Good afternoon, Catonsville Families!

One of the best things about education is the fresh start every school year! We are looking forward to not only seeing everyone soon but also meeting our new 6th graders and their families. There has been lots of preparation over the summer for the upcoming year!

To help families with planning for the beginning of the new year, here are some dates to keep in mind:

- **August 10th** – **Cougars in the Community** – We’ve missed seeing our students so much, CMS is coming to you! Between 10 AM and 3 PM, we will be making stops around the community to bring string bags, freezer pops, information about CMS, and some fun to students and families. We are finalizing our stops but will definitely be at Hillcrest and Westowne. We will send the schedule when it’s firmed up towards the end of the week.
- **August 24th** – **6th Grade Orientation** – This will be a half-day experience for new incoming students (7th and 8th grade students who are new to our building are welcome to attend as well).
- **August 24th – 4 – 6 PM** – **CMS Night at Opie’s** – Come chat with the admin team and CMS teachers able to attend AND support a local favorite!
- **August 28th** – **Welcome Back!** All students return to school!
- **Residency reverification for 6th graders and Shared Domicile documentation for 6th – 8th grade students needs to be complete for students to attend on the first day. Please call our School Counseling Office to arrange to take care of this if necessary – 443-809-1558.**
- **7th grade families** – Please ensure that your child’s immunizations are up to date by September 15th to avoid any break in educational services.
- **September 13th – 6 – 8 PM Back to School Night** – We will be separating the grades to start our evening: 6th grade families in the gym, 7th grade families in the cafeteria, and 8th grade families in the library. This will allow us to share grade specific information regarding plans for the year before heading to classrooms.
- **MUSICAL** – Students interested in auditioning for this year’s musical will want to know that information will come out quickly once the year begins. Here are some dates that are already set:
  - Information going home 8/28 – 9/1
  - Informational meeting 8/30
  - Auditions 9/5 & 9/6
  - Call backs 9/7

We will send out information via the Monday Message and share with students during morning announcements.

**Get Involved!**

We are so grateful for the support of our Catonsville Community! This support is shown in a variety of ways, and we hope you will get involved!

- **Join the PTSA** – The CMS PTSA is one of the most supportive organizations I have had the pleasure of working with, and we would love to have even more parent involvement! PTSA meetings are generally virtual, provide updates on what is going on at CMS, and are an opportunity to meet other parents and teachers! If you want to be in the know, joining the PTSA is the way to go!! Use this link for more info - [https://www.catonsvillemmpspta.org/](https://www.catonsvillemmpspta.org/)! Volunteers are also needed to serve on committees and the board.
- **Prepare to Volunteer!** Complete the BCPS annual [volunteer training](#) and have it ready when you need it! This allows you to take part in field trips, our Environmental Extravaganza, being a guest speaker, helping in the hallways or café, or assisting a teacher.
**Daily Schedule:**
This year will be our first year working with the block schedule. This schedule is similar to the one they will follow in high school, and more closely resembles the structure of an elementary school day with the extended periods of time in the day. Our schedule for the upcoming year is attached here.


If your child should be absent, please be sure to provide a note for the 1st period teacher. This will also be your child’s homeroom teacher where the daily attendance will be taken.

The A-Day/B-Day schedule is also attached and can also be found on the [BCPS](https://www.bcps.org) and [Catonsville Middle School](https://www.catonsvillems.org) website.

[AB Day Calendar SY 2023-24.pdf](attachment:AB+Day+Calendar+SY+2023-24.pdf)

**School Supply List:**
If you need a school supply list, it is attached here.


**6th Grade Change:**
Our School Counselor assigned to 6th grade for the 23-24 School Year has transferred to another school. At this time, should you need to contact the counseling office, please reach out to Tara Tyler at [ttyler3@bcps.org](mailto:ttyler3@bcps.org). She is our Counseling Chair and is here 12-months. Once the year starts, Mr. Norbeck will work with students whose last names beginning with A – K, while Ms. Tyler will work with students whose last name begins with L – Z. This will be the case until we have hired another full-time counselor. Additionally, we are excited to have Ms. Aishwarya Jayabharathi, an intern from Johns Hopkings, working with our staff, as well.

While there is always more to share, this is plenty for now! I hope you have all had a relaxing summer. I can’t wait for our staff and students to return, it’s awfully quiet around here (except for Ms. Tyler...????)!

Best,

Steph Fanshaw
Proud Principal
Catonsville Middle School