

MSA Family Newsletter: Week of September 14th

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15–October 15 & is intended to celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans!



To honor Hispanic heritage month, we included some recommended reading below sorted by grade levels. We encourage our students to partake in learning more about hispanic culture through these books:

- Paletero Man by Lucky Diaz: A fun, vibrant story about a neighborhood ice pop vendor. (K-2)
- Areli Is a Dreamer by Areli Morales: A true story by a DACA recipient about moving to New York. (K-2)
- Juana and Lucas by Juana Medina: A charming chapter book about a young girl in Colombia. (K-2)
- Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan: A historical fiction novel about a young Mexican girl migrating to California during the Great Depression. (3-5)
- The Fire Serpent Legacy by Cindy L. Rodriguez: An adventurous middle-grade fantasy rooted in Amazonian mythology (3-5)
- Mañanaland by Ryan C. Green (Pam Muñoz Ryan): A magical realism journey about searching for belonging and home. (3-5)
- Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz: A deeply moving coming-of-age story set in El Paso. (6-8)
- Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo: A powerful novel in verse exploring family secrets and grief. (6-8)
- Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia: An atmospheric, suspenseful historical gothic horror set in 1950s Mexico. (6-8)

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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.
 - 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.
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Walkathon Updates: We have raised \$13,510 so far which is 33% of our goal to reach \$40,000. Thank you to all who have contributed so far. The classes in the lead currently are: Team Monahan (Room 104-2nd), Team Bocanegra (Room 107-K), and Team Cawood (Room 120-8th). Team Norbut (Room 108-1) and Team Alynovich (Room 203-3) are close behind!

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Did you know? Constitution Day is celebrated on **September 17th** because it marks the date in 1787 when 39 delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the United States Constitution at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is often called the "highest law in the land" because every other law must follow its rules.



National Hispanic Heritage Month

E L A N G U A G E C T M A D T N V
H E R I T A G E C U B A N R A Z S
N A S Q M U S I C K P S O F A D A
R R I C E R G J R W T O E I K E A
Y R B A G J Y U V U P S B J Z Y L
P H F U M Y G N O Z T M H S V I S
G S N M E X I C O I U I P F D N A
U R K J Y K S J V L T A R F I C E
B E A N S L X A O A I Q A A U X C
H W H R C L C C N K S T M I A U
R Z P I M I R O U A D N X I L Q L
S W G E U N S T Q S A Q W L K W T
I Y Q H Z A V Z F L O S Q Y I Y U
L N C N V P S E P A Q K M H S H R
Z Y W B Q S W O M S O J Y A H Z E
L L D P L I B Z S I S T E R S G F
V M T Y W H E O C I R O T R E U P

Puerto Rico
Festival
Sisters
Music
Cuban

Girl Scouts
Columbia
Culture
Salsa
Spain

Plantains
Hispanic
Family
Beans
Troop

Language
Heritage
Mexico
Tacos
Rice

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MSA Attendance: Our current Attendance Rate this week as a WHOLE school is 97.39%, 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.

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!



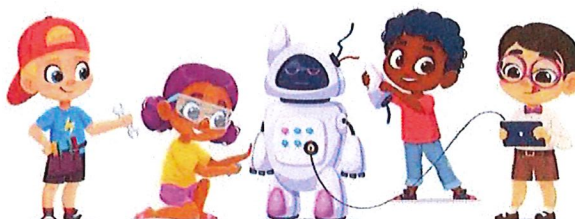


Are the Symptoms Disruptive?

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

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!



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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.

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!

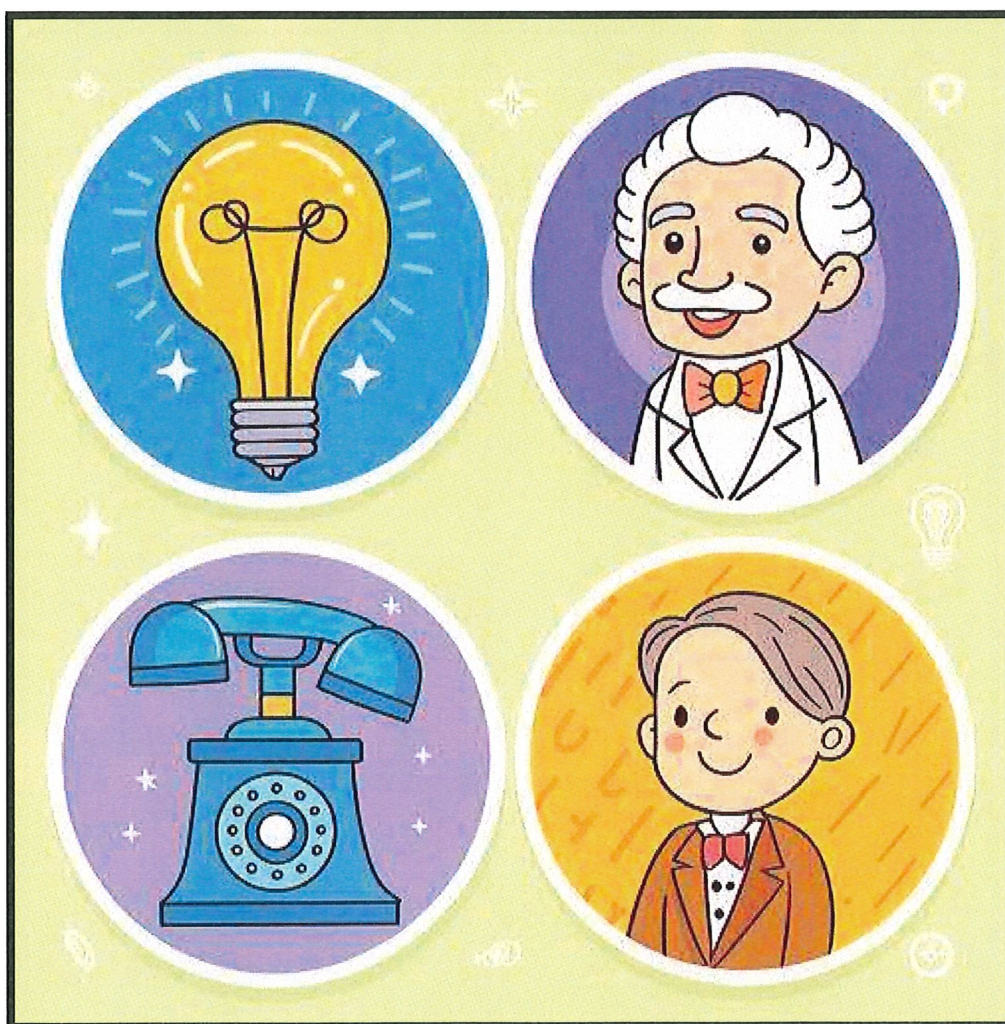
Volunteering: If you plan to volunteer at school events or with students, you must complete the CPS Level II Volunteer Approval process. More information can be found on the CPS Website at cps.edu under the Parent tab.

Mark your Calendars!

Dates	Event
Thursday, September 24th	MSA Walkathon for Technology
Friday, September 25th	No School for Students
Thursday, October 1st	Fall Pictures

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Thursday, October 1st	Taffy Apple Sales begin
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



- MADE IN -
BRIDGEPORT
CHICAGO • ILLINOIS
EST. ★ 1836
JUNIOR

Sunday, September 27

🕒 1:30 - 4:30 PM

📍 The Ramova Loft
3520 S. Halsted Street

\$5

Suggested
Donation



Makers



Art Project



Music



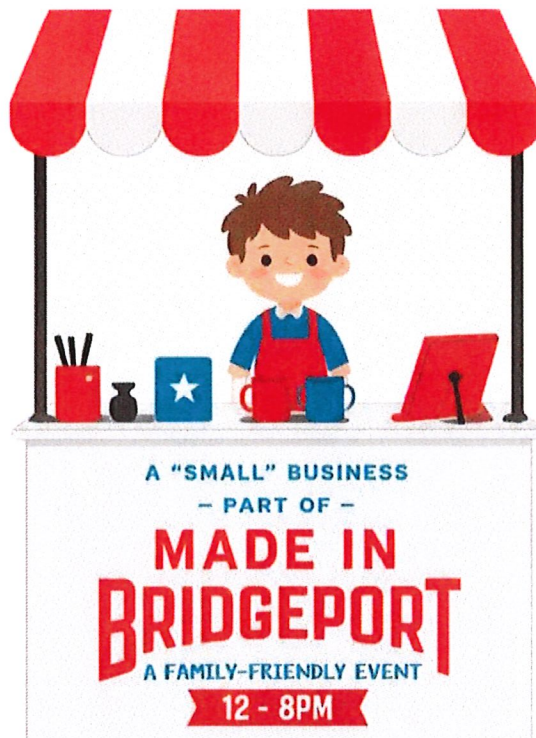
Kid-Made Goods
for Sale



Spelling Bee 3PM
(sign-up on site)

**Want
to sell?**

Scan here.



FALL 2026 MSA WALK-A-THON UPDATE: CLASSROOMS ARE CLIMBING THE LEADERBOARD!

Our students are giving it their all to reach their classroom goals! We need your help...every registration, every share, and every donation makes an impact.

Classrooms are also competing for a pizza party prize! The classroom raising the most money on each floor will win! Donations are accepted through October 9th!



We've raised \$13,510.00 so far!



That's 33% of our \$40,000.00 school-wide goal!



HELP YOUR CHILD'S CLASS MOVE UP THE LEADERBOARD



Register or log in to your Parent Dashboard and customize your student's page:
www.getmovinfundhub.com | School Identifier: 6500785ac0782



Make a donation to help your child – and their classroom!
Final donation date is Oct 9, 2026!



Share your child's page! Text, email, or post on social media.
You can do it right from your phone.

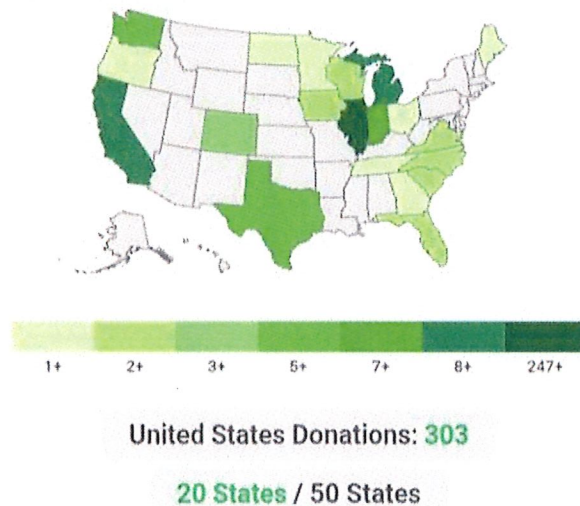
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS!

Please email info@msa-rfts.org if you have any questions

CAN WE GET A DONATION FROM ALL 50 STATES FOR OUR FALL 2026 MSA WALK-A-THON??

Let's fill in every state by **Oct 9, 2026** – that's our final day to collect donations and reach our fundraising goal of **\$40,000.00!**

Donation Map



Check Out
How We're
Doing So Far!

DID YOU KNOW?

If we reach all 50 states,
our school is automatically
entered into a drawing to
win **\$1,000** from Get
Movin' Fundraising!

Do you know anyone in our missing states? Share your student's webpage via text, email, or social media to help us fill the map!



THERE'S STILL TIME TO GO NATIONWIDE!

Scan the QR code to sign up, donate, or share with friends and family across the country!