

## Catonsville Badminton Adopts Southwest Academy Middle School – Apr 18, 2024

The Catonsville Badminton Club has started an “Adopt a Middle School” program to promote the sport and hopefully return Baltimore, after 60 years, to being a badminton hub. The Club has selected the Southwest Academy Middle School on Johnnycake Road in Woodlawn as its first school to work with.

The Southwest Academy (SWA) began about 30 years and has a very diverse student community. Badminton is played worldwide (second in popularity after soccer), with very strong programs throughout the densely populated East and South Asia countries as well as Europe, Latin America and various African countries. In a study of population contrasts, both China and Denmark(!) are two of the top countries at the Olympics and other international events.



*SWA Badminton Coach Bent Kendall (5<sup>th</sup> from left) receiving racquets and birds from the Catonsville Club*

The Catonsville club is donating \$500 of quality racquets, 2 nets, and many shuttlecocks (“birds”) to the SWA. Since 2015, the Baltimore County middle schools have had county-wide badminton tournaments for select students. To determine who these local students are, SWA hosts “Play-Day” events where the students play round-robin matches with other local middle schools.

The Catonsville club will visit SWA and hopes that this donation plus the visits will result in a strong contingent going to the county-wide tournament.

For more information about the Catonsville club, please visit

[CatonsvilleBadminton.org](http://CatonsvilleBadminton.org)

The club has been a proud member of the Catonsville Rec & Parks Council since 1962.