

Good evening, Catonsville Middle School Families!

This is the Monday Message for March 18, 2024!

Tomorrow is a B-Day!

Upcoming Dates:

- March 25 – April 1 – Schools Closed for Spring Break
- April 2 – Schools Reopen

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.

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.

Ramadan:

Families we are aware that Ramadan has begun and as such we have ensured that there are spaces for children to go while they are abstaining from eating and when they need to pray. A list of these locations will be shared in the school announcements and from the main office. If you have any questions or concerns about how this will affect your child, please feel free to reach out to the counseling office.

PTSA Happenings This Week

Our next restaurant fundraiser takes place this Wednesday, March 20th ALL DAY at the All-American Steak House! Located at 8450 Baltimore National Pike, AASH will donate 10% of their sales for the entire day to Catonsville Middle School. No need to mention our school, just order and enjoy!

[CMS Restaurant Event ALL Day!.pdf](#)

Staff vs Parent Basketball

Our annual Staff v Parent Basketball fundraiser is set. We still need 5-6 brave parents to volunteer (email me at rdungey@bcps.org). Please put the date and time on your calendar! All information can be found below.

[Parent Teacher BBall.png](#)

30th Annual Edible Art Show

Catonsville Middle students are invited to participate in the 30th annual Edible Art Show. It will take place Monday, April 8th from 4:30-6:30 in the Catonsville High cafeteria. All ages and family members are welcome! No pre-registration is required. Admission is \$1 or a canned food item. Please see the attached flyer for more details. Questions can be directed to CMS art teachers or jstiltz@bcps.org at CHS.

 <p>Catonsville High School's National Art Honor Society invites you to the</p> <p><i>30th Annual</i> Edible ART SHOW</p> 	<p>Monday, April 8th 4:30 - 6:30 Catonsville High Cafeteria</p>  <p>Create an artwork made of food to win awesome prizes to local restaurants and shops!</p> <p>Enter the competition, or just join for fun! Admission is \$1, or a canned food item.</p> <p>For more info, email jstiltz@bcps.org!</p>	 <p>ALL AGES Welcome!</p> <p>Enjoy artwork, music, refreshments, and henna!</p> 
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Annual Diversity Fair

Attention CMS families,

Mark your calendars for our 5th Annual Diversity Fair. On Wednesday, May 8, 2024 from 5:00-7:00pm, join us for entertainment, our renown 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)
#weAREcatonsville

From the Music Dept:

To all CMS Festival Band, Chorus, and Orchestra members planning to attend the Hershey Trip; please remember that your \$20 Hershey Deposit should be turned in by this Friday (03/22) to your music teacher to reserve your seat for the trip. Please contact your music teacher with any questions or concerns.

Band-Teacher Rahim- jrahim2@bcps.org

Chorus-Mr. Dickerson- tdickerson@bcps.org

Orchestra-Ms. Honeyman- ehoneyman@bcps.org

Talent Show signup:

Any students looking to participate in the CMS Talent Show should sign up on the music bulletin board by Wednesday, April 3rd. Auditions will be held after school on Thursday, April 4th. The Talent Show will be held Friday, April 12th at 4pm, tickets will be \$5, and proceeds will go towards Hershey music trip scholarships.

Mr. Dickerson- tdickerson@bcps.org

Ms. Honeyman- ehoneyman@bcps.org

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 Physical Education Dept:

As the weather warms, please remind your students that they need to dress appropriately for Physical Education Class. This starts with the PE uniform t-shirt but also requires appropriate shorts and footwear. Shorts should be athletic shorts of an appropriate length for participating in physical activity. Shoes should be sneakers. Boots, sandals, flip flips, Crocs, skateboard shoes, Hey Dudes or other fashionable but slip on styles are not suitable for athletic activity and pose safety hazards.

We have a **limited supply** of uniform shorts available for purchase. This inventory will be sold on a first come first serve basis and some sizes may run out. We are selling them at a reduced price of \$10. (regularly \$13). Students may purchase these from the school store or see their PE teacher for more information.

From the Library:

Author visit coming up!

- 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 the form below if they are interested in attending the presentation. If time permits, the author may sign copies of books. You can purchase a book at any book retailer.

[Ira Marcks Sign Up](#)

BCPS Summer Art Enrichment Program

BCPS Summer Art Camp is now full. If you are interested in camp and have not yet registered, we encourage you to use the attached link to register so you can be added to the waitlist.

[Summer Art Enrichment Program](#)

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](#)

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.