



# THE DRAGON'S VOICE

## SEPTEMBER 2024



Principal:  
Courine Elias Raffoul

Instructional Coach:  
Susan Brunecz

Dean of Engagement:  
Grace Abunimeh

Say Yes Cleveland,  
Family Support Specialist:  
Kelli Shanklin



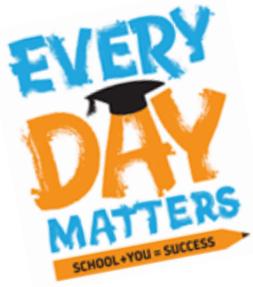
**D**ILIGENCE  
**R**ESPONSIBILITY  
**A**TTITUDE  
**G**RIT  
**O**PEN-MINDEDNESS  
**N**O OPPORTUNITY  
WASTED

*Welcome to September*



- 9/1 - 9/30: Attendance Awareness Month
- 9/12: Open House 6pm-8pm/Early Dismissal for students. 8th grade parent meeting @ 5pm
- 9/14: CMSD Special Education Fair 10am-2pm @ Max Hayes High School
- 9/15 - 10/15: National Hispanic American Heritage Month
- 9/17: National Voter Registration Day
- 9/19: Father's Walk
- 9/20: Kindergarten Teacher Professional Development- No school for kindergarten students
- 9/27: PreK Teacher Professional Development- NO school for PreK students





“Every day you show up, you’re investing in your future self. Don’t underestimate the power of attendance.”



**Get 2 School! You can make it**

**September is National Attendance Awareness Month**

We will be tracking attendance for the month of September. The top 3 homerooms with the highest attendance for the month of September will be treated with a reward in October!



**8th Grade Parent Meeting**

Thursday, September 12th 5:00pm - 5:45pm

**Open House**

Thursday, September 12th 6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Early Dismissal at 12:55pm**

Come meet your child's teachers, visit classrooms, and sign up for band and piano lab!

\*Find out about Say Yes Cleveland\*

\*Bake Sale\*

**BAKE SALE**



Follow us on social media at:

 <https://www.facebook.com/PaulDunbarAcademy/>

 @cmsd\_pauldunbar



## Father's Walk 2024

Please join un on Thursday, September 19th for the annual Father's Walk. Come to celebrate fathers, father figures, and male role models. Bring your child to school, take a photo, and get a treat!

Research highlights the profound impact of having a father or father figure in a child's life, makes events like the Fathers Walk essential. Join the movement in making sure that no child is left out.

### Social Media

Make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on what's happening:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PaulDunbarAcademy](http://www.facebook.com/PaulDunbarAcademy)

Instagram: @cmsd\_pauldunbar

<https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/dunbar>



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**Dear Dunbar Parents, Guardians and Supporters,**

We will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using cell phone lock boxes to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

We strongly encourage all students to keep their phones at home. If any students bring their phone to school, they must be labeled so they can turn in their phone in the cell phone lock boxes upon arrival at main entrance door. Cell phones will remain locked in boxes until students leave at the end of the school day. If a parent picks a student up early, they will be given their phone at that time.

**This change aligns with CMSD’s board policy that states that “To maintain a secure and orderly learning environment, students who choose to bring a personal cellphone or electronic device to school will have their phone/device subject to collection and/or storage during the student school day.” This policy follows Ohio House Bill 250, which requires the minimization of cell phone use in schools.**

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. Over 900 school partners have measured the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- 65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance
- 74% of schools saw an improvement in student behavior
- 83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly at 216-838-7400 or attend our back-to-school Meet the Teacher night on Thursday, August 15th from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. In addition, we invite you to take a look at the FAQ document below.

If there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please reach out to the main office at 216-838-7400. To best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in the adoption of our district cell phone policy.

Thank you,  
Courine Elias Raffoul  
Principal  
2159 W. 29th St. | Cleveland, OH 44113  
Office: 216.838.7400 |  
Courine.Elias@ClevelandMetroSchools.org

**Follow us on social media at:**



## **Educationally Appropriate Dress and Appearance/Dress Expectations**

The responsibility for the dress and appearance of a student rests primarily with the student and their parents or guardians. In the interest of maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment, the district believes in the following basic principles:

- Dress code used in previous years is always an option: khaki bottom, and polo tops: navy, white, or blue
- All students are encouraged to dress in a manner that is appropriate, comfortable and conducive to an active academic school day.
- Students should be able to wear clothing without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
- The student dress code should serve to support all students to develop a body-positive self-image.
- The district standard dress and appearance policy is gender neutral and applies to all students equally regardless of gender on school campuses and at school-sponsored functions and will be enforced consistently and fairly by all members of the school staff.

### **Examples of inappropriate clothing include:**

- clothing where the buttocks or torso (stomach area) is exposed, i.e., tube tops, half shirts/belly shirts, halters
- tank tops with skinny straps (i.e. spaghetti strap tanks)
- clothing that is see-through (clothing must be opaque)
- clothing or accessories that show profanity, obscene words or pictures, sexually suggestive statements, violence, or incitement to violence
- clothing representing gang-related activities
- clothing where the entire thigh is exposed, such as micro minis or short shorts.
- bathing suits or cut-offs
- the wearing and carrying of tobacco promotional items, or items promoting controlled substances (drugs) and/or alcohol
- clothing where undergarments are exposed
- clothing that has text or visual images that is libelous, bullying, constitutes harassment or discrimination
- closed toe footwear must be worn at school and all functions

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### **Paul L. Dunbar specific dress code expectations:**

- NO HOODS OR HATS ALLOWED TO BE WORN IN THE BUILDING
- NO BELLY SHIRTS/NO MIDRIFF/TORSO SHOWING
- NO THIN STRAP/SPAGHETTI STRAP TANK TOPS
- NO PAJAMAS & NO BLANKETS
- NO HOUSE SHOES
- NO BONNETS

\*Please make sure to read over the “Educationally Appropriate Dress and Appearance/Dress Expectations” on the previous page for information on the CMSD dress code policy. The policy can also be found on the CMSD website:

<https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/Page/54>



### **Label Clothing**

Parents please help us keep your child’s belongings safe and sound! To ensure that your child’s clothing and personal items are easily identifiable and do not get lost, we kindly ask that you label their belongings with their name. **This includes coats/jackets, sweaters/sweatshirts, hats, gloves, and any other items that could easily get lost.**

Here are a few easy ways to label your child’s clothing:

- Use permanent markers or fabric pens to write their name on tags or labels inside the clothing.
- Attach iron-on or stick-on labels with their name.
- Sew personalized labels onto their clothing.

By doing this, you will help us quickly return any misplaced items to their rightful owners and minimize the amount of lost property.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to reach out to staff.

**Follow us on social media at:**



It's that time of year! Basketball season is coming soon!  
Boys Basketball Season begins Monday, October 21st, 2024  
Girls Basketball Season starts Monday January 27th, 2025

For the 2024-2025 school year, our coaches are as followed:

Boys Basketball: Mr. Wagner

Cheerleading: Ms. Whitney

Girls Basketball: Ms. Cook

Tryout Dates:

Boys Basketball: Monday & Tuesday October 7th & 8th from 4pm-5:30pm

Cheerleading: Monday-Thursday October 7th-10th from 4pm-5:30pm

Girls Basketball: TBD

**\*Physicals MUST be completed before tryouts. Students will NOT be able to tryout without having a physical first.\***

## **Box Tops for Education**

Box Tops for Education is an easy way families can help earn money for schools with the products they buy. You can find hundreds of participating products throughout the store- and all you need is the Box Tops App.

Here's How It Works:

Download the Box Tops App in the App Store or Google Play. Search for Paul L. Dunbar Enrichment Academy

School ID: 393916

Referral code: CGJS4UCY

Use the Box Top app to scan your receipt, within 14 days of purchase. Box Top products are identified with the Box Tops logo.



### Online

Whether you order groceries for delivery or pickup, shop through your store's app, request an email receipt at checkout or shop with your Walmart connected account, you can earn for your school no matter where you shop.

There are dozens of stores participating including: Walmart, Target, Giant Eagle, Sam's Club, Costco, Bj's, etc. website: [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)

## **Stay Connected!**

Please make sure you are using the LiveSchool app to stay up to date with student behavior. If you need help with technology or logging in please contact Ms. Sunny (Ms. Sanisha Grigsby) by calling the school or by email at [sanisha.grigsby@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:sanisha.grigsby@clevelandmetroschools.org).

## **Resources for Families!**

### **Say Yes Cleveland Family Support Specialist**

Connect with our Family Support Specialist

Ms. Shanklin

216-905-4481

[kshanklin@sayyescleveland.org](mailto:kshanklin@sayyescleveland.org)

Family Support Specialists can help connect you with services out in the community.

**PARENTS AND  
GUARDIANS  
SAY YES TO  
SUPPORTING  
YOUR STUDENT  
AND FAMILY TODAY!**

#### **FREE SUPPORT SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- Afterschool programs
- Legal Assistance
- Academic tutoring
- Food assistance
- Behavioral and mental health services
- Medical, vision, and dental services
- Clothing and Everyday Needs
- Home and Housing

Make sure Say Yes Cleveland can help your student and family by filling out our survey today.

[cleveland.sytepps.org](http://cleveland.sytepps.org)  
You will need your student's ID #

**Say  
Yes!  
Cleveland**

