

# Good evening, Catonsville Middle School Families!

*This is the Monday Message for April 8, 2024!*

*Tomorrow is an A-Day!*

**Upcoming Dates:**

- April 10<sup>th</sup> – Schools Closed – Professional Development
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – Student Talent Show 4PM
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – Spring Pictures (Must Pre-Pay)
- April 19<sup>th</sup> - Parent/Teacher Basketball Game 6PM

**Testing Schedule:**

April 8 & 9 – MCAP ELA grade 8

April 11 & 12 – MCAP ELA grade 7

April 15 & 16 – MCAP ELA grade 6

May 1 & 2 – MCAP Math – grade 8

May 6 & 7 – MCAP Math – grade 7

May 8 & 9 – MCAP Math – grade 6

May 10 & 13 – MCAP Social Studies – grade 8

**Testing takes place during periods 1 and 2 on all days.**

## **MCAP Information**

It is that time of year when students take the MCAP (Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program) and our students have been preparing for the assessment throughout this school year. In order for our students to do their very best, we are asking for your assistance. Please ensure that you are aware of the following and that the following take place:

1. Students must use their BCPS provided computer for MCAP. Students should charge their computer each night by plugging in the charger on the left side of the computer. Computers must be shut down, not just closed each night. **Students are not permitted to use blue tooth earphones for testing.**
2. Please make sure that your child gets a good night's sleep, eats a well-balanced breakfast, and arrives at school by 8:15 a.m. All students **MUST** participate in testing. Students missing any portion of the test will be required to participate in make-up testing.
3. Eighth grade students will be tested in Science (MISA) and Social Studies. **ALL** students will be tested in ELA and Math.
4. **According to Board of Education Policy 5552 personal electronic communication devices (watches, phones, ear pods) are prohibited during testing.** Please ensure your student leaves their cell phones and other personal electronic communication devices at home. If a student brings a personal electronic communication device to school, all devices **MUST** be left in the student's locker **OR** it will be collected during testing and returned at the end of the testing. If a student does not provide the testing administrator with their electronic device, the student will be in violation of Board of Education Policy 5552 and a consequence will be assigned.

## **Illustrative Mathematics Family Resources:**

There are several resources that support family engagement and support at home. Please see the resources below:

- [The Secondary Mathematics Website](#) includes family resources and Year at a Glance documents for courses. Select the course on the left for more information.
- [The Parent University Website](#) includes information regarding tutoring and other supports for families.

## Spring Pictures:

[Full Color Flyer-2024-04-19.pdf](#)

[Email Flyer-2024-04-19.pdf](#)

## Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found is overflowing with clothing, water bottles, and lunch bags. Students, and parents, can come search through the items to find your missing ones before we make a donation next week (the week of April 15th). If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our main office. ~ Ms. Woods

## BCPS Clean Green: 15 Litter Challenge

### Help Catonsville Middle win an environmental grant!

The Team BCPS Clean Green :15 Litter Challenge is where our school competes against other schools in the county to see which school communities can record the most 15-minute litter cleanups and volunteer participation throughout the entire year.

School communities include all sorts of groups who choose to designate a particular school to receive credit. Civic or community groups, scout troops, sports teams, faith-based groups, youth groups, businesses, environmental organizations, foundations and others could be included in these groups.

Just grab some trash bags and take 15 minutes to pick up litter in an untidy area near you— a park, a schoolyard, a vacant lot, a stream, anywhere that needs it.

When you have completed your pickup, share your results and Catonsville Middle will get credit towards winning an environmental project grant! Reports can be submitted for cleanups that take place in Baltimore County between **May 1, 2023 and April 30, 2024**. Report how much you collected by filling out this form: Clean Green 15 Form - Share your results [here!](#) (You can report activities from the spring and summer).

### [Team BCPS Clean Green 15 Litter Challenge - Baltimore County](#)

Does litter bug you? Take the Clean Green 15 Litter Challenge and help make tons of difference for the environment.

[www.baltimorecountymd.gov](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov)

## Environmental Activities in the Community:

- **Join Ms. Chang on** [Saturday, April 20, 9am-12pm](#): PHG Cleanup & Invasive Removal: Historic Oella Cemetery. Register [HERE](#)
- **Join Ms. Chang on** [Sunday, April 28, 10am-1pm](#): PHG Wildflower Planting: Serenity Ridge. Register [HERE](#)
- [Saturday, May 11, 10am-12pm](#): PHG Family Day on the Trolley Trail. Register [HERE](#)
- **Join Ms. Chang and Mr. Sporik on** [Saturday, May 18, 9am-12pm](#): PHG Tree Maintenance: Serenity Ridge. Register [HERE](#)
- [Saturday, May 25, 9am-12pm](#): PHG Cleanup & Invasive Removal: Resurrection School Plumtree Branch. Register [HERE](#)
- [Saturday, June 1, 9am-12pm](#): PHG Cleanup & Invasive Removal: Historic Oella Cemetery. Register [HERE](#)

To earn service-learning hours for environmental activities, take a picture of yourself at the event and send it to Mr. Sporik ([asporik@bcps.org](mailto:asporik@bcps.org)).

## Attention 8th grade families:

Baltimore County Public Schools requires that all students transitioning from Grade 8 to Grade 9 verify residency prior to the start of the school year.

Verification of residency requires at least five (5) documents from the parent/guardian, including photo identification, one of the following documents proving proof of domicile: Deed or lease, title, mortgage coupon

book, real estate tax bill or receipt, and three pieces of business mail or documentation dated within sixty (60) days of the date submitted. All documents must reflect the same address.

**We will begin accepting documents on May 1, 2024.** You can email documents to Ms. Alexander [kalexander6@bcps.org](mailto:kalexander6@bcps.org), or Ms. Tyler [ttyler3@bcps.org](mailto:ttyler3@bcps.org). If you have any questions, please call the Counseling Office at 443-809-0807.

We wanted to reach out about our fourth and final science unit for the year. This unit includes a project where students need to develop, implement, and reflect on an action plan that will protect and sustain one specific local natural resource for future generations. This project is worth 10 service-learning hours and a large portion of their Marking Period 4 grade.

This project is called a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience, MWEE for short.

MWEEs are experiences that focus on investigations into local environmental issues that lead to informed action and civic engagement.

There will be a few milestone assignments for the project. Details on these assignments will be shared in future messages and can be found on Schoology.

Please feel free to reach out to Ms. Chang at [rchang@bcps.org](mailto:rchang@bcps.org) or Mr. Hooks at [shooks@bcps.org](mailto:shooks@bcps.org) with any questions!

Students received their permission slip for our trip to Philadelphia on March 22nd. I have attached the same information here in case the slips get lost on the way home. If you want to make a donation to allow students in need to attend the trip, just go to the online payment portal and donate there. The online payment portal information is also attached. We are all set with 42 chaperones:) Please email [rdungey@bcps.org](mailto:rdungey@bcps.org) with any questions.

[8th grade Philly Trip.pdf](#)

Our Memories Slideshow is coming together! Over 120 students were included in round 1 with baby and friend pics. I really enjoyed seeing the pictures and cannot wait to show you the finished product in a few short months. Please read the attachment for round 2 submission information. Once April ends, I will focus on putting it all together. Please email [rdungey@bcps.org](mailto:rdungey@bcps.org) with any questions!

[Memories SlideShow with Parent Letter-2024.pdf](#)

### **Annual Diversity Fair**

Mark your calendars for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Fair. On Wednesday, May 8, 2024, from 5:00-7:00pm, join us for entertainment, our renowned silent auction, games, food trucks, and student presentations to celebrate what makes us diverse and special in 21228 😊. Keep an eye out for a sign-up link for students and families who would like to perform, present, or donate to the event.

Ways to get involved:

- Perform a song of dance (ex. Irish dancing, playing a song by an Italian composer, or playing an instrument from a specific country)
- Reserve a table for a presentation (trifold on your chosen country, offer samples from a popular recipe, or do a tutorial on how to make or do something like Henna or making pasta by hand)
- Donate item(s) to the silent auction (gift baskets, gift cards or monetary donations can be sent to Cathy Jeremenko or Alyssa Smith in the library—all proceeds benefit diverse clubs at CMS)
- Attend and have fun

We hope to see you there. For questions, reach out to Ms. Jakubowski ([bjakubowski@bcps.org](mailto:bjakubowski@bcps.org))  
#weAREcatonsville

## Staff vs Parent Basketball

[Parent Teacher BBall.png](#)

## Yearbooks

The 2024 Yearbook can be ordered at this time!

To guarantee a copy, place your order online BEFORE April 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

[YB Flier 2024.pdf](#)

## Last day of school

BCPS has used three inclement weather days this school year. As outlined in the 2023-2024 school year calendar, **the last day of the school year for students and teachers will be Friday, June 14.**

June 2024							Student Days	Staff Days	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1-7 (S-F)	Commencement Exercises	
						1	12 (W)	Assessment Day*** – Elementary, Middle, and High Schools in Session Full Day – Last Day of Classes for Preschool-3 and Pre-K## (Inclement Weather Make-up Day #1)	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13 (Th)	Assessment Day*** – All Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** – Teachers on Duty## (Inclement Weather Make-up Day #2)	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14 (F)	Assessment Day*** – Last Day of Classes – All Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** – Teachers on Duty, Last Day for Teachers## (Inclement Weather Make-up Day #3)	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	17 (M)	Eid al-Adha*	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	19 (W)	Juneteenth – Schools and Offices Closed	
30									
							10/183-184	10/194	
							TOTAL	183-184	194

The [complete calendar](#) is available online. This information is subject to change, pending any additional inclement weather.

## Student Food Deliveries:

**Please limit deliveries for urgent matters only** – excessive deliveries are disruptive to school operations and a safety concern. Reminder, big deliveries (i.e. cupcakes, balloons, pizza) for student celebrations are not permitted in school. Students may not leave campus or receive deliveries from parents or services such as grub hub, door dash, uber eats, etc.

## 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](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](mailto: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.