



Dear Parents and Guardians of City Schools' 7th & 8th-grade students,

We are excited to announce the launch of this year's "One Book Baltimore", and the selected reading "*Becoming Beatriz*", written by Author, Tami Charles.

City Schools is proud to continue its citywide program "One Book Baltimore," in which all of Baltimore City Schools 7th & 8th-grade students and the community have the opportunity to read the same book and take part in unique events about their reading. These events allow students to express their feelings and create programs around various topics and themes highlighted throughout the book. One Book Baltimore is entering into our fourth year of programming, and we are certain that this text will afford us all the opportunity to have another successful year of programming and community collaboration. *Becoming Beatriz*, is written by Tami Charles. This year we will host a virtual launch on October 7, 2021. Students will have the opportunity to submit questions to the author and, time permitting, students will be able to ask questions via chat and the Q&A feature during this live-streamed event. Every student in 7th and 8th grade will receive a copy of the book. It is not required reading, but teachers may add it into classroom discussions and schools may also have book clubs or other events where the book is discussed.

*Becoming Beatriz* is a story of a young girl being encouraged to pursue two different paths, one where she follows her dreams to become a dancer like her idol Debbie Allan and the other where she is forced to live a secret underground life where criminal activity is expected.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library will host virtual programs about the book's themes throughout the fall. Working with community leaders students will have the opportunity to use their talents to create personal pieces of literary works that are meaningful.

A list of several of the community events and additional information about the book is available on Our OBB website at <https://sites.google.com/bcps.k12.md.us/one-book-baltimore/home>.

Thank you for all of your support of our students and schools,

The One Book Baltimore Planning Team

