



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 wanted to take a moment to extend a warm welcome to all our returning families and those who are joining us for the first time. We look forward to working with each of you to ensure a successful academic year for your child(ren).

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

This year, we will build upon our district strategic plan by renewing our current strategic plan. Dr. Kevin McGowan, currently the National Superintendent of the Year in the United States, will lead our process. We believe in the power of collaboration between parents, teachers, and the community to create a strong strategic plan for our school district. Together we can inspire a love for learning and instill the values necessary for success both inside and outside the classroom.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, we are excited to introduce some new initiatives and enhancements to our curriculum and facilities this year. As you know, we are in the final stages of planning our capital project. Submissions to the New York State Education Department Office of Facilities Planning will begin in September. Work is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2024. This work is very exciting. In the area of curriculum, our K-6 teachers have been hard at work this summer to prepare for our new Math Series, called enVision. Our goal is to ensure that our students receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for the challenges of the future. We believe our facility enhancements and updates in a variety of curricular areas will ensure your child continued success post graduation.

Communication is vital to our shared success, and we encourage open dialogue between parents and teachers. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, school principal, or the 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. Our safety and security enhancements include instant lockdown buttons, video door stations and outdoor strobe lights. These enhancements will be installed within the next 6 months.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to you for entrusting your child's education with 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 part of the C-M family.

Sincerely,

Dr. Terry L. Ward
Superintendent

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First Day of School: Tuesday, September 5

Letters From Our Principals



Hello Cato-Meridian families! As we embark on another wonderful school year, it brings me great pride and joy to welcome our returning students and their families, as well as our new students and families. Each year begins with an array of emotions for everyone. We are here to support each and every individual in our school community. In doing so, we have many resources and look forward to sharing them with you. Our commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment remains steadfast. We believe in creating a space where every individual feels valued, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential. We do so by embracing diversity, celebrating achievements, and supporting one another in times of need.

Our teachers have spent their summer developing curriculum, learning new programs, revising their lessons and collaborating with their colleagues to prepare for a successful year. We are confident that our students will experience rigorous curriculum while enjoying every aspect of elementary school. Our goal is to ensure that our students thrive

academically, socially, and emotionally.

We all are looking forward to the start of the 2023-2024 school year! Smiles, laughter, excitement, and an abundance of learning will soon fill our buildings as new memories are made and our students soak up new knowledge. Join us in approaching this school year with a sense of curiosity and eagerness, ready to explore new experiences and create lasting memories. Together, we will continue to shape a future for our students and prepare them for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

You are encouraged to regularly visit our Parent Square and the District website for important information and dates. A more detailed letter regarding building procedures will follow at a later date.

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!

Warmest regards,

Mrs. Danielle Mahoney

Elementary School Principal



Welcome Back C-M Blue Devils and Families!

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the sunshine and having fun with family and friends. As we approach the beginning of our school year, I am eager to get all of our 7-12th graders back in the building, ready for another fantastic year.

The start of the school year is always filled with anticipation and eagerness. Students, staff and families are looking forward to what is going to be an exciting and enriching journey of learning, growth and opportunity.

The theme of this school year is "Devils make a Difference," and our building is committed to providing an outstanding educational experience that promotes a love of learning and encourages students to reach their highest potential. In whatever capacity their path takes them, we want to see them make a difference. Maybe the difference is in their interaction with peers, trying new and different courses/activities or just making a personal commitment in their own learning. As a staff we will continue to embrace differentiating our instruction for all learning styles and providing students with opportunities to prepare

them for future growth. Our goal for each student is to celebrate success, embrace challenges and become a well-rounded individual who is positively ready to face all of life's challenges.

As we continue to use ParentSquare as our communication method for individual teachers, school building or district use and athletics/clubs, please ensure all of your information is accurate in SchoolTool. If there are any questions or adjustments that need to be made, please contact Erin Barnhart in our counseling office by email ebarnhart@catomeridian.org or (315) 626-3439 ext. 3821.

I want to extend my gratitude and continued support and trust in our school. I look forward to my second year at Cato-Meridian and know that together we will make this year memorable and rewarding. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email @ jkelly@catomeridian.org or give me a call in the office at (315) 626-3439, ext. 3800. I look forward to seeing all our students back in school and ready to embark on this journey.

Warmest regards,

Ms. Jennifer Kelly

Junior-Senior High School Principal

Curriculum Update:



Greetings Families and Educators of our District,

As we embark on another exciting academic year, I am thrilled to share some important updates on the progress of our educational initiatives and the successes we've achieved together.

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new K-6 math series across our district, enVision Math. This cutting-edge curriculum has been carefully selected to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics for our students from kindergarten to sixth grade. enVision is designed to foster a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts, encourage critical thinking, and provide engaging learning experiences for all our young learners. Our teachers will have undergone comprehensive training to effectively implement this new series in their classrooms, ensuring that our students receive the highest quality math education. We are excited to witness the positive impact this program will have on our students' mathematical proficiency and overall academic growth.

At our district, we recognize the importance of collaboration and ongoing professional development for our educators. With that in mind, we are committed to nurturing our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to create a culture of continuous improvement. Our PLCs provide a platform for teachers to come together, share best practices, analyze student data, and collectively devise strategies to address challenges and support student success. By fostering a collaborative and supportive environment, we are empowering our teachers to further excel in their craft, resulting in enhanced instructional practices and, ultimately, improved student outcomes.

The recently concluded Summer Academy, in collaboration with MIC Recreation, was a resounding success! This unique program provided our students with a stimulating and enjoyable learning experience during the summer break. Through a blend of academic enrichment, creative STEAM activities, and physical education with the inclusion of swimming, our students continued to thrive even outside the regular academic year. Summer Academy not only helped prevent the summer slide, but also nurtured a love for learning and exploration. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated educators, staff, and volunteers who made this program possible and contributed to its overwhelming success.

As we move forward, I am confident that our collective efforts in implementing the enVision math series, fostering strong Professional Learning Communities, and delivering ongoing professional development will lead to greater achievements and opportunities for all our students. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence in education and ensure that every child in our district receives the best possible education to flourish in their academic journey.

Thank you for your unwavering support and partnership in shaping the future of our students.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Jennifer Dorschel

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

Business Office News



Ms. Elizabeth Kupiec

Assistant Superintendent

1. Capital Project Update:

Cato-Meridian Central School is currently in the final Design Development Phase of the Capital Project that was approved by the voters January 2023. We look forward to submitting final plans to the state in the fall with work beginning in the late spring/early summer of 2024.

2. Federal Grant Update:

Cato-Meridian Central School continues to utilize Federal Stimulus Funds as originally presented to the public. The original plan for HVAC was adjusted as the cost of this upgrade was significantly beyond the amount budgeted. The District has amended the grant for the replacement of our Elementary Playground. A new playground will be installed with ADA Accessible Equipment and Surfacing to ensure that all of our students can enjoy the playground safely. We are currently completing the planning and will have a final date for installation to share within the next few months. For more specific information regarding the Federal Stimulus Plan please refer to the Cato-Meridian Central School website (www.catomeridian.org) under Required Notices.

3. 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 website (www.catomeridian.org) under Department > Food Services > Free and Reduced Lunch Information.



Athletics Information



Dear Cato-Meridian Community:

We hope you are enjoying your summer and are getting ready for a great year of athletic opportunities for our student-athletes. This fall our students can choose from field hockey, JV/V volleyball, cross country, cheerleading, and football at Cato-Meridian. We also will be

offering boys' modified and varsity soccer hosted by Jordan-Elbridge. In addition, we will partner with Hannibal (host) for varsity girls' soccer.

All teams will use Schedule Galaxy to post games and practice schedules, found at the following path:

www.catomeridian.org -> Departments -> Athletics -> Sports Calendar.

We are looking forward to an exciting season of fall sports! Varsity and junior varsity fall sports began on Monday, August 22.

We also want to welcome all our student-athletes participating in our fall modified sports programs.

Modified football begins on Monday, August 28, 2023 and all other Modified Sports begin on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

Registrations were due on Tuesday, August 15, 2023. If you missed them email or call with any questions:

rwren@catomeridian.org or 315-626-3439 x3806



It will also be important for parents and students to get set up in ParentSquare as all coaches will use this tool to communicate. Please download the app today!

Upcoming Athletic Events:

Varsity, JV and Modified Fall Sports Pictures:

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Homecoming Week will begin on Monday, October 2nd this year

Cross Country Invitational at Cato-Meridian:

Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 9:00 AM

Varsity Sports Awards:

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Wren

Athletic Director and Student Services Coordinator



Sports Boosters Needs Your Help!

Please do your best to help in one of the following ways:

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

We could really use your help. Please email Mrs. Vonda Wheeler (vwheeler@catomeridian.org) in the athletic office if you can help or have any questions.

Meet Our New Staff!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Jenafer Medina
6th Grade Teacher

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Medina to our school where she will be teaching sixth grade, math specifically. She has taught a variety of grade levels, including college. She enjoys jet skiing and boating on Cross Lake, where she has a camp. A fun fact about Ms. Medina is that in April, she completed a 10 mile marathon in Disney World with her daughter, Meagan (even though she's not a runner and has never been in a race). Let's sign her up for track!



Marianne Kent
6th Grade Teacher

We are thrilled to have a former Blue Devil come home to teach! Marianne Kent (formerly Hirsh) received her degrees from SUNY Oswego and has been teaching at Minetto Elementary for the past six years. This year, she will be teaching sixth grade ELA. Marianne enjoys cheering on her favorite sports teams- the Philadelphia Eagles and Syracuse Orange. In the summer she enjoys camping trips with her family, going to concerts, and spending time with her husband and three children- Owen, Carson and Jordyn.

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Maggie Van Laere
Math Teacher

Maggie is originally from Long Island. After graduating from SUNY Oswego, she decided to reside in Upstate New York in the Cato area. In her free time, she loves attending concerts and spending time outdoors. She considers it a privilege to start her teaching career here at Cato-Meridian Junior-Senior High School, and she feels grateful that she gets to be a part of such a great community. Maggie believes that as an educator, being able to help students overcome challenges and build their confidence is one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching. She hopes to empower and foster growth for all learners.



Get to Know Our New Administrators!



Julie Criss
CPSE/CSE Chair



Tyler Baker
*Assistant Principal/
Social-Emotional
Learning Coordinator*





BUS ROUTES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR



Bus #42: **Mrs. Bratt**

6:35 A.M. Leave C-M
6:40 A.M. Duger Rd
6:49 A.M. Plainville Rd
6:50 A.M. Sprague Rd
6:52 A.M. Tater Rd
6:57 A.M. Farmham Rd
6:59 A.M. Cross Lake Rd
7:04 A.M. Tater Rd
7:10 A.M. White Rd
7:11 A.M. Titus Rd
7:12 A.M. White Rd
7:13 A.M. Weller Rd
7:15 A.M. Calkins Rd
7:17 A.M. Rt 370
7:18 A.M. Everts Rd
7:20 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



Bus #48: **Mr. McGraw**

6:35 A.M. Leave C-M
6:45 A.M. Calkins Rd
6:52 A.M. Avery Rd
6:55 A.M. County Line Rd
6:57 A.M. Allen Rd
7:02 A.M. Southard Rd
7:05 A.M. Rt 176
7:07 A.M. Raegan Lee Ln
7:10 A.M. Sunnyside Rd
7:12 A.M. Misty Meadows Dr
7:15 A.M. Bonta Bridge Rd
7:17 A.M. Hollister St
7:20 A.M. Bonta Bridge Rd
7:23 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



Bus #45: **Mrs. Barr**

6:43 A.M. Leave C-M
6:50 A.M. Bratt Rd
6:55 A.M. Bethel Rd
6:58 A.M. Rt 34 N
7:00 A.M. Robinson Rd
7:06 A.M. Pierce Rd
7:08 A.M. Follett Rd
7:11 A.M. Ira Station Rd
7:12 A.M. Rt 34 to Cato
7:15 A.M. Mechanic St (Elem)
7:20 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



Bus #49: **Ms. VanEtten**

6:31 A.M. Leave C-M
6:38 A.M. Farnam Rd
6:44 A.M. Humphrey Rd
6:47 A.M. Lysander Rd
6:49 A.M. Carter Rd
6:50 A.M. Maurer Rd
6:53 A.M. Floridaville Rd
6:58 A.M. Guernsey Rd
7:00 A.M. White Cemetery Rd
7:02 A.M. Terpening Rd
7:03 A.M. Arnold Rd
7:05 A.M. White Cemetery Rd
7:09 A.M. Lysander Rd
7:12 A.M. Ira Hill Rd
7:14 A.M. Farnam Rd
7:17 A.M. Dalton Rd
7:20 A.M. Bratt Rd to C-M



Bus #46: **Mr. Dudzinski**

6:44 A.M. Leave C-M
6:50 A.M. Schooley Rd
6:56 A.M. Drake Rd
7:00 A.M. Rt 370 W
7:04 A.M. Johnnycake Hill Rd
7:08 A.M. Rt 370 W
7:10 A.M. Homberg Rd
7:12 A.M. Old State Rd
7:15 A.M. Rt 370
7:17 A.M. Christopher Dr
7:18 A.M. Hillview Dr
7:20 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 #51: **Mrs. White**

6:45 A.M. Leave C-M
6:47 A.M. Dalton Rd
6:49 A.M. Rt 34
6:51 A.M. Veley Rd
6:54 A.M. Pople Rd
6:58 A.M. Cummings Rd
7:02 A.M. Pople Rd
7:10 A.M. Ira Station Rd
7:15 A.M. Watkins Rd
7:17 A.M. Brandt Rd
7:19 A.M. Pople Rd
7:20 A.M. Mott Rd
7:22 A.M. Watkins Rd
7:24 A.M. Rt 34
7:26 A.M. Wise Rd
7:29 A.M. Bratt Rd to C-M

The following bus routes have been established for Cato-Meridian Central School for the 2023-24 school year. **Please note changes that have been made from previous years bus routes.** Times listed below are the FIRST morning pick-up times for grades 7-12. The SECOND morning pick-up is for grades Pre-K-6, which will be approximately one hour later, following the same routes. **(These are approximate times.)**



Bus #52: Mrs. Steele

6:45 A.M. Leave C-M
6:48 A.M. Ferris Rd
6:54 A.M. Ira Hill Rd
7:02 A.M. Farnam Rd
7:05 A.M. Tindall Rd
7:07 A.M. Rt 176
7:10 A.M. Baldwin Rd
7:13 A.M. Rt 176
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
6:56 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
7:17 A.M. Slayton Rd
7:25 A.M. East Main St to C-M



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
6:52 A.M. Duck Lake Rd
7:00 A.M. Swamp Rd
7:13 A.M. West Main St
7:20 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



Bus #57: Mrs. Phillips

6:40 A.M. Leave C-M
6:44 A.M. Rt 34 S
6:49 A.M. Smithler Rd
6:54 A.M. Short Cut Rd
7:00 A.M. Rt 34
7:02 A.M. Brick Church Rd
7:04 A.M. Smith Rd
7:10 A.M. Blake Rd
7:13 A.M. Baker Rd
7:18 A.M. Hunter Rd
7:20 A.M. Rt 34
7:22 A.M. Legion St/Millard Ave
7:24 A.M. South St
7:28 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M



Bus #58: Mrs. Pascal

6:45 A.M. Leave C-M
6:50 A.M. Short Cut Rd
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
7:07 A.M. Anchor Weigh
7:09 A.M. Jordan Rd
7:13 A.M. Sherman Rd
7:16 A.M. Cottrell Rd
7:18 A.M. Jordan Rd
7:20 A.M. Meyers Rd
7:23 A.M. Rt 370 to C-M
**Route reversed this year*

Welcome Back!

We want to 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



Cato-Meridian Central School District
2851 Route 370
Cato, NY 13033
315.626.3439
www.catomeridian.org

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Upcoming Events

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| August 29..... | PreK/K Meet & Greet, 10 AM | October 2-6 | PTO Book Fair (Elementary School) |
| September 5 | First Day of School | October 2-6 | Homecoming Week |
| September 8 | PTO Back to School BBQ, 3 PM | October 5 | Elementary School Open House, 6 PM |
| September 11 | BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM | October 6 | Two-Hour Delay (Scheduled) |
| September 21 | Jr./Sr. HS Open House, 6 PM | October 6 | Homecoming Palooza, 5:30 PM
& Football Game, 7 PM |
| September 25 | BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM | October 14 | Class of 2025 Bottle Drive |
| September 26/27 | Jr./Sr. HS Picture Day | October 23 | BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM |
| September 28 | Powderpuff Football Game, 7 PM | October 27/28 | Junior High Drama Production |
| September 28/29 | Elementary School Picture Day | | |



LOOKING FOR MORE RESOURCES?

Visit our Linktree to access
all of the important
district-wide info

