

# W.L. CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT/GUARDIAN NEWSLETTER

[April 9, 2023](#)

## Important Upcoming Dates

April 10	Start of Quarter 4
April 11	CMS Chamber Orchestra & Chamber Singers Concert @ 7pm
April 12	Wear Orange for Anti-bullying
April 14	Spirit Day- Rock Your Chenery Gear and Colors Day of Silence
April 17-21	April Vacation
April 25	8th Grade Orchestra & Chorus Concert @ 7pm  Quarter 3 Grades released
April 28	6th Grade Event (2:30-4:00 pm)- Pogo Fred, an America's Got Talent favorite entertainer, will be on the Chenery blacktop afterschool to entertain with his extreme pogo stunts. The Kona Ice truck will conclude the afternoon with free Italian Ice for all 6th graders.  **Deadline Alert** Grade 8 Spring Fling Dance <i>**the deadline to purchase tickets is April 28th.</i>
April 30	Boston/Belmont Bowling 5:00-6:00 pm
May 1-2	Upper School MCAS: Math
May 4-5	Lower School MCAS: Math
May 9	Grade 5 Fiend Trip- Wheelock Family Theater
May 11-12	5th Grade and 8th Grade MCAS: STE (Science, Technology, Engineering)
May 5	Grade 8 Spring Fling Dance 6:30-9:00 PM <i>**the deadline to purchase tickets is April 28th.</i>
May 16	8-1 Field Trip to Boda Borg
May 18	8-2 Field Trip to Boda Borg
May 19	8-3 Field Trip to Boda Borg
May 19-21	CMS MUSICAL PERFORMANCE (Newsies) @ BHS Theater

	Thursday 7pm Friday 7pm Saturday 5 pm
May 25	Grade 6 Assembly- Mythmasters D and E Blocks
May 25	GR 6 Chorus & Orchestra Concert 6pm GR 7 Chorus & Orchestra Concert 7:30 pm
June 1	5th Grade Band Concert 6pm 6th Grade Band Concert 7:15 pm
June 6	5th Grade Orchestra Concert
June 6	7-1 Field Trip to New England Aquarium
June 7	8th Grade Party
June 8	7-2 Field Trip to New England Aquarium
June 8	8th Grade Canobie Lake Park Trip
June 8	8th Grade Band Concert 7pm - Chenery Middle School
June 9	7-3 Field Trip to New England Aquarium  Grade 5 chorus concert at 9:15 am
June 13 (Tentative)	8th Grade BHS Tour and 8th Grade Pep Rally (Students Only)
June 14	8th Grade Lip Sync (Students Only)



### Grade 8 Spring Fling Dance- Chaperones Needed

A huge thank you to the parents that helped chaperone the 7th grade dance. The dance was a huge success! Below is the sign up genius for the 8th grade chaperone list We would love parents help once again to make this a successful event for our 8th graders! [Chenery Middle School: 8th Grade Spring Fling! Chaperones Needed \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)

**Belmont Public Schools PTOs and PTAs District Wide Event**



## District-Wide Boston-Belmont Family Bowling Event

### Join us at the Boston-Belmont Bowling Event!

All Boston and Belmont families attending Belmont Public Schools are welcome to join an evening of bowling, pizza, seeing old friends, and making new ones!

**This event is open to all K-12 families, thanks to funding from Belmont PTO/PTAs.**  
Included: 1 hour of bowling, shoe rental, \$5 arcade card, 2 slices of pizza and soda

**Date:** Sunday, April 30th

**Time:** 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**Location:** Boston Bowl, 820 William T Morrissey Blvd, Dorchester, MA

Please **RSVP by Wednesday, April 26th** to:

[Redacted contact information]

-OR-

[Redacted contact information]

Please include: all adult and student attendees' names, student grade levels, and total number of bowlers

**GLSEN Day of Silence**

Our GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance) student members will be observing the national Day of Silence organized by GLSEN. This year the GLSEN Day of Silence is Friday, April 14.

### What is the Day of Silence and Why be Silent?

*From the GLSEN site: "The GLSEN Day of Silence is a student-led national event that brings attention to anti-LGBTQ name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. Students from middle school to college take a vow of silence in an effort to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem of anti-LGBTQ behavior by illustrating the silencing effect of bullying and harassment on LGBTQ students and those perceived to be LGBTQ."*

Read more about the Day of Silence [HERE](#).

Educators may show their support on this day by wearing one of the GSA pins or wearing a pride t-shirt. It is expected that teachers are conducting their lessons verbally on this day.

### Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Belmont will once again participate in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. This survey has been administered to Belmont youth biannually since 2019 as part of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) developed and maintained by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). (See <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbss/>.)

The survey is used to monitor health behaviors, some of which are high risk, among the adolescent population in the Belmont Public Schools. The collected data helps identify areas of need, so that the schools - and affiliated partners like the Belmont Wellness Coalition - can plan programming to address those needs.

On Monday, April 3, I sent an email to the parents/guardians of all students in grades 7 and 8 to provide more information about this survey and how to opt out. The deadline to opt out is April 14.

### Engagement at Chenery

This past week Chenery 5th Graders had the opportunity to enjoy a magic show and some delicious ice cream thanks to our generous PTO.





## ATTENDANCE REMINDER

To report an absence, tardy, or dismissal, you may either call the attendance lines OR [contact us \(website\)](#). If we do not hear from you we are required to call you. **Teachers are not responsible for relaying attendance messages to the attendance offices.**

- Lower School (grades 5 & 6) Attendance Line (617) 993-5822
- Upper School (grades 7 & 8) Attendance Line (617) 993-5832

## OLD NEWS AND STILL HELPFUL INFORMATION

### Belmont Summer Enrichment

Are you looking for fun, educational opportunities for your children this summer? If so, Belmont Summer Enrichment is a great choice for you! BSE offers a variety of different classes for incoming Pre-K through incoming grade 7 students, in addition to an intern program for students in grades 8 and up. Some of our courses include Engineering, Coding, Chess, Sports, Improv, Graphic Design, and Art Creations and many are taught by our own BPS teachers. This is a great way to keep curious minds thinking over the summer and maintaining good learning habits so your child will be ready and excited to learn in the fall.

See a full list of courses and register on our BPS Website:

<http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/Home/Partners/Summer-Programs>

And, you can like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Instagram!](#)

### Important Dates summer 2023

Session 1:     Wednesday-Friday: July 5-7  
                  Monday-Friday: July 10-14  
Session 2:     Monday-Thursday: July 17-20  
                  Monday-Thursday: July 24-27

Location: Chenery Middle School

Time: 9am-Noon (early drop-off option available!)

Cost per Session: \$250

[belmontsummerenrichment@belmontschools.net](mailto:belmontsummerenrichment@belmontschools.net)

### **Community Block**

We previously shared how Community Block presents the ability for staff to have meaningful conversations in smaller groups. Below you will find a schedule for Community Blocks for the remainder of the year. As you may recall, our Social Emotional Committee and school based Equity Team do try to provide lessons for educators to use during this time. However, the majority of Community Block lessons are teacher generated lessons where teachers and students can continue to build and maintain meaningful relationships that allow us to have impactful conversations.

Teacher generated lessons are not lessons or activities focusing on social justice topics. Some examples of what those lessons look like are below. In all grades 5-8 students have played games such as charades, categories, and other fun activities.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to [REDACTED] directly so that we may best support your student and family needs.

Below you will find the topics (our schedule) for the remainder of the school year.

#### April

- April 5th- Equity Team will present "[Being an Ally](#)"
- April 12th- SEL Committee will present an opportunity to [survey](#) student interests and needs in preparation for future lessons.
- All other lessons are teacher generated lessons only.

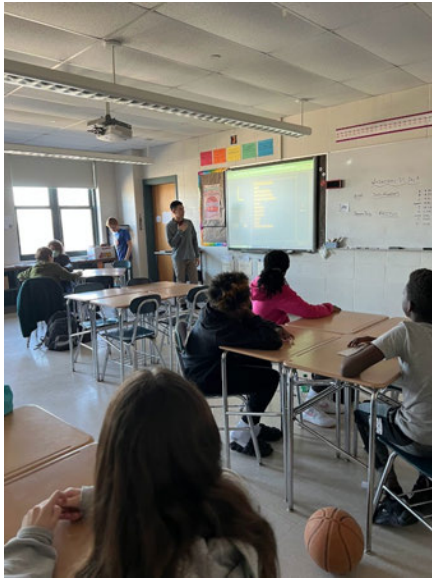
#### May

- May 3rd SEL Committee will present "Team Building/Collaboration" [Lesson](#)
- May 10th SEL Committee will present a [Gratitude Lesson](#) to focus on "Community Building"
- All other lessons are teacher generated lessons only.

#### June

- Teacher generated lessons only, which will allow us to close out the year with celebrations and fun!





## **SAFETY REQUEST: RING THE BELL AT THE FRONT DOOR TO ENTER THE BUILDING**

An important safety protocol at Chenery is that every adult that wants to enter our building is buzzed in by our front office via the Washington Street Entrance. Please do not ask teachers, students, or exiting visitors to hold the door so you can enter. We have a clear protocol to receive visitors and expect everyone to follow this protocol. We appreciate your help with this important matter.

## **STUDENT MATERIALS DROP OFF AREA**

At times parents/guardians will come to school to give their students materials that are needed for the school day. Please be mindful that parents/guardians may enter via the Washington Street entrance, find the bookshelf at the door, and log the student's materials on the clipboard. At the end of every block students are called down to the main office for their materials. This procedure is least disruptive to student learning and we work to be timely with students retrieving their items.

You do not need to go to the main office to let staff know you have dropped off an item.



## Executive Functioning Tips for Home

Sometimes students who struggle with mental health may also struggle with motivation and task initiation. A good way to combat this is to hang up visual reminders around the house on a notebook, or near a desk.

Mnemonics can be a visual representation for students. The CHECK strategy is a way to help students get started studying.

Change environments.

Have all equipment nearby.

Establish rewards for yourself.

Create a checklist of tasks to be done.

Keep a worry pad.

For the “C”, change environments, make sure to reflect on whether or not the place you do your homework is effective for you, if not find the right environment. Consider lighting, sound level, and distractions when considering the place. If it interferes, change it, if you get distracted find a quieter place. For the “H”, have all equipment nearby when studying, and make sure to collect the right items. For the “E” establish rewards for yourself, as an example, eat a favorite food after completion, or play your favorite video game. For the second “C” create a checklist of tasks to be done, this can be super rewarding, checking off things that have been completed. For the “K” keep a worry pad, if you get distracted keep this pad to write down all the thoughts popping into your head.

*Source: Minskoff, Esther, Ph.D. & Allsopp, David, Ph.D. Academic Success Strategies for Adolescents with Learning Disabilities & ADHD. Brookes Publishing Company 2003.*

## New State Behavioral Help Help Line

The Department of Mental Health has launched a new [Behavioral Health Help Line](#) that people can call or text at 833-773-2445. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in more than 200 languages. The help line can help individuals and families navigate the behavioral health system and access treatment, including mobile crisis services. For more information, please see the [FAQ](#). Anyone with questions or concerns about the help line can email the help line director at [Mio.Tamanaha@mass.gov](mailto:Mio.Tamanaha@mass.gov).

## Family’s Guide to SEL

Please see the [Family's Guide to SEL](#) from the Belmont Wellness Coalition. The goal of the guide is to help families understand what SEL is, what BPS is doing, and give some ideas of what families can do at home.

## Parenting Corner: Navigating your Tween/Teen



You may find [this resource](#) helpful from the Center for Parent and Teen Communication. It has resources and information to support topics of growth and development, communication strategies, building character, and health and prevention.

[Here is a resource](#) In case you are curious about how you can support your child with navigating social media. With the increase of You may consider [Parental Controls](#) to monitor a child's cell phone and limit their screen time. I recognize it is a lot to navigate and important to consider these things to support their [mental health](#).

Through our dialogue with families and students, we have learned that there has recently been an increase in social conflicts and inappropriate social media use. Below are resources you may find helpful to have conversations with your child(ren) at home.

At school we have been having restorative conversations with students and some teams plan to discuss this topic during Community Block.

- <https://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/middle-school>
- <https://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/help-children-build-resilience>
- <https://www.mcleanhospital.org/essential/it-or-not-social-medias-affecting-your-mental-health>
- <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/social-media-smarts.html>
- <https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/advice/why-its-never-too-early-to-teach-your-child-good-social-media/>

### Private School Application Process 2022-2023

The Cheney Middle School has developed the following guidelines to ensure that the private school application process runs smoothly for students, teachers, and counselors: [CMS Private School Application Overview \(2022-2023\)](#) This information can also be found on the CMS website:

<https://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/cms/School-Info/Departments/Guidance>. Please contact your student's school counselor if you have any questions or need additional support with this process.

### Snow Days

You may have seen from Superintendent Phalen's newsletter a reminder about school delays and closings. As always, Belmont Public Schools will put out an automated call and email to parents and staff when there is a delay or closing.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the various ways you can find out about an unexpected school closing or delay due to weather:

WBZ Radio (1030 AM) and TV (Channel 4) <http://boston.cbslocal.com/closings/>

WRKO Radio (680 AM) and WHDH TV (Channel 7) <http://whdh.com/storm-closings-delays/>

WCVB TV (Channel 5) <http://www.wcvb.com/weather/closings>

The BPS Website [School Closing Delayed Opening](#)

## Chenery Middle School Reconfiguration

Use the following resources to keep informed about Chenery Middle School's Reconfiguration:

- ❖ [District Reconfiguration Transition Newsletter](#)
- ❖ [Reconfiguration Website](#)
- ❖ [Family Input Form](#)

## School Hours/Arrival and Departure Procedures

- ★ School hours are 7:45AM-2:25PM
- ★ Students may arrive as early as 7:30AM
  - Please note that we do not have staff assigned to duties before this time, therefore students are not allowed to enter the building until then.
- ★ Upon arrival
  - Grade 5 enters the cafeteria
  - Grade 6 enters the auditorium
  - Grade 7 waits on the plaza (by playground)
  - Grade 8 waits on the plaza (near parking lot)
- ★ Upon departure
  - Bus students depart to the parking lot where buses are waiting
  - Walkers and bikers independently leave
  - Car pick-up students go to Washington Street

It would be helpful for incoming fifth grade families, and new students to Chenery, to practice their pick up meeting spot and routines for the end of the day.

## Attendance Line/ Absences and Dismissals

You may call the attendance lines to report an absence and [contact us](#) for support. If we do not hear from you we are required to call you.

- ★ Lower School: (617) 993-5822
- ★ Upper School: (617) 993-5832

A student who needs to be dismissed must be signed out by a parent or guardian. Students are not allowed to leave the building unaccompanied. We ask that you enter the building from the Washington Street entrance and proceed to the Main Office.

## Helpful District and School Documents

- ★ [CMS Days of the Cycle Calendar](#)
- ★ [CMS Daily Schedule](#)
- ★ [CMS Term Dates](#)
- ★ [BPS District Calendar](#)
- ★ [Click this link for SC Digital Guide](#)
- ★ [Click this link for CMS Spirit Days](#)
- ★ [Click this link for Grade 5/6 Calendar of Events](#)
- ★ [Click this link for Grade 7/8 Calendar of Events](#)

If you have concerns about your child socially and emotionally you may reach out to their grade level counselor.

Grade 8: [REDACTED]

Grade 7: [REDACTED]

Grade 6: [REDACTED]

Grade 5: [REDACTED]

If you have any questions about our MTSS process, please reach out to any school leader.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

If you have questions in regards to curriculum, please contact the appropriate director.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### How to Sign Up For CMS Email

To receive the communications sent out on the Chenery Middle School listserv, click [HERE](#).

**~RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, READY TO LEARN, EVERY BODY, EVERY DAY~**