

Good evening, Catonsville Middle School Families!

This is the Monday Message for March 4, 2024!

Tomorrow is an B-Day!

Upcoming Dates:

- March 4th and 5th – 8th Grade MISA testing (MCAP State Testing for Science)

Testing Season is Upon Us

Good evening, CMS families! It is the time of year for MCAP testing to begin, and we are starting off with the 8th grade MCAP MISA test (science). This test will assess our students' acquisition of knowledge and skills related to science through their middle school career. As students move on to high school, testing starts to focus on more specific topics.

Testing in middle school may feel like a lot, but it gives teachers, students, and families key information about student performance towards state standards. The results help us plan how we may improve instruction. The results also impact our Maryland Star Rating. As always, we are encouraging students to put forth their best efforts! Parents can help by ensuring students come to school prepared for testing on assigned date (we will share more dates as we get closer to spring break) and encouraging their child to do their best! It's helpful when we all work together as a team to help our students achieve!

Our students are amazing, and we want their data story to reflect that!

PTSA:

[Mulch 2024 Flyer.pdf](#)

[Catonsville Middle School March Newsletter.pdf](#)

Maryland SPCA's Kindness for Paws

Seventh grade art students who completed both the Kindness for Paws artwork and consent form will have their work on display at this year's Kindness for Paws Art Show at White Marsh Mall. The work will be on display from May 12th-19th. A reception will be held on Sunday, May 19th in which the artwork will be for sale with all proceeds going to the Maryland SPCA. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

[KFP-eventflyer-2024.pdf](#)

Attention 8th grade families:

Our trip to Philadelphia has been approved. We will be heading out on May 22nd, and if you are willing to chaperone, [please click on this link](#). We want as many chaperones as possible so that we can create small groups. The cost will be \$55, so please start saving now. If you need financial assistance, please reach out to me at rdungey@bcps.org.

At the end of the year, we want to celebrate our 8th graders with a slideshow. [Please click this for the needed information](#). Slideshows are a hilarious and fun way to end the year, I just need your help to put it together.

Yearbooks

The 2024 Yearbook can be ordered at this time!

To guarantee a copy, place your order online BEFORE April 27th.

See the attached flier for details, information and the [ybpay.com]link!

[YB Flier 2024.pdf](#)

From the Music Dept:

Festival Orchestra, Band and Chorus all have their performances this week at Catonsville High School. Come out and support our musicians!

Festival Orchestra performs on 3/5 at 7:00 pm. Call time for our musicians is 6:20 pm.

Festival Band performs on 3/7 at 7:00 pm. Call time for our musicians is 6:15 pm.

Festival Choir performs on 3/6 at 7:00 pm. Call time for our musicians is 6:15 pm.

Please have your student check their Schoology group for further information or e-mail their music director with any questions!

Elizabeth Honeyman (orchestra) ehoneyman@bcps.org

Jae Rahim (band) jrahim2@bcps.org

Tom Dickerson (chorus) tdickerson@bcps.org

Thank you everyone for attempting to accommodate the new Band Spring Concert date. Due to scheduling conflicts and the new proposed date being the Friday before Memorial Day Weekend, we will be returning the Spring Concert back to the original listed date on your student's band handbook: Thursday, May 23rd.

From the Health Suite:

The Baltimore County Department of Health has MMR vaccine in the health centers for both VFC-eligible and non-VFC-eligible children and adults.

A flyer is attached.

[BCDH Measles Flyer.pdf](#)

From the Library:

We have two author visits coming up in school!

- Barbara Dee is the author of over a dozen middle grade novels. *Violets are Blue*, published in 2021, is a Maryland Black Eyed Susan nominee! She will be visiting Catonsville Middle School on Friday, March 15th. This visit is sponsored by our partners at the Baltimore County Public Library.
- Ira Marcks is an award-winning cartoonist. He has published two graphic novels, *Shark Summer* and *Spirit Week*. This visit will take place on Tuesday, April 2. Ira is visiting CMS while also visiting his cousin in the 6th grade!

Please have your students complete these two separate forms if they are interested in attending the presentations. If time permits, the author may sign copies of books. You can purchase a book at any book retailer.

[Barbara Dee Sign Up](#)

[Ira Marcks Sign Up](#)

Diversity Night

The Silent Auction Team for Diversity Night is looking for donations of goods and services to help us raise funds for our many diverse clubs at CMS.

- Business Owners, would you consider making a donation for a product or a service?
- Home Party Consultants such as Pampered Chef, Tupperware, Scentsy, Mary Kay, Tastefully Simple, Color Street, Arbonne, Avon or any other home party business? Would you consider making a product donation?
- Donations can also be made if you have new, unused items that you think would attract attention from our school community! Think about re-purposing or re-gifting that duplicate item of something you already have.

Please contact [Mrs. Jeremenko](#) or [Mrs. Smith](#) in the school library if you have questions. We appreciate your support and look forward to having a fun silent auction on May 8!

From the Counseling Office:**Magnet School Decisions -**

All applicants will receive email notifications of their admissions status from BCPS Magnet Programs. Magnet admission decisions for high school applicants will be released by March 8, 2024 (date subject to change). Parents must accept or decline seat offer **electronically** by the identified deadline or the offer will be revoked. Once initial seat offers have been accepted or declined, available seats will be offered to students on the program's waitlist. Parents receiving placement offers from the waitlist have three (3) business days to respond. Failure to respond will result in forfeiture of the seat, and the placement will be offered to the next student on the waitlist.

Tutoring Supported by NJHS

The National Junior Honor Society is offering individual and group tutoring sessions during Advisory on Monday's. During these sessions, students can get assistance from one of our many tutors in any subject area and for any grade level. Students can sign up weekly using the following link. Once students have signed up, they will use the completed form as their pass to Room 30 for tutoring.

[Tutoring Weekly Sign-Up](#)

Buses

You can use the link below to determine whether your child's bus is running on time!

https://www.bcps.org/parents/transportation_status

COVID Tests:

We have MANY Covid test kits and would be more than happy to distribute these to our families. Please email Mrs. Palacios at kpalacios@bcps.org if you would like us to send a test home for you!

FYI - the tests that we have to send home have an expiration date of 2/12/23 on them, however, the FDA has authorized shelf-life extensions of many At-Home OTC COVID-19 tests. [These tests now have an expiration date of 5/12/24.](#)