

# 2011-12 FAMILY INFORMATION CALENDAR



BALTIMORE CITY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Dear City Schools Families,*

Welcome to a new school year! We in Baltimore City Public Schools are looking forward to partnering with you in 2011-12, as we work together to create schools where great teaching and learning take place in every classroom. Our vision is that every student will graduate ready to achieve excellence in higher education and the global workforce. We know that our families are critical to the success of our schools. We thank you for everything you do every day to encourage our students' growth and to help make sure that all our students get the great schools they deserve.

We are committed to providing you with the information and resources you need to support your children's education. Please hang up this calendar and use it all year to find important information—testing and holiday dates, how to find out about school closings, details about school choice, graduation requirements and more. You can find additional information by consulting the *Family Handbook* included in your back-to-school packet, using the telephone directory on the last page of this calendar to contact the district office or visiting the City Schools website at [www.baltimorecityschools.org](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org).

Here's to a great year of learning in 2011-12!

Sincerely,



Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.  
*CEO, Baltimore City Public Schools*



Neil E. Duke, Esq.  
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners*



## Attendance: It's a Priority

When students aren't in school, they miss important learning—and put school success at risk. City Schools takes attendance very seriously. Teachers check attendance in every class, and families are called when students are absent.

Here's what you, our families, can do to help students be in school every day, ready to learn:

- Make sure your student knows that you think school is important. Kids say that their families' attitudes and opinions about school matter a lot.
- Check the absences and late arrivals on each report card. Aim for fewer than 10 absences in the whole year, with no more than 3 in any quarter.
- Make sure your school has your current address and phone number so you can be contacted if your student is absent.
- Call your school if your student has trouble getting to school because of health, transportation or other reasons.
- Share your ideas about how your whole school community can improve attendance for all students. Call the Office of Attendance and Truancy at 443-984-1714.
- Check the *2011-12 Family Handbook* in your back-to-school packet for more information about attendance.

# AUGUST 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> School Board meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> School administrators return to schools	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> All staff return to schools	<b>23</b> School Board meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Schools open for students	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Check your back-to-school packet for important forms—and please complete and return them to your school right away!</b>		

## Save Money—and Get a Healthy Lunch

Are you spending \$10 or more each week on lunches for your student? That may be \$10—or more—too much!

Return your application for **Free and Reduced Price Meals** right away.

Eligible students receive a nutritious lunch at no or reduced cost—which means that your family could save hundreds of dollars over the school year.

And most City Schools students are eligible. An application was included in your back-to-school packet. Copies can also be picked up at your school or downloaded from [www.mealapp.bcps.k12.md.us](http://www.mealapp.bcps.k12.md.us).

# SEPTEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Start the year right—set a goal for no absences this month.</i>				1	2	3
4	5 <b>Labor Day</b> Schools and offices closed	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 <b>Primary Elections</b> Schools closed, district office open  School Board meeting	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 School Board meeting	28	29	30 Remember to return the forms from your back-to-school packet	

## Choose Your Middle or High School

Students in 5th or 8th grade *this* year can choose their middle or high school for next year. City Schools offers this option so students and families can choose a school that works for them—based not only on location, but also on school performance, type, theme and programs.

Information about **school choice** will be sent home to students throughout the fall. Take the time to review it as a family, visit [www.baltimorecityschools.org/ect](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/ect) for additional details and save these key dates:

- November 19, middle and high school choice fair
- November 21 to December 18, open houses at all middle and high schools
- December 22, school choice application deadline
- By March 1, choice notifications sent to students and families

# OCTOBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b><i>Parent-teacher conferences can be scheduled the evenings of October 4 to 6. Contact your school to make an appointment.</i></b></p>						1
2	3 First-quarter progress reports	4	5	6	7	8
<b>High School Assessment (HSA) testing window</b>						
9	10	11 School Board meeting	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Professional Day Schools closed for students	21 Professional Day Schools closed for students	22
23	24	25 School Board meeting	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## What Does a Report Card Tell You?

Last month, your student brought home a progress report—a mid-term summary of how things are going academically and an early indicator of areas that may need attention. This month, your student will bring home a report card that lists grades for the first quarter. Look at it as a family—to celebrate your student's accomplishments and talk about where extra focus is needed. If you have concerns, get in touch with your student's teachers, principal or guidance counselor.

But remember that the report card doesn't just show grades. Take a look at absences and tardies, too. Are the numbers correct? Did you know your student missed that many days, or was late that often?

Let your student know that **attendance matters**, and that every school day is important. If absences and tardies are high, set a goal for lower numbers in the second quarter.

# NOVEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Look for your student's first-quarter report card during the week of November 7.</i>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> End of first quarter	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>General Election</b> Schools and offices closed  School Board meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Middle and high school choice fair
<b>American Education Week—check with your school about its open house</b>						
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b> Schools and offices closed	<b>25</b> <b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b> Schools and offices closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<i>Visit your child's school during American Education Week, November 13 to 19—and see the great teaching and learning going on!</i>		

## About Snow Days

When weather makes roads and sidewalks hazardous, City Schools may **delay school opening or close schools**.

This decision is made by 5:30 a.m. of the day in question, and is posted immediately to school and district websites and shared with local television and radio stations. If weather conditions are poor, check school or district websites or local t.v., radio and news outlets—don't rely on any other sources, since they may not provide the most current or accurate information. If schools must close early, part-way through the day, media are alerted as quickly as possible.

Find more information about City Schools' inclement weather policy in the *2011-12 Family Handbook* that was included in your back-to-school packet.

And, this year, help your student make the most of snow days—by catching up or getting ahead on assignments, spending time reading or earning service learning hours by helping neighbors shovel snow.

# DECEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Starting middle or high school next year? Deadline for school choice applications is December 22.</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Second-quarter progress reports School Board meeting	<b>14</b> <b>Parent-teacher conferences</b> Early dismissal for students	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Middle and high school choice application deadline	<b>23</b> <b>Winter break</b> Schools closed	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Winter break</b> Schools and offices closed	<b>27</b> <b>Winter break</b> Schools closed	<b>28</b> <b>Winter break</b> Schools closed	<b>29</b> <b>Winter break</b> Schools closed	<b>30</b> <b>Winter break</b> Schools closed	<b>31</b>

## Earning a High School Diploma

The State of Maryland outlines a number of **requirements for high school graduation**. Students must have a minimum of 21 credits, including four in English; three each in mathematics (four for students entering 9th grade in 2011), science and social studies; one each in technology education and fine arts; one-half in physical education and in health; and five in other courses and electives (four for incoming 9th graders). In addition, students must earn the minimum scores on the required High School Assessments (HSAs) and complete 75 hours of service learning.

Find out more about promotion and graduation requirements in your *2011-12 Family Handbook*.

# JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Winter break</b> Schools and offices closed	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> School Board meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>High School Assessment (HSA) testing window</b>						
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr., Day</b> Schools and offices closed	<b>17</b> <b>Early dismissal for high school students</b> (mid-term exams)	<b>18</b> <b>Early dismissal for high school students</b> (mid-term exams)	<b>19</b> <b>Early dismissal for high school students</b> (mid-term exams)	<b>20</b> End of second quarter	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> School Board meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Professional Day</b> Schools closed for students	<b>27</b> <b>Professional Day</b> Schools closed for students	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Report cards are issued to all students the week of January 23.</b>			

## Welcoming the Youngest Learners

High-quality early learning programs help children develop key academic skills—like recognizing letters and words and starting to work with numbers—and equally important social and emotional skills.

Do you or your friends, neighbors or other family members have a preschooler at home? City Schools offers free, all-day pre-kindergarten (pre-k) to children who will turn four by September 1. Children who are homeless or qualify for Free and Reduced Price Meals are immediately enrolled, while other children are admitted on a space-available basis. For five-year-olds, kindergarten is available for all families, regardless of income or housing status.

**Pre-k and kindergarten registration** opens next month. Watch City Schools' website, [www.baltimorecityschools.org](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org), for information and applications, or visit your school to find out more.

# FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Interested in a charter school? Application deadline is February 17, and lotteries will be held the week of February 20.</i>			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 School Board meeting	15	16	17 Charter school application deadline	18
19	20 Presidents' Day Schools and offices closed	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 School Board meeting	29 Third-quarter progress reports	<i>3rd to 8th graders: Maryland School Assessments (MSAs) next month!</i>		

## Spring Testing

Several **student achievement tests** happen each spring: Stanford 10 for 1st and 2nd graders; Maryland School Assessments (MSAs) in grades 3 through 8; High School Assessments (HSAs) as a requirement for high school graduation; and, for many middle and high school students, final exams and assignments.

Make sure your student is at her or his best on test days! A good night's rest is important all the time, and particularly important on test days. And a healthy breakfast is important, too, so make sure your child arrives at school in time for breakfast or eats a nutritious meal at home. Check this month's Family Menu for school lunch options.

# MARCH 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i><b>Parent-teacher conferences can be scheduled the evenings of March 1 to 7. Contact your school to make an appointment.</b></i>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> School Board meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Maryland School Assessments (MSAs) in reading and math</b>						
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>MSAs in reading and math</b>						
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> School Board meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> End of third quarter	<b>31</b>

## Learning Year-Round

Successful students never stop learning, even when the school year ends. City Schools offers **summer learning opportunities** at all levels, and programs are free or low cost. Whether your student needs to catch up or wants to get ahead, is looking for extra help or for enrichment—there is a summer learning option available.

Visit the Office of Teaching and Learning section of [www.baltimorecityschools.org](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org) for information and applications.

# APRIL 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Spring break</b> Schools closed	<b>3</b> <b>Spring break</b> Schools closed	<b>4</b> <b>Spring break</b> Schools closed	<b>5</b> <b>Spring break</b> Schools closed	<b>6</b> <b>Spring break</b> Schools closed	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Spring break</b> Schools closed	<b>10</b> <b>Professional Day</b> Schools closed for students	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>High School Assessment (HSA) testing window</b>						
<b>Stanford 10 testing in 1st and 2nd grade</b>						
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> School Board meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Look for third-quarter report cards during the week of April 10.</b>				

## Education: A Family Affair

Learning happens in and out of school, beginning right from a child's first days and continuing into old age. City Schools' **Family Institute** shows you how to set your child on the road to lifelong learning, by helping you help your child learn—and love it.

Through free resources and workshops, Family Institute informs you about your child's school experiences, offers support for your role as a parent and gives you suggestions about raising a successful learner.

Access free online resources from Family Institute at [www.baltimorecityschools.org/familyinstitute](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/familyinstitute). Don't miss the calendar of free workshops on everything from parenting strategies to planning for college. And for more information about other resources, browse the website or call the district office at 410-545-1870.

# MAY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Remember: Attendance matters— right up to the last day of school.</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> School Board meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Fourth-quarter progress reports	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Parent-teacher conferences Early dismissal for students	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> School Board meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>High School Assessment (HSA), special administration</b>						
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Memorial Day Schools and offices closed	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>High school seniors: Exams are May 14 to 16.</b>	

## Last Day of School— But Not for Learning

The **last day of school** will be no later than June 18, 2012. This date assumes that the district will use five “snow days” earlier in the year, during which all schools will be closed because of inclement weather. If the weather is not severe and fewer than five closings take place, the last day of school will be earlier than June 18—though no earlier than June 11. Watch your school’s website and newsletter or visit [www.baltimorecityschools.org](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org) in the spring for confirmation of the date of the last day.

And then plan to make the last day of school the first day of summer learning. A great way to stay sharp over the summer is with a good book—or lots of books. Find summer reading suggestions at City Schools’ website, or check out summer reading programs at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

# JUNE 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b><i>Congratulations, graduates! High school graduation ceremonies take place June 1 to 3.</i></b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Early dismissal for high school students (final exams)	<b>7</b> Early dismissal for high school students (final exams)	<b>8</b> Early dismissal for high school students (final exams)	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> School Board meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Last day of school (see sidebar at left)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## A Summer of Exploration—Right Here in Baltimore

Baltimore is full of great attractions families can visit for low or no cost. Learning and fun go hand in hand when you visit places like these—and inside venues are air-conditioned, making your visit even more enjoyable:

- Baltimore Museum of Art, [www.artbma.org](http://www.artbma.org)
- The Walters Art Museum, [www.thewalters.org](http://www.thewalters.org)
- The Baltimore National Heritage Area, [www.baltimorecity.gov/OfficeoftheMayor/MayoralOffices/BaltimoreNationalHeritageArea.aspx](http://www.baltimorecity.gov/OfficeoftheMayor/MayoralOffices/BaltimoreNationalHeritageArea.aspx)
- The Cylburn Arboretum, [www.cylburnassociation.org](http://www.cylburnassociation.org)
- The Enoch Pratt Free Library, [www.prattlibrary.org](http://www.prattlibrary.org)

Plus, don't miss Baltimore's free summer festivals: The celebration of Baltimore's communities in the Showcase of Nations festivals—like the African American Heritage Festival and the Caribbean Carnival—throughout the summer, and the annual Artscape in July.

# JULY 2012

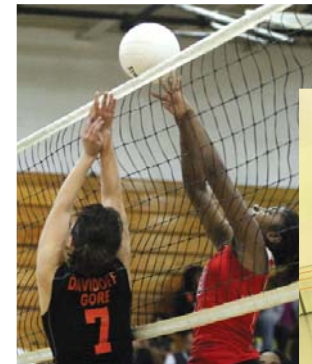
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Independence Day	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<p><i>Visit <a href="http://www.baltimorecityschools.org">www.baltimorecityschools.org</a> to find out what's in store for the 2012-13 school year.</i></p>			

# District Office Directory

For the most up-to-date information—including announcements of school closings and delays, telephone numbers and website addresses for individual schools and more—visit the City Schools website at [www.baltimorecityschools.org](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org).

The district office is located at the Dr. Alice G. Pinderhughes Administration Building, 200 E. North Ave., Baltimore, MD 21202.  
*To contact the main district office, select a department from the list below or call City Schools Connect at 443-984-2000.*

Achievement and Accountability Office . . . . .	.410-396-8962
Associated Student Congress of Baltimore City . .	.443-642-5500
Chief Academic Officer . . . . .	.410-396-8810
Chief Executive Officer . . . . .	.410-396-8803
Chief Financial Officer . . . . .	.410-396-8745
Chief Legal Officer . . . . .	.410-396-8542
Chief of Staff . . . . .	.410-396-8805
Engagement Office . . . . .	.410-545-1870
Enrollment, Choice and Transfers Office . . . . .	.410-396-8600
Fraud Hotline . . . . .	.800-679-0185
Human Capital Office . . . . .	.410-396-8885
Information Technology Office . . . . .	.410-396-8501
Operations Office . . . . .	.410-396-8721
Parent/Community Response Line . . . . .	.443-984-2020
Safety Hotline . . . . .	.410-396-7233
School Board Office . . . . .	.410-396-8709
School Support Network Office . . . . .	.443-642-4040
Special Education Office . . . . .	.410-396-8900
Student Support and Safety Services . . . . .	.410-396-8672
Teaching and Learning Office . . . . .	.443-642-3990
Title I/Federal Programs Office . . . . .	.410-396-8937
Transportation Office . . . . .	.410-396-7440





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