



BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the new school year! As we embark on this exciting journey of learning and growth, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all our returning families and those who are joining us for the first time. We are excited to work with each of you to ensure a successful academic year for your child(ren).

At the Cato-Meridian Central School District, we are dedicated to providing an exceptional educational experience that nurtures the intellectual, emotional, and social development of all our students. Our team of committed teachers and staff is focused on creating a safe and inclusive learning environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential.

This year, we are proud to build upon our new district mission statement: "Prepare all students for success through a variety of opportunities that help them learn and grow toward their potential." We are excited to be one of the first school districts in Cayuga County to offer student pathways in conjunction with Cayuga Community College. For the 2024-2025 school year, our pathways include Teaching/Teaching Assistant, Medical, Criminal Justice, and Advanced Manufacturing. These pathways will provide a more meaningful and engaging high school experience for many of our students.

I am also pleased to share that, after a long submission process with the New York State Education Department (NYSED), we are ready to begin the majority of the \$33.1 million capital project. Once the bids are accepted, construction will commence on our campus and will continue into the 2025-2026 school year. The project represents a significant investment in our facilities and will enhance the learning environment for our students.

Open communication is essential to our shared success, and we encourage ongoing dialogue between parents and teachers. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, school principal, or our district office.

As we navigate these times of uncertainty, we want to assure you that your child's safety and well-being remain our top priority. This year, we have implemented several safety and security enhancements, including door hardware hardening, video camera upgrades, panic buttons, and outdoor strobe lights.

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for entrusting your child's education to us. We understand the profound responsibility that comes with this privilege and are committed to providing the best possible education for each and every student.

Let us work together to make this school year a remarkable and rewarding experience for all. I am excited about the journey ahead and look forward to celebrating the achievements of our students.

Thank you for being a valued part of the C-M family.

Sincerely,

Dr. Terry L. Ward
Superintendent

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First Day of School: Tuesday, September 3

LETTERS FROM



Dear Cato-Meridian Families,

Welcome to a brand-new school year! As we open our doors to new faces and welcome back familiar ones, I want to take a moment to share a special story that I believe captures the spirit of perseverance, dedication, and joy that we value so much.

Many of you may have heard of Olympic medalist (and NY native) Kate Douglass, an extraordinary swimmer who has captured the world's attention with her incredible achievements. But there's one story about Kate that truly stands out—her lucky gold rubber duck. This little duck became a symbol of her determination and positive spirit, accompanying her on many of her swimming competitions. Just as Kate never gave up, even when challenges seemed insurmountable, she reminds us that success often comes from the small things that keep us motivated and focused.

On the last day for staff in June, each staff member chose a duck as they ducked out for summer. They were asked to take their duck on their summer adventures and share photos with their duck. These ducks experienced lots of fun and were even named! (Be sure to ask the adults in our building about their duck!) I hope that their duck will bring them determination, motivation and a positive spirit as they support and guide your child(ren).



As we begin this school year, I encourage each of our students to find their own "gold rubber duck"—something that inspires them, makes them smile, and reminds them to keep pushing forward, no matter what. Whether it's a favorite book, a piece of artwork, or a special memory, let it be a source of strength and encouragement as they tackle new challenges and reach for new heights.

Our teachers and staff have been working hard to prepare for an amazing year, filled with exciting learning opportunities, fun activities, and new friendships. We are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment where every student can thrive.

Let's make this year one to remember, filled with laughter, learning, and growth. Together, we can achieve great things, just like Kate Douglass—and maybe even find a little bit of magic in a gold rubber duck along the way.

Please regularly check our Parent Square and school website for important information and dates. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and district. Feel free to reach out to me at any time as I look forward to continuing a strong partnership with you. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Warmest regards,

Mrs. Danielle Mahoney

Elementary School Principal

OUR PRINCIPALS



Welcome Back C-M Jr.-Sr. HS Students and Families,

I am thrilled to welcome each and every one of you back to school! As your principal, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for the incredible year that lies ahead. I hope your summer was filled with joy, relaxation, and memorable adventures.

Our school is not just a place of learning; it's a community where we support and uplift one another. This year, we will continue to foster an environment where you feel valued, inspired, and ready to achieve your best. Our theme for this year is "Blue Devils Demonstrate Kindness." We

have many exciting events and activities planned that will make this school year unforgettable. Our students will be returning to school on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. Our drop off and pick up procedures will remain the same. The students who ride the bus will enter through the large set of doors in the front of the building. Students will be allowed in the building starting at 7:30 AM with a warning bell ringing at 7:38 AM. All students are expected to be in their **first period class by 7:40 AM** to start our day. We will not be having a separate homeroom. Please be sure to be here on time as we continue to strive for excellent attendance. Dismissal will begin at 2:19 PM. Student schedules will be available on School Tool at the end of August.

This summer has been a busy one for our maintenance crew. We have made some temporary office moves to prepare for the upcoming construction. The Jr./Sr. Main office is on the first floor, and will now be used as our secured entrance. Also, located in new places in the building are the counseling offices in the music suite, Mr. Wren is located in room 110, Mrs. Wheeler's office, and she will be in the P.E. office. There are lots of signs to help guide you on your way.

As social-emotional health continues to be at the forefront of our work here, we are excited to increase our mental health support by partnering with some community agencies. We will have a part-time MH counselor, Bridgette Cool from Cayuga County Mental Health, Meshelle Lesner from Peaceful Schools, full-time and a bi-weekly CHAD counselor. Together, we look forward to educating our students and building their resilience skills and mental wellness.

Please help me in welcoming a few new staff members at C-M Jr.-Sr. High School:

- Tyler Eighmey: Music Teacher, Chorus
- Levi Dowd: Long-Term Substitute (Mrs. Sicurella), Instrumental Music
- David Dominick: School Resource Officer
- Madison Patchin: School Counselor

Remember, learning can be an adventure, and school spirit is all about making every day count! Let's fill our hallways with laughter, kindness, and enthusiasm. Together, we will create memories, reach new heights, and have a lot of fun along the way.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me anytime at (315)626-3439, ext. 3801, email me at jkelly@catomeridian.org or reach out on Parent Square.

Here's to an amazing year full of growth, friendship, success, and kindness!

With school spirit and excitement,

Ms. Jennifer Kelly

Junior-Senior High School Principal



Curriculum Update:



Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year! As we prepare to begin a new school year, we are excited to share some highlights and updates from our district. This summer has been a productive and enriching time for both our students and staff.

SUMMER ACADEMY AND 9-12 SUMMER SCHOOL SUCCESS

We are thrilled to report the success of our Summer Academy in collaboration with MIC Recreation. This program provided our students with engaging and educational activities that kept their minds active and ready for the new school year.

Our Summer School for grades 9-12 was a great success, offering students the opportunity to catch up in their studies. The dedication of our students and staff ensured that everyone had a meaningful and productive summer session.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR TEACHERS

Our teachers have been busy this summer enhancing their skills and preparing for the upcoming school year. Here are some key areas of focus:

Enhancing Writing Instruction: Teachers explored new strategies to help our elementary students become more confident and effective writers.

Best Practices with Math Assessments: We focused on the latest best practices to ensure our math assessments are effective and meaningful.

Data-Driven Instruction: Analyzing data to inform instruction is crucial, and our teachers are now better equipped to use this data to support student learning.

Aligning Curriculum Maps and Pacing Guides: Our team worked on aligning our curriculum maps and pacing guides with essential standards to ensure consistency and clarity across all grade levels.

Professional Learning Communities: Educators engaged in a PLC conference in Rochester to deepen their collaborative practices and enhance student learning outcomes as part of our ongoing commitment to being a Professional Learning Community.

These professional development opportunities are directly aligned with our district vision: We are a welcoming school community that prepares all students by providing individualized and challenging experiences. We are committed to offering personalized and rigorous educational experiences that meet the needs of every student.

As we look forward to the new school year, we are excited about the opportunities ahead and the continued growth of our students. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Jennifer Dorschel

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment



Business Office News:



Ms. Elizabeth Kupiec

Assistant Superintendent

FEDERAL GRANT UPDATE:

Cato-Meridian Central Schools has utilized federal funds for our new ADA accessible playground (completed July 2024). For more specific information regarding the Federal Stimulus Plan, please refer to the Cato-Meridian Central School District website (www.catomeridian.org) under Required Notices. In addition, Cato-Meridian has received funding for Stronger Connections. This is a grant that is allowing us to provide more mental health supports for our students and families. This grant is funded through 2026. In addition, Cato-Meridian is partnering with the YMCA to provide Free After School Care to our families. Stay tuned for more information as this program is implemented.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS:

Cato-Meridian will be able to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students for the upcoming school year. In order to continue this program, it is critical that all families complete the Free and Reduced Lunch Application. Applications will be sent home in the District Calendar, but can also be found on the Cato-Meridian Central School District website (www.catomeridian.org) under Departments > Food Services > Free and Reduced Lunch Information.

ATHLETICS UPDATE



Dear Cato-Meridian Community:

We have been busy this summer preparing for an exciting year of athletic opportunities for all our student-athletes. This fall, our students can choose from field hockey, cross country, cheerleading, football, and JV/V volleyball. We will also offer boys' modified and varsity soccer, hosted by Jordan-Elbridge, and we will partner with

Hannibal for varsity girls' soccer. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Wren.

All teams will use Schedule Galaxy to post games and practice schedules. For more information, please visit: catomeridian.org -> Athletics -> Sports Calendar.

We look forward to an exciting season of fall sports! Junior varsity and varsity football teams began practices on Wednesday, August 21st. All other varsity and junior varsity fall sports, as well as modified football, will begin on Monday, August 26th.

Other modified sports programs, including cross country, field hockey, and soccer, will begin on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Wren

Athletic Director and Student Services Coordinator

UPCOMING ATHLETIC EVENTS:

Fall Sports Parent Meeting:

When: Monday, August 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM

Where: Junior-Senior High School Gym

Varsity, JV, and Modified Fall Sports Pictures:

Wednesday, September 11, 2024,

from 2:00-5:00 PM.

Homecoming Week will begin on Monday, September 30th this year. Please check our schedule of events on Schedule Galaxy, and we will send out more information on Parent Square.

Varsity Sports Awards:

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 (details to follow).



Sports Boosters is always looking for volunteers!

You can help in the following ways:

- Attend a CM Sports Booster Club Meeting
- Work during a game in one of the concession stands
- Give a donation

Please email Mrs. Vonda Wheeler in the athletic office if you can help or have any questions about our Sports Boosters (vwheeler@catomeridian.org).



Coaches will use Parent Square to communicate with parents and students about all team-related information. Please make sure you download the app on your phone and let us know if you are not receiving messages.



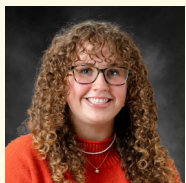
MEET OUR

Elementary



NANCY PECKHAM *Pre-K Teacher*

Lifelong resident, Nancy Peckham, is home to teach! She will be joining our staff as a pre-K teacher and couldn't be happier. Mrs. Peckham and her husband, Ed, moved to Cato in 1985. Her three children are Cato-Meridian alumni and residents of our district along with their children. Mrs. Peckham enjoys boating and fishing on Cross Lake, snowmobiling, camping, and riding their motorcycle.



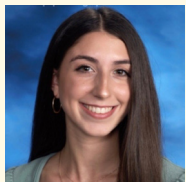
ELANA VERBRIDGE-DAY *4th Grade Teacher*

We are thrilled to welcome back Miss Elana Verbridge-Day as the long-term substitute teacher for Mrs. Coleman this year in 4th grade! Miss "V" was a student teacher last fall, then a daily and long-term substitute in the spring. She has two cats (Dumplin and Mochi), enjoys hiking, and reading. Her favorite animal is the capybara.



FALLON MORRIS *5th Grade Teacher*

This year we welcome another teacher with the last name Morris! Miss Fallon Morris joins us after having taught 4th grade in Oswego, NY. Miss Morris is excited to be joining our 5th grade team! She enjoys hiking, running, golfing, and spending time with her family and friends. Miss Morris's favorite snacks are Cheez-Its!



CAROLINE TRYTEK *5th Grade Teacher*

Our 5th grade students will be enjoying a second new teacher, Caroline Trytek. Miss Trytek will be traveling to us from Marcellus. In her free time she enjoys traveling, camping, hiking and reading historical fiction, fiction, and mystery novels. She has two black cats named Skye (Skywalker) and Mando (Mandalorian). Miss Trytek enjoys watching football and baseball. Her favorite teams are the NY Yankees and the Dallas Cowboys.



SARAH HILL *Music Teacher*

Our music department has been blessed with the talents of Ms. Sarah Hill. Ms. Hill has taught elementary music for the past eight years. She will be teaching our general music classes along with 5th grade band and instrumental lessons. Ms. Hill enjoys playing trivia with friends, cheering for her favorite sports teams (Go Bills!) and traveling with friends and family. She has two cats named Maestro and Oliver. A fun fact about Ms. Hill is that she can play more than a dozen instruments!



BRITTANY HOUPPERT *Social Worker*

Mrs. Brittany Houppert joins us this year as a social worker. Her husband, three year old daughter, 15 month old son, two cats (Steve and Frank) and she moved to the area from the Thousand Islands two years ago. They enjoy spending time at their family lake house boating, paddle boarding and kayaking.



TAYLOR WEESE *Psychologist*

We are pleased to officially introduce Mr. Taylor Weese as our elementary school psychologist. Mr. Weese started with us this past May, yet did not have the opportunity to meet many of you. His hobbies are video games, anime, and old monster movies. He and his wife have a dog, three cats, and three rats!?! Mr. Weese is the fourth generation in his family to work in education, yet initially he went to culinary school.

NEW STAFF!



Jr.-Sr. High School



DAVID DOMINICK *School Resource Officer*

David Dominick is joining the Jr./Sr. High School as our new School Resource Officer (SRO). David is a seasoned leader from the New York State Police, where he streamlined station operations, fostered inter-agency collaborations for emergency responses, and enhanced law enforcement protocols. He has a proven track record in effective communication and decision-making, ensuring public safety and efficient service delivery. In his spare time, he is actively involved in his church family and designates a large portion of his time to working with youth. David's looking forward to working in a school and using his years of experience to provide a safe, educational learning environment.



MADISON PATCHIN *Counselor*

Madison Patchin is a recent graduate from St. Bonaventure University. She is from Weedsport and appreciates a small close-knit community. She is a cat mom and enjoys reading, seeing movies, traveling, and spending time with family. Madison is honored to start her career as a school counselor in Cato-Meridian, where she has already been able to grow and build connections for the last year and a half as an intern. She looks forward to fostering an environment of growth, inclusivity, and kindness.



TYLER EIGHMEY *Music Teacher*

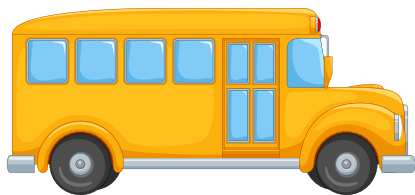
Tyler Eighmey is a classically trained tenor living in Syracuse, NY. Praised for his versatile voice, Tyler will be our vocal music teacher, working with 5-12 choral ensembles as well as general music classes. Tyler has sung in many different venues and concerts, including musical theater, opera, recitals and churches around the country. Lately, he has been directing musicals and teaching music in CNY. Recent directing credits include TRW's *Addams Family: School Edition* with Manlius Pebble Hill School, MTI's *Shrek The Musical Jr.* and *Wonderland: Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure* with Redhouse Arts Center. He is thrilled to be at Cato-Meridian and to begin working on *Mean Girls!*



LEVI DOWD *Long-Term Substitute Music Teacher*

Levi Dowd graduated from Red Creek High School in 2014, then enlisted in the Marine Corps for 5 years. He spent time in Hawaii, Australia, Jordan, and the Philippines and trained with fine service men and women from all over the world. He then earned his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education at SUNY Fredonia, where he studied with professors including Barry Kilpatrick and Jonathan Lombardo. In all his travels he has enjoyed reading, hiking, and swimming. He is very much looking forward to beginning his music teaching career so close to home at Cato-Meridian.





BUS ROUTES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



Bus #46: Mr. Dudzinski

6:38 A.M. Leave C-M
6:45 A.M. Schooley Rd
6:48 A.M. Drake Rd
6:57 A.M. White Rd
7:02 A.M. Johnnycake Hill Rd
7:04 A.M. Rt 370 W
7:07 A.M. Homberg Rd
7:10 A.M. Old State Rd
7:12 A.M. Rt 370
7:15 A.M. Christopher Dr
7:16 A.M. Hillview Dr
7:17 A.M. Sherwood Dr
7:22 A.M. Maple St (Elem)
7:22 A.M. Mechanic St (HS)
7:25 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



Bus #48: Mr. McGraw

6:45 A.M. Leave C-M
6:49 A.M. Lysander Rd
6:52 A.M. Filkins Rd (Elem)
7:00 A.M. Avery Rd
7:04 A.M. County Line Rd
7:07 A.M. Allen Rd
7:10 A.M. Southard Rd
7:15 A.M. Rt 176
7:17 A.M. Reagen Lee Ln
7:19 A.M. Sunnyside Rd
7:21 A.M. Misty Meadow Dr
7:25 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



Bus #49: Ms. VanEtten

6:30 A.M. Leave C-M
6:34 A.M. Farnam Rd
6:37 A.M. Dalton Rd
6:41 A.M. Humphrey Rd
6:43 A.M. Lysander Rd
6:50 A.M. Maurer Rd
6:53 A.M. Floridaville Rd
7:01 A.M. Guernsey Rd
7:04 A.M. White Cemetery Rd
7:06 A.M. Terpening Rd
7:08 A.M. Arnold Rd
7:12 A.M. White Cemetery Rd
7:15 A.M. Lysander Rd
7:18 A.M. Ira Hill Rd
7:20 A.M. Farnam Rd
7:23 A.M. Dalton Rd
7:25 A.M. Bradt Rd to C-M



Bus #51: Mrs. White

6:40 A.M. Leave C-M
6:42 A.M. Wise Rd
6:45 A.M. Veley Rd
6:46 A.M. Pople Rd
6:53 A.M. Cummings Rd
6:55 A.M. Pople Rd
7:05 A.M. Ira Station Rd
7:08 A.M. Watkins Rd
7:11 A.M. Brandt Rd
7:14 A.M. Pople Rd
7:18 A.M. Mott Rd
7:20 A.M. Watkins Rd
7:22 A.M. Rt 34
7:24 A.M. Wise Rd
7:30 A.M. Bradt Rd to C-M



Bus #52: Mrs. Steele

6:45 A.M. Leave C-M
6:48 A.M. Ferris Rd
6:55 A.M. Ira Hill Rd
6:57 A.M. Farnam Rd
7:00 A.M. Tindall Rd
7:07 A.M. Rt 176
7:10 A.M. Baldwin Rd
7:13 A.M. Rt 176
7:18 A.M. Bonta Bridge Rd
7:20 A.M. Hollister St
7:22 A.M. Bonta Bidge Rd
7:25 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



Bus #54: Mr. Maloney

6:40 A.M. Leave C-M
6:48 A.M. Cooper St
6:52 A.M. Rt 38
6:59 A.M. Lake Rd
7:02 A.M. Rt 38
7:05 A.M. Bush Hill Rd
7:07 A.M. Spookwoods Rd
7:10 A.M. Slayton Rd
7:12 A.M. Montana Rd
7:15 A.M. Slayton Rd
7:25 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



The following bus routes have been established for Cato-Meridian Central School for the 2024-25 school year. **Please note changes that have been made from previous years bus routes.** Approximate times are listed below for the FIRST morning pick-up for grades 7-12 (unless noted). The SECOND morning pick-up is for grades Pre-K-6, which will be approximately one hour later. The routes could vary slightly between the two runs. **(These are approximate times).**



**Bus #55:
Mrs. Wellington**

6:23 A.M. Leave C-M
6:35 A.M. Peachblow Rd
6:40 A.M. Howell Rd
6:44 A.M. Duck Lake Rd
6:48 A.M. Curran Rd
6:50 A.M. Terwilliger Rd
6:53 A.M. Blass Rd
7:00 A.M. Duck Lake Rd
7:05 A.M. Swamp Rd
7:15 A.M. West Main St
7:25 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



**Bus #57:
Mrs. Phillips**

6:40 A.M. Leave C-M
6:42 A.M. Rt 34 S
6:45 A.M. Hunter Rd (HS)
7:45 A.M. VanHorn Rd (Elem) 2nd Trip
6:50 A.M. Baker Rd
7:49 A.M. Egypt Rd (Elem) 2nd Trip
7:52 A.M. Baker Rd (Elem) 2nd Trip
7:00 A.M. Smith Rd
7:08 A.M. Brick Church Rd
7:15 A.M. Rt 34
8:10 A.M. Shortcut Rd (Elem) 2nd Trip
8:15 A.M. Smithler Rd (Elem) 2nd Trip
7:20 A.M. Legion St/Millard Ave
7:21 A.M. South St
7:25 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



**Bus #58:
Mrs. Pascal**

6:40 A.M. Leave C-M
6:45 A.M. Short Cut Rd (HS)
6:52 A.M. Lockwood Rd
6:53 A.M. Slab City Rd
6:57 A.M. Bonta Bridge Rd
7:00 A.M. Jorolemon Rd
7:03 A.M. Jordan Rd
7:06 A.M. Anchor Weigh
7:08 A.M. Jordan Rd
7:12 A.M. Sherman Rd
7:45 A.M. Cottrell Rd (Elem) 2nd Trip
7:18 A.M. Jordan Rd
7:20 A.M. Meyers Rd
7:25 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



**Bus #59:
Mrs. Barr**

6:47 A.M. Leave C-M
6:50 A.M. Bradt Rd
6:55 A.M. Bethel Rd
6:58 A.M. Rt 34 N
7:00 A.M. Robinson Rd
7:06 A.M. Ira Station Rd
7:08 A.M. Pierce Rd
7:10 A.M. Follett Rd
7:12 A.M. Ira Station Rd
7:14 A.M. Rt 34 to Cato
7:17 A.M. Mechanic St (Elem)
7:23 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



**Bus #60:
Mrs. Bratt**

6:35 A.M. Leave C-M
6:40 A.M. Duger Rd
6:49 A.M. Plainville Rd
6:52 A.M. Sprague Rd
6:54 A.M. Tater Rd
6:58 A.M. Farnham Rd
7:02 A.M. Cross Lake Rd
7:04 A.M. Tater Rd
7:10 A.M. White Rd
7:12 A.M. Titus Rd
7:14 A.M. White Rd
7:17 A.M. Weller Rd
7:20 A.M. Calkins Rd
7:22 A.M. Rt 370
7:24 A.M. Everts Rd
7:25 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M

Welcome Back!

**Let's start the new school year
with a few important bus safety
reminders:**

- * Please be out 5 minutes before the bus is to arrive.
- * Stay back from the road, stay in your driveway until the bus has come to a complete stop or the driver instructs you to cross.
- * Use the handrail to enter the bus, no rushing.
- * Find a seat promptly.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES:



Dear Cato-Meridian Families,

Welcome back to another exciting school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for the adventures that lie ahead. As we gear up for the new academic year, we want to share some important updates to ensure a successful and enriching experience for everyone.

This year, we are continuing our dedicated work in Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), building upon the strong foundation we've established. Our focus remains on deepening and enhancing the practices we've already put in place to support our students' emotional and social development. By integrating SEL more deeply into our curriculum and daily interactions, we aim to provide students with even more robust tools for managing their emotions, setting and achieving goals, and fostering positive relationships. Our goal is to strengthen the impact of SEL on reducing stress, improving focus, and building resilience among our students. With staff additions in both schools, this continued effort for SEL support is magnified. In the elementary school, we would like to welcome Brittany Houppert, our new School Social Worker. Brittany will continue to support student mental health and help with community resources. In the Jr./Sr. High School, I would like to welcome back Madison Patchin as a school counselor. Madison has been a counseling intern over the past year, working district wide in both schools. Madison will be full time in the Jr/Sr High as a counselor, working and leading work in mental health. Cato-Meridian will also have the honor to welcome a few outside support from

the county in the area of mental health. We will welcome a SELI (Social-Emotional Learning Interventionist) from Peaceful Schools to support our learning. In working with Cayuga County Mental Health, there will also be support in the form of a mental health counselor to work with our staff in the area of DBT a few times a week. And lastly, we will be welcoming back a CHAD mental health counselor to work with kids district wide throughout the school year.

In alignment with our strategic plan, we are also focusing on strengthening our connections with community agencies. Enhancing these partnerships is a priority for us this year, as we believe that collaborative efforts with local organizations will provide additional support and resources for our students and families. By working closely with community partners, we aim to enrich our educational environment and address the diverse needs of our school community.

Strong partnerships between home and school are essential for student success. Your involvement and support are crucial to fostering a positive and productive learning environment. Thank you for your continuous support and partnership! Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Sincerely,

Mr. Tyler Baker

Director of Pupil Personnel Services

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Greetings from the Cato-Meridian Technology Department!



I hope that the summer has provided you with some rest, relaxation, and time with your families before the 24-25 school year kicks off. A lot has changed in the world of educational technology in the past few years, including the accelerated rise of AI, the ubiquity of social media, and the continued conversations around appropriate use of cellphones in schools. At Cato-Meridian, we are focused on providing students with access and exposure to meaningful technology integration to

enhance and enrich the curriculum and better prepare all learners to navigate the unique obstacles they will encounter. Above all, the tech department is focused on providing a safe learning environment for students, which includes robust cybersecurity, but also lessons in digital citizenship and safe online practices. Our goal is to instruct all students how to safely use the resources around them to aid and amplify their learning in a safe and responsible manner.

If you are interested in reading more about keeping your child safe online, scan the QR code for resources and guides on social media, gaming consoles, streaming services, and different devices.

Sincerely,

Mr. Lucas Smith

Director of Technology



NEW Playground!



On Tuesday, July 9th, we held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of our new playground. Cheers and laughter filled the air as our Summer Academy students explored the slides, climbers, musical areas, swings, and so much more. We look forward to all of the adventures to come on our new playground!



MEDIA OPT-OUT

Please note: If you choose to "opt-out," your student's accomplishments will not be showcased in any form. This includes all extracurricular activities and performances.

The Cato-Meridian Central School District looks forward to sharing student and staff achievements with the broader community throughout the 2024-2025 school year. To accomplish this, the Public Relations Department and Cato-Meridian staff may take photographs and/or video footage of students as they participate in academic, artistic, and athletic events, as well as other school activities. These photographs and videos may appear in various materials disseminated to the public, including the Cato-Meridian Central School District website, press releases, brochures, social media pages, calendars, newspapers, and other channels deemed appropriate by the Cato-Meridian Central School District. At times, we may also publicize student work.

If you do not wish to have your student's name/photo/work publicized for these purposes, please fill out the Media Opt-Out form at the QR code to the right.



Local Postal Customer

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 28.....	7 th Grade Orientation, 5:30-7 PM	September 28	Class of 2025 Bottle Drive, 9-11 AM
	9 th Grade Orientation, 7-8 PM		Jr. Drama Performance, 1 PM
September 3	First Day of School	September 30	BOE Meeting, 6 PM
September 6	Senior Sunrise Breakfast, 6 AM	October 1 & 2	Elementary Student Photos
September 9	BOE Meeting, 6 PM	October 3	2-Hour Delay
September 25	Jr./Sr. HS Open House, 6 PM		Elementary School Open House, 6-7:30 PM
September 27	Jr. Drama Performance, 6:30 PM	October 4	Homecoming Football Game, 7 PM
		October 5	Gr. 9-12 Homecoming Dance



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