

Good evening, Catonsville Middle School Families!

This is the Monday Message for April 22, 2024!

Tomorrow is a B-Day!

Upcoming Dates:

- April 26th – Schools close 3 hours early
- May 8th – Annual Diversity Fair

CMS Families: We invite you to join us for our 5th Annual Diversity Fair that will be held here at CMS on Wednesday, May 8th from 5 - 7PM.

Please see our attached flyer for all the fun we have planned! We are looking for presenters/performers, so if your child or your family would like to plan a presentation or demonstration for the Diversity Fair, please use the link below! Previous presentations included students playing instruments/songs from various cultures, dance routines (Irish dancing, flamenco, etc.), preparing and sharing sample recipes (please include a list of ingredients), tri-folds and maker projects, tutorials/HOW to, spin the wheel trivia booths, and much more. There's no limit to how CMS families and community members can participate. You can reach out to Ms. Jak (bjakubowski@bcps.org) with questions or inquiries.

Here is the [link to sign up to present or perform for Diversity Fair](#).

Check out the flyer for this year's festivities including food trucks and our renown silent auction. [Diversity Flyer 2024 ++.pdf](#)

ACT Store:

The Catonsville Middle School ACT Store is currently looking for donations to keep the shelves stocked for the fourth quarter!! Our hard-working students earn ACT cards for demonstrating the ACT tenets. They can use those ACT cards to purchase items from our ACT Store. If you would like to donate to the ACT Store, please visit our [Amazon Wishlist](#) or scanning the QR code. Thank you for your support!



National Junior Honor Society Applications– Attention All 7th Graders

NJHS is an honor society designed to prepare students for the National Honor Society in High School. NJHS recognizes students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, character, leadership, citizenship, and service. Membership in the NJHS is a privilege, not a right, and the criteria for membership are considered seriously. This service organization represents our school throughout the community by helping at various afternoon and evening school functions, assisting in school initiatives and community activities, and working with and supporting local and national charities.

NJHS invitations will be sent to students through Schoology in the coming week beginning on Friday April 19th. Please make sure that students are checking Schoology for the invitation so they can begin the application process as soon as possible. We will be having a meeting with eligible students during advisory on Tuesday April 23rd to explain the application process and answer any questions.

Any student with the following criteria will be invited to apply.

- 94% attendance rate (excused absences do not count)
- No suspensions and fewer than three office referrals
- Minimum of 25 hours of service learning/community service
- Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher for three consecutive quarters in 7th grade

These are strict requirements, and any student that does not meet both will not be eligible to apply. The application process will be explained further in the invitation but will consist of teacher recommendations and free response questions. **All applications will be due by 3:00pm on Tuesday April 30th. No applications will be accepted past this deadline.**

Finally, as a calendar heads up, the NJHS induction ceremony will take place May 15th from 6-8pm in the CMS gym.

If you have any questions please reach out to the NJHS coordinators:

Brooke Psenicska bpsenicska2@bcps.org

Ryan Bates rbates2@bcps.org

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

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).

From the Counseling Office:

8th grade families

This is an exciting time of year, as so many students have been accepted at a variety of high schools. In the event that your child will be attending a private high school, please be sure to notify the Counseling Office so that we do not send your students records to Catonsville High School. Students that will be attending other BCPS high schools will have their records sent to those schools at the end of the school year. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Alexander, Counseling Secretary, at 443-809-0807.

Attention 8th grade families:

8th grade Science

We are in Unit 4 of 8th grade Science! This unit includes a project where students will develop and complete an action plan to protect a local natural resource. This project is worth 10 service-learning hours and a large portion of your student's grade.

This project is called Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience, MWEE for short. Our first milestone assignment will be a research project due April 29th. More information is on Schoology and more messages will come!

Please feel free to reach out to Ms. Chang at rchang@bcps.org or Mr. Hooks at shooks@bcps.org with any questions!

Philadelphia Trip

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 with any questions.

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

Our Memories Slideshow is coming together! Ove 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 with any questions!

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

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](#)

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

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.](#)