Good evening, Catonsville Middle School Families!

This is the Monday Message for Monday, September 19, 2022.

School will be closed for students next Monday, September 26, 2022. It will be a Staff Development day for teachers.

Parking during school events and dismissal:

Just a friendly reminder that during school events and at the end of the day, we encourage parents who are picking up their students to be good neighbors by not blocking driveways or making u-turns in the middle of the street. Our goal is to keep all of our students safe!

From PE:

All students should have purchased or ordered a Physical Education uniform. Students should come prepared to dress for PE class. Please remind your students that athletic shoes must be worn. Slip on shoes, sandals and boots should be changed into sneakers or running shoes for safety purposes.

Some sizes of t-shirts and shorts were back ordered. We will distribute those items as soon as they arrive.

From the Library/Makerspace:

The makerspace is always in need of shoeboxes. If you have any shoeboxes, please send them to the library. Thank you!

On Fridays, we have DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time during Advisory.

Sources of reading materials include:

- the CMS library? We are happy to check out a book or two. We also have hundreds of ebooks in our collection.
- The Baltimore Sun Newspaper. Students also have access to the Baltimore Sun through our digital content portal. Password information can be found in the CMS library Schoology Group.
- The Little Free Library which stands at the corner of the school building by the cafeteria. This is a free book-sharing box where anyone may take a book or share a book. You do not need to share a book in order to take one.
- BCPL. Every student has a student loan card with BCPL. Students can use their ID numbers which can be found on a Schoology Grade Report or just mention to the circulation staff at the branch that they are enrolled at CMS and the staff will find their accounts for them. Students can borrow up for 5 items on this student loan card.

Environmental Service-Learning Projects

Earn service-learning hours by helping to improve the Catonsville neighborhood and environment. Here are dates and registrations for Fall service projects:

- **Join Mr. Sporik on** Saturday, October 1, 9am-12pm: Tree Maintenance: Foxhall Farm Site.
  Register [HERE](#)
• Sunday, October 2, 10am-1pm: Budds Run Cleanup in Elkridge. Register HERE

• **Join Ms. Chang on** Saturday, October 22, 9am-12pm: Stream Cleanup and Invasive Plant Removal at Oella Trolley Trail. Register HERE

• Sunday, October 23, 10am-1pm: Water Quality Watchers: Stream Cleanup Event. Register HERE

• Saturday, November 5, 9am-12pm: Water Quality Watchers: Stream Cleanup Event. Register HERE

• Sunday, November 6, 9am-12pm: Free the Trees: PVSP Avalon. Register HERE

• Saturday, November 12, 9am-12pm: Oella Cemetery Cleanup. Register HERE

• Sunday, November 20, 10am-1pm: Free the Trees: Bull Branch. Register HERE

Come prepared by:

• Dressing appropriately for the weather
• Wearing shoes that you don’t mind getting wet and muddy
• Wearing pants to avoid bug bites and poison ivy
• Wearing a hat
• Using bug spray and sunscreen
• Bringing water or a snack if you need one

If you are joining an event with a teacher, we will record your service hours. If you attend an event without a teacher, submit a picture of yourself at the event to Mr. Sporik and he will take care of the hours. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Sporik at Asporik@bcps.org.

**The CMS Spirit Wear Store is open for business!**

Need some CMS gear? Thanks to our PTSA, the CMS online school store is now available!

https://catonsvillemiddle22.itemorder.com/shop/home/

Sweatshirts, T-shirts, flannel pants and more, the CMS store has some great merchandise! Items will be delivered to Enrichment classes (Advisory) when they arrive.

**Appropriate Use of Technology:**

Just a reminder to parents and students that cell phones should be in lockers during class times. Students will continue to be able to use cell phones during lunch if appropriate cell phone use is observed. This includes not taking pictures of others without their consent.

**Aluminum Can Recycling is Back!**

Aluminum is one of the most recyclable materials that we use. Infinitely recyclable and highly durable, nearly 75 percent of all aluminum ever produced is still in use today. Aluminum is 100 percent recyclable and retains its
properties indefinitely. Aluminum is one of the only materials in the consumer disposal stream that more than pays for the cost of its own collection. Unfortunately, instead of recycling aluminum, people are burying it in landfills by throwing it in the trash.

Students at Catonsville Middle will have an opportunity to keep aluminum from reaching the landfill and earn service-learning hours in the process. Students can bring in **50 rinsed and crushed aluminum cans for 1 service-learning hour**. Proceeds from the aluminum can recycling program will benefit future environmental club projects. If you are interested in participating in the recycling program and earning service-learning hours, follow the directions below.

**Aluminum Recycling Procedures:**

1. Rinse empty cans
2. Shake out extra water
3. Crush the can as flat as you can (top to bottom saves space)
4. Package cans into a bag
5. Write your **name** on the bag
6. Bring the bag to room 22 (Mr. Sporik)

**Transportation Concerns:**

Catonsville Middle strives to send information regarding transportation delays or cancellations to families via email as soon as we are made aware from the Office of Transportation. In the afternoon, we receive information around 2:00 for buses that may be late or do not have a driver. The information is immediately sent home via email and students are provided with an opportunity contact their families. We understand that parents may not always be able to make changes to their schedules at the last minute and encourage families to have back-up plans to accommodate last minute bus changes. We can not accommodate students on other buses, due to safety issues associated with the number of students on our buses.

If you wish to contact transportation directly, the numbers below may be helpful.

- 443-809-4321 (Main)
- 443-809-1435 (Arbutus Bus Lot)

We appreciate the support of our families, and the prompt communication when a bus does not show up.