **1960**, owner Bill Veeck introduced the famous “**exploding scoreboard**.” When a Sox player hit a home run, lights flashed, sounds went off and fireworks exploded. That tradition continues in modern form today.
6. 🩳 **The White Sox actually played baseball wearing SHORTS!**
On August 8, **1976**, they became the **first MLB team ever to play a game wearing shorts** instead of baseball pants. Imagine sliding into second base! 😊
7. ⭐ **The very first Major League Baseball All-Star Game was played on the South Side of Chicago.**
It happened at **Comiskey Park in 1933** during Chicago's World's Fair—and Babe Ruth hit a home run.
8. 🏆 **The White Sox waited 88 years for one unforgettable championship.**
They won the World Series in **1917**, then didn't win it again until **2005**. In 2005, they swept the Houston Astros in four games to become champions.
9. 🎯 **A White Sox pitcher once threw a PERFECT game.**
In **2009**, Mark Buehrle retired **all 27 batters he faced**—no hits, no walks, nobody reached base. It was only the **18th perfect game in MLB history**.
10. 🏟️ **The White Sox have been South Siders almost from the beginning.**
Their first Chicago ballpark was at **39th Street and Princeton**, and their longtime home, Comiskey Park, opened at **35th and Shields in 1910**. The Sox have been closely tied to Chicago's South Side for generations.

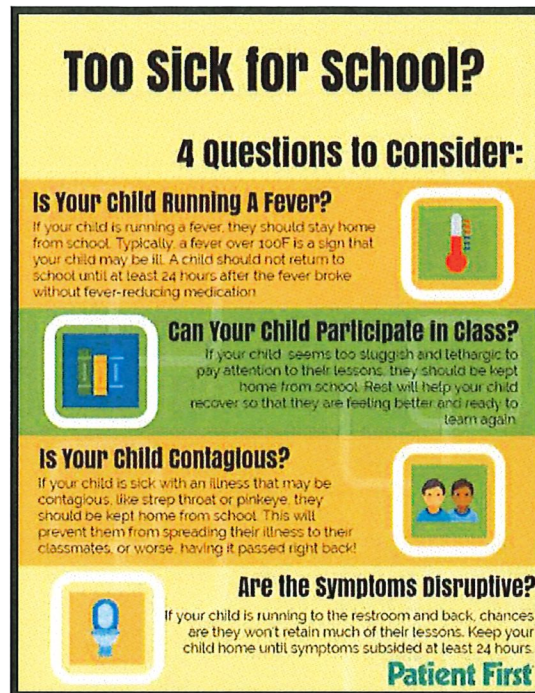
Student Fees: Please make sure to pay your \$125 student fee by **OCTOBER 15th** through Aspen. If you need additional information, there is guidance attached to this email. **Need** If you are new to the Aspen Parent Portal or need technical support, please contact **Ms. Christy Zhang** in the Main Office at LZhang10@cps.edu.

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.

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- 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.

General Reminders:

- 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.



Mark your Calendars!

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Dates	Event
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



Fall 2026 - Reach For The Stars - Mark Sheridan Academy

It's time for the annual Affy Tapple Sale!

Order now through October 16th!

Place all orders and payments online only through the RFTS website:

<https://www.msa-rfts.org>

Include your student's name and room number on each order

****To ensure order accuracy, Affy Tapple order must be placed separately from Trunk or Treat wristbands!****

Plain, Peanut, Halloween Sprinkle, or Sour Zapple flavors:

\$2.75 each/\$55 per case of 24

**Please note that there is no splitting of cases – they come pre-packed & are all one type of apple.*

Dipped Pretzels: \$2.00 each/\$30 per box of 18

New for 2026! 14 oz tub of Caramel Dip: \$6 each



Orders will be distributed on Wednesday, October 28th.

Reminders and instructions for order pickup will be sent via email as the delivery date nears. Affy Tapples come fresh from the factory to MSA, however they are a perishable food product and for ultimate freshness should go home the day of delivery!

Funds raised through the Annual Affy Tapple Sale are used for our epic End-Of-The-Year Student Picnic. Thank you for your support!



Friday October 16th, 5:00-7:30pm
Reach for the Stars 11th Annual Trunk-or-Treat!

This spirited event features decorated cars, candy, music, themed games, inflatable themed maze, and more! Food concessions from area restaurants will be available for purchase. This is an MSA community celebration open to **ALL** children and their parents/guardians...bring your neighbors, friends, and family - under 16 yrs. old must have chaperone!

How to join the fun:

Children 2 years old to 17 years old will need to purchase a \$15 wristband for entrance. Skip the line and order wristbands using the QR code below. **Advanced orders must be placed by Monday, 10/12/26.** *Wristbands will be sent home with students on 10/15/26.* *Wristbands will be available for purchase at the entrance, expect wait time.*

Enter your car!

We're seeking 18 cars to decorate with the theme of your choosing. We'll provide the candy to hand out while you provide the spirited fun. Please sign up using the QR code below to volunteer your vehicle.

Volunteer at the event-

Since this is a family event, you do not need to be an approved CPS volunteer to help out! Use the QR code below to sign up to help at the event.

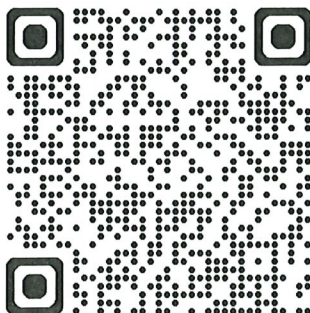
Candy or other donations-

If you would like to donate candy for the event, please drop off at MSA's Main Office beginning October 5th. All donations are greatly appreciated to help counter rising costs and keep wristband price as low as possible. **ALL** proceeds from this event fund our end-of-the-year picnic bash for our MSA students.

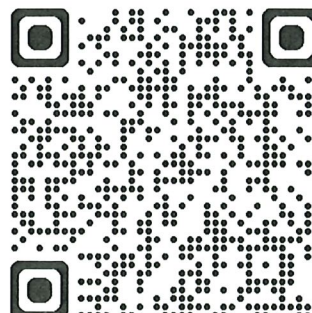
Wristband QR Code



Decorated Car Sign Up



Volunteer Sign Up





Vision Program: Schedule An Eye Exam

Chicago Public Schools has partnered with Illinois Eye Institute, Tropical Optical and Ageless Eye Care to provide vision exams for CPS students at **NO COST** to them.

Six locations throughout the city have been provided for your convenience. Please review the list of vision service locations listed below.

You may select any of the locations listed or your own healthcare provider.



Tropical Optical

Select from a location below

Please call to schedule your appointment.

For children ages 5 through high school.

Tropical Optical Locations:

3624 W. 26th Street, Chicago, IL 60623
773-762-5662

3213 W. 47th Place, Chicago, IL 60632
773-247-2630

2767 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60647
773-276-4660

9137 S. Commercial Ave., Chicago, IL 60617
773-768-3648

For more information about the CPS Vision Program, please call 773-553-KIDS (5437) or email oshw@cps.edu.

Illinois Eye Institute (IEI)

Select from a location below

Please call to schedule your appointment.

For children ages 3 through high school.

Lewenson Center

3241 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60616
312-225-6200

Ageless Eye Care

Select from a location below

Provides eye exams in the Bronzeville, Englewood, Greater Lawn, and Pilsen neighborhoods throughout the year.

Call for more information or to schedule an appointment.

For children ages 4 through high school.

Ageless Eye Care

329 W. 18th Street #311, Chicago, IL 60616
312-929-3340