



# Chesapeake Bay Governor's School

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## Director's Newsletter

Dear CBGS Students and Families,

Happy New Year! I hope each of you had a restful break. I am writing to formally introduce myself as the new CBGS director. I had the fortunate opportunity to join the CBGS Family in December and am looking forward to working with each of you in this capacity.

Although new to this role, I am not new to CBGS! I graduated from King William High School and had the opportunity to attend CBGS as a student at the Bowling Green Campus. My decision to return is a testament to the amazing experiences I had during my time here, and I am humbled to serve in the program that was a catalyst for my own educational endeavors. My cohort was actually the first group to complete senior research projects, so I understand firsthand the triumphs and challenges that can be associated with student research! Whether you are just beginning to formulate ideas for your research or near the finish line, I am proof that you **will** survive this experience and be grateful for it once you complete it! Outside of the classroom, CBGS afforded me the opportunity to cultivate friendships that would last a lifetime.

After CBGS, I earned my bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees from The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg. A majority of my professional career has been in King William County Public Schools, where I most recently served as a building principal. I am grateful for this next adventure and feel fortunate to give back to the school that has given me so much.

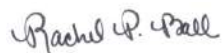
I value lifelong learning and continual personal and professional growth. CBGS has fostered a culture that promotes ongoing learning. I hope each of our students is inspired, challenged, supported, and engaged. I look forward to growing with each of you, and I am energized about the future potential of the program.

On a personal note, I live with my family in Essex County. My husband, Carter, is also a CBGS alumnus. We enjoy spending time with our eight month old twins, Mary Elizabeth and Warner, who fill our homes with love, joy, and adventure! Whenever I can, I enjoy being on the river, taking long walks with our beloved goldendoodle and beagle, and reading. Whether raising oysters off the pier, cruising the river with my family, or recreationally fishing in the Bay,

I am grateful to call this region home. The Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck of Virginia are unparalleled in their aesthetic, recreational, and ecological value, and I prioritize my role as a steward of this area's natural resources. I am personally invested in the mission of CBGS, as these values were instilled within me during my own time as a student in the program.

As I continue to transition to this new role, I look forward to getting to know our students and visiting classrooms. And students, it's okay to say *hello!* when I'm visiting your campus! I'm looking forward to supporting you! I am already impressed by the caliber of instruction and students I have observed. I look forward to partnering with you in the semester ahead.

Best regards,



Rachel P. Ball, Ed.D.

Director

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## News and Recent Happenings

- CBGS won first place in the annual Rappahannock Community College Math Competition. The team was coached by Mrs. Julia Jones.
- Mrs. Suzanne Nguyen was awarded a \$3,100 grant for an Aqua Troll 400 Bundle with cable from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund.
- Mrs. Bethany Smith was awarded a \$1,200 grant from the Friends of the Rappahannock to support a trip to Tangier Island this spring for her Marine and Environmental Science students.
- We had a great turnout for Alumni Day across campuses!



*RCC Math Competition Winners*



*Former CBGS Alumni share their experiences with current CBGS students at the Glens Campus*



*Students in Mrs. Smith's class display their Tangier projects*

## Student Engagement in Action



*Bowling Green Campus, Taught by Mr. Disla and Ms. Nguyen*

Students sparred in a mock town hall debate regarding the issue of fracking in Essex County. Students represented various stakeholder groups, including the Board of Supervisors, concerned citizens, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Chamber of Commerce, and environmentalists.

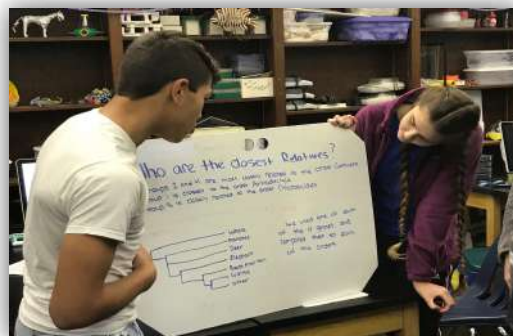


*Glenns Campus, Foundations, Taught by Mrs. Sara Beam*



*Bowling Green Campus, Statistics, Taught by Mr. Eric Echard*

Students used molecular evidence to unravel how four groups of marine mammals are related to each other and other major mammalian taxa. Students used UniProt, a database of amino acid sequences for millions of proteins, for the data mining lab.



*Bowling Green Campus, Biology, Taught by Dr. Goff*

## Inclement Weather

Ah, yes – it's the season when a school closing could occur. Here is a reminder about CBGS's policy and practices around snow-related closings:

- *When your child's home school district is closed due to weather, he/she does NOT come to CBGS. Period.* We know that in some counties, some roads are clear when others are poor. And we know some students drive or get car rides to school. However, out of a clear priority for safety, if your own district's superintendent has deemed conditions too dangerous for travel, then CBGS adheres to that same warning. No child should get in a car to travel to CBGS when their home high school is closed for weather. Our teachers will allow for all work to be made up.
- *When your child's home school district is on a two-hour delay due to weather, he/she does NOT come to CBGS.* Since we only meet until 10:30, this is our practice for the same reasons as above.
- *If your child's home school district is on a one-hour delay due to weather, bus transportation should be provided as normal to allow your child to get to CBGS one hour late.*
- *If a high number of our districts close, then CBGS will likely close.* We make those decisions just as area superintendents do, and will publicize our closing to you.
- *If RCC is closed or delayed 2 hours, the Warsaw and Glenns CBGS sites are closed.*
- *If Caroline Co. Public Schools is closed or delayed 2 hours, the Bowling Green CBGS campus will be closed.*

And the big question ... how will you know? Check a variety of places: Schoology, radio and TV stations, our website, and the home school district and RCC websites.

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## Calendar

- End of Quarter 2/ Semester 1 – January 17
- **Closed for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday: January 20**
- Anticipated report card distribution for Quarter 2 – January 27
- **Staff PD/Closed for Students: February 17**
- CBGS Senior Research Science Symposium – March 7 (at VCU)
- End of Quarter 3 – March 20
- CBGS Aquarium Field Trip for Juniors and Seniors—April 1
- CBGS Spring Break – April 6-10 and April 13
- Sophomore Field Studies Trip to Shenandoah
  - Warsaw: May 2-4
  - Glenns May 9-11
  - Bowling Green May 9-10 and May 14 (Day trip)
- Senior Night – Monday, May 18 at Essex High School Auditorium
- All-Site CBGS School Picnic – Friday, May 22
- VJAS Competition at JMU May 27-29
- Last day of school for CBGS students – Wednesday, June 3