

MSA Family Newsletter: Week of August 31st

MSA Walkathon for Technology!

Reach For The Stars is excited to kickoff our 2026 Fall Walk-a-thon Fundraiser for Mark Sheridan Academy!

To do:

- 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.
- 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.

Who to Contact? To make it easier for parents to connect to the correct person, we have created a Who to Contact list that is attached to this email. We suggest that you print it out and use it as a reference in your home-school communication.

The Office of Student Health and Wellness will begin providing Audiometric and Vision Screenings to students on November 17th. **Consent is not needed.** If you require a religious exemption, please email Principal Nessner at EANessner@cps.edu. **Vision Screenings** are required annually for students in K, 2nd, and 8th Grades. Students who are new to the District and students with a 504 Plan or IEP must also receive screening. The technician will also screen students participating in a Response to Intervention (Tier 3).

Hearing Screenings are required annually for students in Pre-K, K, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grades. Students who are new to the District and students with a 504 Plan or IEP must also receive screening. The technician will also screen students participating in a Response to Intervention (Tier 3).

Parents can also request a hearing and vision screening appointment at one of their clinics. See below for locations.

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- Colman; [4655 S Dearborn St, Chicago, IL 60609](#)
- Garfield Park Office; [2651 W. Washington](#), Children's Clinic; Chicago, IL 60612

Days and Times

- Monday through Friday on School Attendance Days
- Between the hours of 9:30am-2:00pm

To schedule an appointment: Please call [773-553-6529](#) at least 2 weeks in advance to schedule the appointment, as space is limited.

MSA Attendance: Six out of our 18 Homerooms had 100% attendance for the first week of school! As a whole school, we had 98% attendance for the week! Thank you for making it a priority! Here are the **Top Reasons To Come to School Every Day.**

- 1) **Reading on Grade Level:** Studies show that consistent attendance from Pre-K gives the best start for early literacy development. Students who aren't reading on grade level by 3rd grade have a lower chance of graduating. It starts that early!
- 2) **Forming Lasting Friendships:** Attending daily allows students to foster strong social bonds and an inclusive peer network. Even if not all friendships work out, developing the skills is only possible with ongoing interaction. Students who develop their social skills through school attendance have more positive relationships, overall.
- 3) **Developing Effective Study Habits Early:** Good attendance instills vital skills like punctuality, time management and self-discipline. A big part of succeeding is learning how to learn. Daily attendance from elementary onwards helps students build their toolbox of strategies for success.
- 4) **Demonstrating Responsibility and Commitment:** Good attendance helps students to establish patterns of dedication and follow-through. Good work habits are formed by consistent school attendance.
- 5) **Maximizing Instructional Time with Teachers:** Fewer disruptions means more personalized learning and academic support. Sometimes, students don't come to school because they're struggling with the material in class and staying home is a way to avoid it. But the better choice is to come to school -- that's where the support is. The more time students have with their teachers, the more successful they will be.

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- 6) **Greater Self-Esteem and Confidence:** Not having to play catch-up reduces stress and boosts self-assurance. This is exactly what will carry students successfully through graduation and beyond.
- 7) **Higher Grades and Test Scores:** Abundant research links stellar attendance to higher grades and test scores. In fact, one study shows that the #1 reason students fail a class is from being absent.



Snapshots from Kindergarten: Tiny hands, big dreams, bright future!

Key Transportation Reminders for Week TWO

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.

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- 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

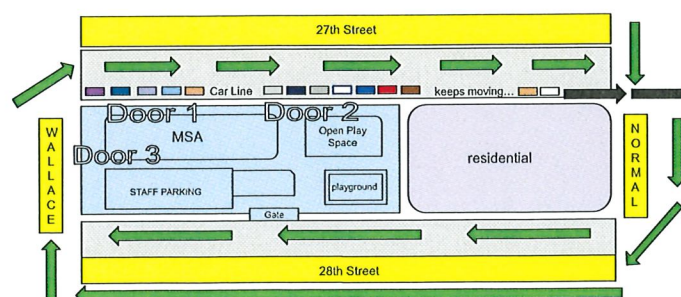
Dismissal Procedures: Please be considerate and follow these procedures faithfully. Failure to do so will create a traffic backup that poses a potential danger.

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.

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**](mailto:LZhang10@cps.edu).



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- 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.

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?** Apollo Afterschool will have an informational table set up at our upcoming Parent Orientation on August 20th. Stop by to meet their team and learn more about the program!

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.

The CPS Back to School Requirements for 2026-2027: Please review the packets that went home thoroughly. All parents and guardians must submit the following forms to school as soon as possible;

- ★ Request for Emergency and Health Information Form
- ★ School Messaging Consent Form
- ★ Media Consent Form and Release Form
- ★ Family Income Information Form

Mark your Calendars!

Dates	Event
Monday, August 24th	First Day of School!

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Tuesday, August 25th	Visit from School Board Member Yesenia Lopez
Monday, September 7	Labor Day
Thursday, September 24th	MSA Walkathon for Technology
Friday, September 25th	No School for Students
Thursday, October 1st	Fall Pictures
Monday, October 12th	No School for Students
Friday, October 16th	MSA Trunk or Treat
Friday, October 16th	Taffy Apple Sale Pick-Up

