



*Cato Middle College High School  
8120 Grier Road  
Charlotte, NC 28215  
980-343-1452*

*“Preparing students for endless possibilities”*

July 17, 2024

Greetings Cato Middle College High School Scholars,

We're excited about the new school year and are busy planning for your arrival. The 2024-2025 school year at Cato Middle College High School (CMCHS) was a success! We finished the year with a 100% graduation rate. Our 93 Class of 2024 graduates earned more than \$9 million in reported scholarships and 74 students earned an associate degree! At CMCHS we focus on academic excellence and provide a safe, orderly, and supportive learning environment for all students.

This letter contains important information as you prepare for the school year. Thoroughly reviewing this letter will help you to understand protocols, procedures, and expectations. You will be held accountable for the information contained in this letter.

**School Schedule for August 8th-12th 2024:** Student schedules for these dates are linked [here](#). Please note dates and times for orientation, meetings, and training sessions. Plan accordingly as your attendance is required.

**Open House:** Scholars and parents are invited to a drop in Open House on *Tuesday, August 6th between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.* This is an opportunity to meet the Cato Middle College High School staff and pick up technology items and bus passes. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Parent Orientation:** New and/or existing parents(if need a refresher) should plan to attend our parent orientation. It is important that you understand how you can partner with the school and position your child for success at Cato Middle College High School. Working together, our students can achieve great things. Three 30

minute virtual parent orientation options are provided. You only need to choose *one*. Sign up to attend your session [HERE](#).

**Activity Fee:** Our program is overall free to students, but we do need each student at each grade level to pay an activity fee. This provides critical funding for student engagement, enrichment, and academic support activities throughout the school year. *The 2024-2025 class / activity fee for all scholars is \$25 and is due by 8/31/24.* Please use the chart below to find your specific grade level link to pay your grade level fees:

Grade Level	Online School Payment Link
Grade 11	<a href="https://osp.osmsinc.com/p/AZ374-251">https://osp.osmsinc.com/p/AZ374-251</a>
Grade 12	<a href="https://osp.osmsinc.com/p/AZ374-252">https://osp.osmsinc.com/p/AZ374-252</a>
Grade 13	<a href="https://osp.osmsinc.com/p/AZ374-241">https://osp.osmsinc.com/p/AZ374-241</a>

**Completion of Required Forms:** Please be on the look out for follow up communications regarding beginning of the year school/district required forms.

**Class Schedules:** High school classes can be found on PowerSchool. College classes can be found in CPCC's *My College* platform. Middle College High School students must be enrolled in a total of four or more classes, with at least one college course. *Students w/o an established college schedule for the fall should expect to hear from Errin Forges, CATO HS counselor and/or Megan O'Herron, CPCC advisor.*

**Schedule Changes:** All schedule change requests (CMCHS and CPCC) must be submitted to Mrs. Forges via the CMCHS Schedule Change Request Form in our Link Tree. Students who drop CPCC courses after the 10% date on the syllabus will receive a W, which converts to a WF on the CMS transcript. The 35% date that you will see on the CPCC course syllabus applies to "paying students" only. CPCC classes must not be changed without the permission of Mrs. Forges. The last day to change a high school class is **August 15, 2024**. Changes to the college schedule must be completed by **August 12, 2024**. If you need to make a change to either schedule, please contact Mrs. Errin Forges at [errine.forges@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:errine.forges@cms.k12.nc.us) and complete the form.

**Technology:** Cato provides various technology devices to all students to take home in support of their studies. Chromebooks, hotspots, and calculators are available upon request via the Technology Check-Out form in our Link Tree.

Students and parents must sign the Memorandum of Understanding and all required documentation prior to receiving any device. Any lost or damaged items will result in a financial obligation. CMS does not cover financial obligations.

**Cell Phone, Air Pods, Earbuds, Headphones Policy:** Cell phones must be silenced and stored away during the instructional period unless the teacher grants permission for use during an instructional activity. Parents will be notified about cell phone issues or misuse of the policy. Air pods, earbuds and headphones are not permitted during class, unless the teacher grants permission for use during an instructional activity.

**Pictures:** We're looking forward to seeing all students in our 2024-2025 yearbook.

- Seniors and Grade 13 students will take tux & drape pictures and casual poses on Friday, August 9th between 9:30 am and 3:30 pm. The yearbook pose is free. *Students who wish to receive proofs should be prepared to pay a \$20 sitting fee.* A specific schedule will be shared with seniors along with package information and a link for payment.
- Juniors are scheduled to take pictures on Friday, August 23rd between 11:00 and 2:00. The yearbook pose is free of charge. A specific schedule will be shared with juniors/parents along with package information and a link for payment.

**CPCC Textbooks:** The CPCC student ID is required to purchase textbooks. Textbooks for Middle College HS students must be purchased within a specific range of dates. We will share more details during the first week of school. Students can purchase textbooks only with their ID cards. ID cards cannot be used to purchase clothing, school supplies or any other items besides textbooks required for scheduled classes. Students and parents should not pay any money out of pocket for course materials for Fall and Spring semesters. Students and/or parents who purchase course materials on their own cannot be reimbursed.

**Transportation:** Cato students utilize the following transportation options: (1) Drive to school, (2) Parents drop off at school, and/or (3) CATS transportation. CATS bus passes are free of charge for students. CATS will not replace lost or stolen passes. If passes are lost or stolen, students will be responsible for purchasing a replacement pass at the CPCC Cato cashier window. It is also important to note that bus passes must not be sold or shared with non-Cato Middle College High School students or adults. Parents/Guardians of students who will be using bus passes will be responsible for signing a form indicating their understanding of this policy. **Once a bus pass is requested, the student's name will be written on the pass and this pass must be returned to receive the pass**

**for the next month.** Please refer to the CATS website for information regarding routes and schedules.

**Lunch:** Microwaves are available for students who bring their lunch. Students can purchase snack items from the CPCC Bookstore or Smart Market. Students can also purchase a hot lunch delivered from a CMS traditional school. Students must have an approved free or reduced meal application on file or pay for their lunch beginning on the first day of service. The high school lunch price is \$3.00. Reduced price lunch is .40.

Students who wish to have a hot lunch delivered must contact Ms. Felish Jones at [felishd.jones@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:felishd.jones@cms.k12.nc.us) by August 1, 2024..

Beginning on August 1st, families may begin applying for free and reduced lunch benefits. Applications will be available online and processed prior to Monday, August 7th. A link will be shared prior to August 1st.

**Student Dress Code:** Cato Middle College High School students are role models on the CPCC campus and within the community. Our scholars are expected to dress appropriately. Undergarments may not be visible. Cleavage and midriffs must be covered. Low and revealing shirts are not appropriate. Short skirts and short shorts are not appropriate. Hair coverings of any type should not be worn on campus. Hair coverings that are affiliated with religion are permitted. Pants must be worn at the appropriate waist level. Attire (including masks) that may be offensive to others should not be worn. The best rule to follow is: If there is a question about it, do not wear it. Students who are in violation of the dress code will be addressed by administration and given an opportunity to correct the issue. Parents will also be notified.

**Attendance:** Students should arrive to all classes (CMCHS and CPCC) on time daily and prepared to learn. CMCHS follows the CMS Attendance Policy. Students who have more than 10 absences in a high school course will be required to do Attendance Recovery to receive the grade earned in the course. Failure to do recovery will result in a failing grade for the course.

The CPCC Attendance Policy will be included on each course syllabus. Students who are marked “Stopped Attending” by a CPCC instructor will receive a WN, which converts to a zero on the CMS transcript. The zero is counted in the GPA.

**Student Conduct:** As a participant in the Middle College High School program, students must adhere to both the CMS/CMCHS Student Code of Conduct and the CPCC Code of Student Conduct. Students and parents can access a copy of the CMS Rights and Responsibilities Handbook on the CMS website and the CPCC Code of Student Conduct on the CPCC website. Violations of either Code of

Conduct may result in consequences inclusive of detention, suspension, and removal from CMCHS and reassignment to the home school.

**Communication:** We will use Parent Square, Remind, Naviance, Blackboard Connect-5 system, the CMCHS website, CMS email and the CMCHS Newsletter to communicate with you this year. It's important that we have accurate email addresses and contact information at all times. Teachers will also contact parents about concerns. Regarding CPCC classes, I will contact parents about any concerns that are brought to my attention. Please complete the Digital Medical Card in the orientation information to ensure that we have accurate contact information.

We will mostly use Parent Square for real time information because you can easily retrieve current and past posts. If you are missing information in PowerSchool, an invitation was sent to you from Parent Square. Please check for this as Parent Square utilizes information from PowerSchool to communicate.

To also receive text messages via Remind:

- **Junior Parents** should send the message @catopar25 to 81010.
- **Grade 11 Students** should send the message @jrs2025 to 81010.
- **Senior Parents** should send the message @catopar24 to 81010.
- **Grade 12 Students** should send the message @catosr2024 to 81010.

**Grades:** Parents are encouraged to check academic progress for high school courses on Power School. CMS teachers will input grades on a weekly basis so that both parents and students are aware of any adjustments needed to be successful in the course. Parents are also encouraged to contact teachers directly about concerns in specific classes.

Parents will not have access to CPCC grades due to the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA). It is recommended that parents have students share their login information to view progress throughout the semester.

Per CMS Regulation IHCD-R, CMCHS juniors are required to have a cumulative 2.0 GPA for CPCC courses to continue at Cato Middle College High School for the senior year. Seniors are required to have a cumulative 2.0 GPA for CPCC courses to take advantage of the Grade 13 year.

**Parent Involvement:** We encourage parents to be actively involved in our school. Opportunities for parent involvement include serving on the School Leadership Team and PTSA. Parents who are interested in serving on either parent committee, should complete this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/zyMhCVij5CzkyNn19>

Thank you again for choosing Cato Middle College High School. We're looking forward to a great school year! See you soon.

Sincerely,

Leah Davis  
Principal