

MSA Family Newsletter: Week of October 12th

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.

Our 4th Grade students participated in the third annual ARM & HAMMER™ Baking Soda **Rocket Day: Launch Across America** on Thursday, October 8, 2026! On launch day, thousands of CPS students, along with our 4th graders, looked up, counted down, launched, cheered, wondered, experimented, and experienced STEM together. The students created rockets and blasted them off, creating a joyful, memorable, STEM-anchored experience that sparked curiosity and built community. Great job, Mr. Mayol and Grade 4!



The week of **October 12th–16th** is **National School Lunch Week**, a chance to highlight how a nutritious school lunch helps students stay focused and ready to learn. Nutrition Support Services (NSS) will have **special menus and activities** to encourage students to join them for lunch. There are [coloring pages](#) attached for students. or, at Aramark-managed schools, using these [PA announcements](#). Completed coloring pages can be displayed in your lunchroom to create a festive atmosphere. Thank you for helping NSS promote healthy meals for all students! Contact food@cps.edu with questions.

End of Quarter 1: The week of **October 19th** is the last week of quarter 1, which ends Friday, October 23rd, 2026. The Parent-Teacher Conference Day (Report Card Pick Up) will be held on Monday, November 2nd. More information will be sent home soon via the classroom teachers.

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Lockdown Drill : This year, our Lockdown Drill is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th. The safety and well-being of our students, staff, and visitors remain a top priority at Mark Sheridan Math & Science Academy and across Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Each year, in accordance with the Illinois School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128), schools are required to conduct a Lockdown Drill to ensure we are prepared to respond effectively and efficiently in the event of an emergency. There was a letter sent home on October 9th regarding this drill. If you have any questions, please contact Principal Nessner at EANessner@cps.edu.

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 this 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 a chaperone!

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.



Congratulations to our very own first grade teacher, Ashley Norbut, for receiving the **Computer Science Education Trailblazer Award** from the BootUp organization. This award was given to only ten teachers in CPS! We are so proud of Ms Norbut's visionary leadership and her commitment to transforming elementary computer science education while empowering every student to see themselves as builders of the future. We are so proud to have the best teachers at MSA!

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Walkathon Raffle: Not only were we able to exceed our goal this year for Walkathon Pledges, we also entered into a drawing for \$1000 because we were able to procure pledges from every single state. What an accomplishment. Thank you to everyone who hustled and made this goal possible!

Examination Requirements
Physical Examination Due upon enrollment or no later than October 15th. • Must be completed within 12 months prior to entry to: PE/PK, Kindergarten, 6th Grade, 9th Grade, and any student entering CPS for the first time.
Vision Examination Due upon enrollment or no later than October 15th for: • Entering the State of Illinois for the first time at any grade level. • Entering kindergarten.
Dental Examination Due May 15th for Kindergarten, 2nd, 6th, and 9th Grade.

Student Fees: Please make sure to pay your \$125 student fee by **OCTOBER 16th** 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.
- 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.

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- 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!

Dates	Event
Monday, October 12th	No School for Students
Thursday, October 15th	LSC Meeting at 4:30 PM
Friday, October 16th	Student Fees Due!
Friday, October 16th	MSA Trunk or Treat
Friday, October 16th	Taffy Apple Sale Ends
Tuesday, October 20th	High School Fair- 4:45PM-6:45 PM
Wednesday, October 28th	Taffy Apple Pickup
Friday, October 30th	Halloween Parade at 8:00 AM (K-5)
Monday, November 2nd	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Tuesday, November 3rd	No School for Students
Wednesday, November 4th	Fall Photo Retakes