

# FAMILY MENU

NOVEMBER 2013

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**5th and 8th Graders: Get Ready to Choose Your Next School**

**Building on the First-Quarter Report Card**

**Opportunity Knocks**

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!**

**Walking for Math Learning**

**Tips for Supporting Math Learning at Home**

**Lunch Menu**

## KEY DATES

**November 1** – Start of 2nd quarter

**November 2** – 21st-Century Buildings Design Expo (see page 2)

**November 1 to 6** – Watch for 1st-quarter report cards, coming home with students (see page 2)

**November 15** – Teacher professional day; schools closed for students

**November 18 to 22** – American Education Week

**November 28 and 29** – Thanksgiving holiday; schools and offices closed

## SAVE THE DATE

**December 7** – School choice fair

## 5th and 8th Graders: Get Ready to Choose Your Next School

For many 5th-grade students and all 8th graders, the next few weeks will be some of the most exciting so far at City Schools. That's because many students choose the middle school they want to go to, and all students choose their high school.

And with more than 60 schools to choose from, there's a place to meet the interests and needs of every student: Schools that focus on particular subject areas, like the arts or science; programs that combine academics and career training in fields including medicine, computers or construction; all-boys schools, all-girls schools, big and small schools.

Because making the right choice is important, City Schools offers numerous sources of information and support. New this year is a section of the district website where students and families can search for schools according to what programs, supports and activities they offer, and compare schools to consider for next year. Just visit [www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice) on your computer, tablet or smart phone and click on the link to "find my school."

Here are some other ways to get the information you and your family need to make a great choice:

- Read the school choice guide, arriving in schools late this month for backpacking home.
- Visit schools you are considering. Many schools have open houses in November; check the schedule at [www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice).

Page 1 of 3 Results: 10 &lt; 1 2 3 &gt;

SCHOOL NAME	ADDRESS	QUADRANT	GRADE	ADMISSION TYPE	COMPARE
Academy for College and Career Exploration #427	1300 W. 36th Street Baltimore, MD 21211	Northwest	6-12	Choice lottery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alyx Public Charter School #337	2800 Brendan Avenue Baltimore, MD 21213	Northeast	6-8	School-based lottery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baltimore Antioch Diploma Plus High School #366	2555 Harford Road Baltimore, MD 21218	Northeast	6-12	Choice lottery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baltimore Civitas School #343	2000 Edgewood Street Baltimore, MD 21216	Northwest	6-12	Choice lottery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baltimore Community High School #367	8820 Fall Avenue Baltimore, MD 21224	Southeast	6-12	Choice lottery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baltimore Design School	1500 Barclay Street Baltimore, MD 21202	Southeast	6-12	Choice lottery: specialized	<input type="checkbox"/>

The new website area lets you search for and compare schools

- Mark your calendar and plan to attend the annual school choice fair, taking place this year on **Saturday, December 7**, at the Baltimore Convention Center. You can meet with staff and students from the schools that interest you, and learn about the choice process.
- Visit [www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/choice) often for updates and tips as you narrow your choices down to your top five schools.

### School choice timeline

**Now!** Start thinking about your interests and preferences, and finding out about your options.

**This month:** Go to open houses at schools of interest.

**December 7:** School choice fair

**December 20:** Choice application deadline

**By March 1, 2014:** Learn where you'll be going to school next year!

## Building on the First-Quarter Report Card

The first full report card of the year will be coming home with students in early November. It gives a picture of how a student is doing so far this year in school, and both students and parents/guardians should review it carefully to see grades in each subject, attendance information and teacher comments. (This year, a new notation, NTQ, means “not taught this quarter.” It’s used for subjects that are not taught over the entire year but just in certain quarters, and it lets families know that a part-year course is scheduled but hasn’t started yet.)

The report card provides an overall picture of progress. It also serves as a foundation to build on as the second quarter gets underway. It highlights opportunities for you, as a parent or guardian, to partner with your child and your child’s teachers to support academic success. Here are some examples.

### With your child

- Talk with your child about what the report card says. Are there any surprises? What does the information tell you about strengths and areas for improvement?
- Talk with your child about ways your whole family can support learning, from finding a quiet place to do homework to setting up an after-school and evening routine that gives time to study and get a good night’s rest.
- Set goals for the next quarter. Write them down, and post them somewhere visible in the house.
- Check on your child’s homework and special assignments and projects.
- Share your daily experiences: Tell your child what you did during the day, and encourage your child to tell you about interesting things that happened at school.
- Be encouraging. Let your child know that you believe in her or his ability to achieve in school and succeed.

### With your child’s teachers

- Make sure you have contact information for your child’s teachers, and get in touch with them about concerns.
- Check the attendance information on the report card. If it doesn’t agree with your own records, contact your child’s school for details about lateness or absences, and ask about supports available to help your child be in school every day, on time and ready to learn.
- Ask about upcoming parent-teacher conferences; most schools have them in December. Mark your calendar, and plan to attend.
- Think about specific questions you have for your child’s teachers. For example, you can ask for details about the support your child is getting at school: If he or she is a high-performing student, what is the teacher doing to make the lessons more challenging? If she or he needs extra help in some areas, what help is being given? And what can you do at home to support what is happening in the classroom and keep your child on the path to success in the second quarter—and throughout the year?

## Opportunity Knocks

Your monthly listing of free or low-cost opportunities for kids and families from City Schools, community partners and other groups and organizations that promote education and well-being.

### 21st-Century Buildings for Our Kids: Exploring what that means

Everything is now in place for work to begin on City Schools’ plan to bring 21st-century school buildings to communities across Baltimore. For buildings that will be affected in the first two years of the plan, school communities are already meeting to discuss priorities and share their ideas with architects and district staff. To help *all* communities learn more about the plan, how 21st-century buildings will support excellent teaching and learning, and the ways in which new and renovated school buildings can build neighborhood connections, City Schools families, staff, partners and friends are invited to a design expo on **Saturday, November 2**, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Morgan State University Student Center. If you plan to attend, please email [betterbuildings@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:betterbuildings@bcps.k12.md.us) or call 410-545-1870. (Walk-ins may be accommodated on the day of the expo, if space allows.)



### Assistance in enrolling for health insurance and healthcare benefits

Under the federal Affordable Care Act, as of January 1, 2014, health insurance will be more accessible and affordable for many City Schools families. Health Care Access Maryland, working with community partners, provides information and eligibility determinations and helps uninsured Baltimore City residents enroll in Medicaid, the Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP) and subsidized and unsubsidized health insurance plans. Open enrollment is available now through March 31, 2014. Visit [www.healthcareaccessmaryland.org](http://www.healthcareaccessmaryland.org) or call 877-223-5201 for information and assistance.

### The National College Fair comes to Baltimore

Representatives from dozens of colleges and universities from across the country will be on hand **Tuesday, November 12**, and **Wednesday, November 13**, at the Baltimore Convention Center. It’s the annual National College Fair, and many high schools will arrange for juniors and seniors to attend during the school day. For families, the fair is open on Tuesday evening. For schedule details and a list of participating colleges, visit [www.nacacnet.org/college-fairs/](http://www.nacacnet.org/college-fairs/).

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

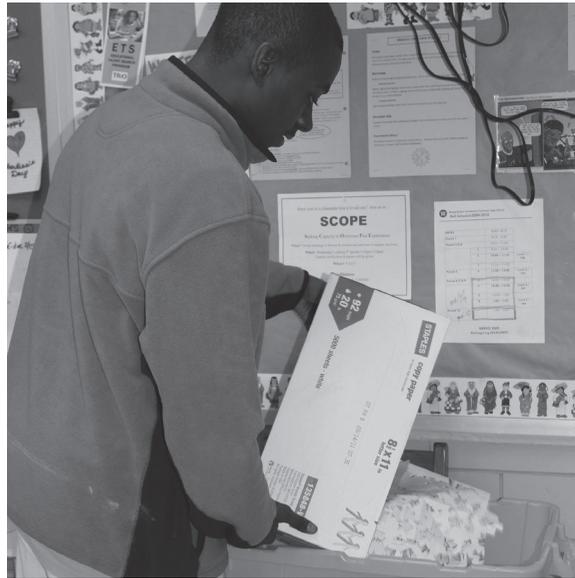
What would happen if every school and home in Baltimore cut down on how much they threw away each day? We'd have less trash, less pollution and more money!

Not only does finding ways to reduce, reuse and recycle help keep our planet healthy, it means we need to buy fewer new things—and that means savings.

There are lots of creative ways to cut down. So, at home and at school, think about ways we can all...

**Reduce** the number of things we buy. How about making dinner, instead of buying prepared food in plastic packages? That makes for a less expensive and healthier meal, and less packaging for the landfill.

**Reuse** what we already have. Often, flyers and other papers get printed



*A student from the Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School green team pitching in to recycle*

only on one side. Schools can set up collection boxes for paper, so that the other side can be used as scratch paper and for drafting writing and other work. That saves money...and trees.

**Recycle** everything we can. When glass, cans, plastic or paper can't be used again, they can all be put in one bin for pick up. It's called single-stream recycling, and it makes it easy for schools and homes to send waste materials to recycling centers rather than landfills.

Recycling happens at every school in the district, so ask your child to tell you what she or he is doing at school to help our planet—and to give you tips on how to recycle at home.

You can also talk to your school's "green team," your child's teachers, your school's principal or custodian to find out how you can help to reduce, reuse and recycle. And talk to your family, friends and neighbors about ways you can do the same at home and in your neighborhood.

For more information about how your school is reducing, reusing, recycling and going green, visit [www.baltimorecityschools/green](http://www.baltimorecityschools/green).

## Walking for Math Learning

Students in Jacqueline Johnson's 8th-grade algebra I class at the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women are getting ready for a walkathon to raise money for a good cause. There's a lot of excitement, but the girls aren't lacing up their sneakers and hitting the road. This walkathon is happening in their classroom. Ms. Johnson is teaching her students about linear relationships with problems based on an activity many of the students know about from the real world.

First, the students have to figure out how fast they can walk and whether that speed is constant—or could vary as they get tired (or get blisters on their feet!). Then, they need to calculate how far they can walk in a set period of time. Finally, when they're told how much donors plan to give, they have to graph the pledges, taking into account distances walked, and write equations to express how much each walker has raised for the cause. Their cause is purchasing books for a children's hospital, so there's another real-world problem to figure out: How many books will they be able to donate and for how many weeks?

"They're reading graphs," says Ms. Johnson. "They're reading tables. And they're not only reading equations, they're talking about them. Then they have to write their answers out fully."

Some things about this activity will seem familiar to anyone who remembers their own middle or high school math classes: Calculations, equations, graphs. But learning about those things while solving the sorts of problems people experience every day outside of school—that may seem a little different. It's part of the new math curriculum that City Schools is adopting, aligned with new "Common Core" standards now in place across Maryland and in many other states. With the new curriculum, students will be covering fewer topics each year, but they'll be going into more detail with each one. That's so they can fully understand the math concepts, and be able to apply them to solve problems inside and outside the classroom.

### Tips for Supporting Math Learning at Home

An easy way to connect math to the real world and support your child's learning is to ask for his or her help when you go shopping. Depending on your child's age and grade, ask questions like these:

- If apples cost 50 cents each but are on special at three for a dollar, should you buy two or three?
- Chicken legs cost \$1.99 a pound, but if you buy 3 pounds or more, you get 50 percent off. How much would 4.5 pounds of chicken legs cost?
- What's the cheapest cell phone plan for your family, taking into account family members' use of cell phones for voice calls, texting, social media and apps?

# NOVEMBER 2013 LUNCH MENU



Students can select one entrée and two or more sides. 1% milk along with fat-free white and flavored milk are available each day. Fresh fruit selections vary each day based on seasonal availability.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------

*Every day counts*

*"Every day, I learn to read so I can read to my future kids."*

Kristen  
George Washington Elementary

**BALTIMORE CITY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**1** ENTRÉES

Cheese or pepperoni pizza  
Turkey and cheese deli sandwich

SIDES

California blend vegetables  
Baby carrots  
Fresh fruit

<b>4</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Hamburger or cheeseburger on a bun Peanut butter and jelly sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Sweet potato nuggets Celery sticks with dip Fresh fruit</p>	<b>5</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Barbecued chicken with rice and a roll Deli sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Steamed broccoli Carrot sticks and cherry tomatoes with dip Fresh fruit</p>	<b>6</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Chicken tenders with a roll Tuna salad with crackers</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Steamed green beans Fresh cucumber coins Fresh fruit</p>	<b>7</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Fish hoagie on a bun with tartar sauce Peanut butter and jelly sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Vegetarian beans Baby carrots Fresh fruit</p>	<b>8</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Cheese or pepperoni pizza Turkey and cheese deli sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Corn Side salad Fresh fruit</p>
This week's salad bar: Asian fusion									

<b>11</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Fiesta beef and macaroni with a roll Peanut butter and jelly sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Peas and carrots Broccoli and cauliflower mix Fresh fruit</p>	<b>12</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Sweet and sour Asian stir-fry with rice and a roll Deli sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Asian vegetables Baby carrots Fresh fruit</p>	<b>13</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Beef taco with tortilla chips and rice Tuna salad with crackers</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Black beans Side salad Fresh fruit</p>	<b>14</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Meatball sub on a roll Peanut butter and jelly sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Oven fries Baby carrots Fresh fruit</p>	<b>15</b>	<p>TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DAY</p> <p><b>Schools closed for students</b></p>		
This week's salad bar: Southwest taco											

<b>18</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>All-beef hot dog on a roll Peanut butter and jelly sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Vegetarian beans Baby carrots Fresh fruit</p>	<b>19</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Meatloaf with gravy, rice and a dinner roll Deli sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Collard greens Broccoli and cauliflower florets with dip Fresh fruit</p>	<b>20</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Turkey burger on a bun Tuna salad with crackers</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Sweet potatoes Fresh cucumber coins Fresh fruit</p>	<b>21</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Chicken, cranberry sauce, stuffing and a roll Peanut butter and jelly sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Whipped potatoes and gravy Steamed green beans Fresh fruit</p>	<b>22</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Cheese or pepperoni pizza Turkey and cheese deli sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Corn Side salad Fresh fruit</p>
This week's salad bar: Italian antipasto									

<b>25</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Breaded cheese sticks with marinara sauce Peanut butter and jelly sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Vegetarian beans Celery sticks with dip Fresh fruit</p>	<b>26</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Fiesta beef and macaroni with a roll Deli sandwich</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Steamed broccoli Carrot sticks and cherry tomatoes with dip Fresh fruit</p>	<b>27</b>	<p>ENTRÉES</p> <p>Diced chicken with gravy, rice and a roll Tuna salad with crackers</p> <p>SIDES</p> <p>Corn Baby carrots Fresh fruit</p>	<b>28</b>	<p>THANKSGIVING</p> <p><b>Schools and offices closed</b></p>			<b>29</b>	<p>THANKSGIVING BREAK</p> <p><b>Schools and offices closed</b></p>		
This week's salad bar: California chef													