

A. Mario Loiederman Middle School
General School Information
2009-2010

Main Office: 301-929-2282
Counseling Office: 301-929-6909
Fax Number: 301-962-5993
Student School Hours: 7:55 am – 2:40 pm

A Note About the MCPS Budget....As these tight budget times continue, we appreciate the funding and support the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has received from the County Council. We recognize that it is imperative to use our resources in the most efficient and effective manner. MCPS staffing allocations are based on projected enrollment. We certainly hope that at the beginning of the school year our actual enrollment matches the projected enrollment. Unfortunately, as a result of this current fiscal situation, it may become necessary for staffing changes to occur in some schools if enrollment comes in below projection and doesn't justify the staffing that was allocated. If there is a need to make an adjustment in staffing based on actual enrollment, I will do my best to minimize the impact of these necessary adjustments. I will keep you informed and alert you of any changes that may occur at our school....Ms. Serino, Principal

Please read the topics below to get an overview of important features at A. Mario Loiederman Middle School. *Significant changes from 2008-09 are in italics and shaded in gray.*

Academic Support for Kids (ASK): Each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday students will have a twenty-five minute period for ASK. Students will remain in their assigned class period for sustained silent reading or homework completion. If a student has made arrangements with a teacher to get assistance or to reassess course material, the student will present a pass and report to the designated teacher during the ASK period. ASK calendars have been provided in the student agenda book. In addition, spare calendars will be distributed as needed. Students are expected to have a book, magazine or homework assignment with them at all times to read or complete during ASK. *A change this year is that we will alternate when ASK falls during the day.*

- *September- 1 ASK 3 or 2 ASK 4*
- *October- 1, 3, ASK or 2, 4, ASK*
- *November- 1 ASK 3 or 2 ASK 4*
- *And so on...*

This information will be included in the Agenda book and announced in the weekly phone call.

After School Activities: Students participating in after-school activities should report to the designated sponsor and room by 2:50 pm and remain with that sponsor until dismissal at 4:10 unless otherwise arranged between parents and the sponsor. Activity buses will begin running a few weeks into the school year. Students must have activity bus tickets to board the buses. Look for information regarding after school activities to come home in September.

Agenda books: All students will be issued an agenda book free of charge to track their classwork and homework assignments. ASK appointment

calendars and hallway passes are also included. Parents and guardians are encouraged to check the book daily to monitor student progress. The cost for a replacement agenda book is \$5.00.

Arrival to School: Students who ride buses will be dropped off at the front doors of the building in the bus loop. Students are to remain outside until 7:45 a.m. on nice weather days.

- Sixth graders enter the building through the doors to the far left.
- **Seventh graders will gather at the right side of the building and will enter through the side doors. (This is a change from 2008-09!)**
- **Eighth graders will gather at the basketball courts and black top and enter by the band room. (This is a change from 2008-09!)**

In the event of inclement weather, students can enter the building at 7:30 a.m. but must remain in the following areas until dismissed to the hallways:

- 6th Grade – Seated in 6th Grade Hallway
- 7th Grade – Cafeteria
- 8th Grade – Gym

Attendance: Students should report to school on time, prepared, and ready to learn each day. This is essential for their academic growth. Parents and guardians are asked to schedule extended trips that include their children only during regular school vacations. If your child will be absent from school for an excused absence, please contact the main office at (301) 929-2282. When your child returns to school, s/he should present a note from you which includes the following information:

- child's first and last name,
- parent's/guardian's first and last name,

- child's grade level (6th, 7th or 8th),
- reason for the absence,
- parent/guardian signature
- phone number where parent can be reached if there are questions

Absence notes should be hand carried to the main office.

An absence from school is considered lawful only in case of:

- Death in the immediate family
- Court summons
- Certified illness of the child
- Observance of religious holiday
- Activity accepted by school official and with prior approval)
- Violent storm
- State emergency
- Suspension

There are specific guidelines regarding half day and full day absences as follows:

- Students will be recorded as *a.m. absent*, if they arrive at school more than two hours late.
- Students will be recorded as *p.m. absent*, if they leave school more than two hours early.
- Students will be recorded as either *a.m. absent* or *p.m. absent*, if they are absent from school for more than two hours, but less than four hours during the school day.
- Students will be recorded as *full-day absent*, if they are present for less than two hours of the school day.
- Students will be recorded as *full-day present*, if they are present for more than four hours of the school day.

Bell Schedules: Bell schedules for regular days of instruction, early release days and school days with a 2-hour delayed opening have been included within this packet.

Breakfast Program: Loiederman MS will continue to participate in the Maryland Meals for Achievement Program. This means that all students, regardless of income, will have access to daily, free breakfast in their classrooms. ****If there is a 2 hour delayed opening due to inclement weather, there will be no breakfast served.****

Bus Schedules: Schedules for arriving and departing bus routes are attached. Any questions about transportation (including bus stops) should be

directed to the MCPS transportation depot manager, Division of Transportation at 301-929-6906.

Calendar: A list of important MCPS dates is included for your information.

Carpool Traffic Pattern: All vehicles should enter by the electronic sign at the Weller Road entrance and proceed down the lane.

- The right side lane is for dropping off/picking up passengers. Please prepare students to get in and out of cars as quickly and safely as possible. Right side lane vehicles should then drive through the lower part of the lot to exit.
- The left side lane is for through traffic that continues into the parking lot. Students should NOT be picked up or dropped off from the left side lane. Left side lane vehicles should then drive through the upper part of the lot and exit.

Vehicles can wait in empty parking spaces in the lot, but should not idle in the reserved handicapped spaces. All vehicles will exit at Goodhill Road.

Cell Phones: Middle school students may possess portable communication devices (cell phones) on MCPS property and at MCPS-sponsored activities without needing a signed waiver.

- The phone may only be used after the **end of the instructional day**. This means that the phone may be used during after-school extra-curricular activities if they do not interfere with the activity, but not at lunch time or on field trips;
- Every phone must be **turned off and kept out of sight** when on school property during the school day; and
- Cell phone use on school buses is acceptable as long as it does not pose a safety hazard.
- **The school is not responsible for any loss or theft of the phone.** The school will not investigate loss or theft of the phone. In addition, the school is not to be held responsible for expenses incurred for minutes used. The school will not investigate the source of the use of the phone.

Directory Information: The student privacy notice includes a form to complete and return to school if you do not want your information released in public listings such as honor roll lists in public newspapers, awards and other notices in newspapers or on the MCPS Web. If you **DO NOT** submit the form, your

information WILL be included in these listings. Please submit the form by September 11, 2009.

Extracurricular Activity Fee (ECA): The Montgomery County ECA fee supports adult-supervised extracurricular activities such as sports and clubs for middle and high school students. Students who pay the fee are entitled to participate in one or more programs during the year. The Extracurricular Activity (ECA) fee remittance forms were mailed directly to all students this summer by MCPS. The ECA fee is a one-time fee of \$30 for the 2009-10 school year. A reduced fee of \$15 is available for students who qualify based on their income.

Financial Obligations: Students who owe money for lost or damaged texts, materials, library books, etc. will be charged the replacement or damage cost as appropriate. This includes lost locks, replacement agenda books, loaned lunch money, damaged calculators, etc. If a student owes a financial obligation to the school s/he will not be permitted to participate in events or activities that charge admission or a fee including dances, field trips, basketball games, etc. until the obligation is paid. (This includes end-of-year activities.) Last quarter report cards will be held until obligations have been cleared for the year. Families with economic hardship should contact the counselor or administrator.

Free and Reduced Price Meals: Free and reduced meal applications will be sent home to families on the first day of school. The school system sends one form to each family through the youngest or only child. Students who were on this program last school year will automatically receive free and/or reduced meals through the end of September, 2009. However, everyone must re-apply in order to continue in the program after October 1st. **It is important that these forms be filled out properly and returned to the main office by Friday, September 11, 2009 in order to allow sufficient time for the forms to be processed by the Division of Food Services.**

Health Education: As in years past, Loiederman Middle School health educators will provide a state-mandated 9-week unit of health education at all grade levels. Part of this process requires that we actively maintain a family life committee comprised of staff members, parents, and students. If you and/or your child are interested in participating on this committee, please contact Mr. Norman Edwards, assistant principal. We will be hosting a **Health**

Curriculum/Red Flags Parent Information Night on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 pm. Join us to learn about the curriculum and to review materials.

Homerooms: Please see the enclosed list of 6th, 7th and 8th grade homerooms arranged by students' last names.

Insurance: Families whose income is at or below the federal poverty level are eligible for the Maryland Children's Health Program, a state health insurance program (for children birth through 28 years of age.) If you qualify and presently have no health insurance, call the Client Services Center at 240-777-3120 for applications and information. Student health insurance is also available through a private insurance company. An application is enclosed in this packet. We encourage all families to obtain medical insurance for their children through work, the State health insurance program, or individually through MCPS. The health room staff will join us on Wednesday, August 20th and you may call on or after this date to discuss health-related issues or to drop off medication forms and medication that your child needs to take during the school year.

Immunizations Requirements: All students in Grades 5-9 are required to have both the Hepatitis B vaccination (usually a series of three doses) and the Varicella (chicken pox) vaccination or a doctor's or local health department official's documentation that the student has had the disease. Students who fail to meet the requirements will be excluded from school and marked absent.

Lockers and Locks- Hallway: Each student will be assigned his/her own hallway locker. A combination lock will be issued free to each student when emergency information forms are returned. (Students cannot bring store-bought locks to school because our security team needs to be able to access the locks with a key in case of an emergency.) If the school-issued lock is lost, the replacement fee is \$5.00. At the conclusion of the school year, students need to return their school-issued lock or the \$5.00 replacement fee. Students should not share their combinations or lockers with any other students.

Lockers and Locks- Physical Education/Dance: The PE/Dance lockers are much smaller than hallway lockers and are intended as storage spaces to be used for notebooks and materials during class and PE/dance clothing and shoes over night. The lockers have built-in (integral) locks. As a result, students are not issued a lock. Instead they will be given a unique combination. Students should not share their combinations with anyone else.

Lunch Prices: MCPS for 2009-2010 are as follows:

- Lunch \$2.70
- Reduced Lunch 40¢
- Milk 60¢

We will continue to use a computerized cash register system in the dining room. Please read the enclosed information sheet for details. Your child will be issued a new personal identification number (PIN) during the first week of school.

Outdoor Education: Sixth grade students are invited to participate in an exciting three-day, two-night outdoor education experience on **December 14-16 or December 16-18** at Summit Lake. Permission slips and information will be sent home with 6th graders in October and will include the dates your child is assigned to attend the program. For specific information and details about our program, please plan to attend the Loiederman Outdoor Education Parent meeting on **Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 pm**. The cost for students to attend outdoor education is approximately \$80.00. (Scholarship money is available.)

Parent Child Reunification: Please complete and return the enclosed green form for the school to have on file in the event of an emergency or crisis.

Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA): We are looking for members to join the Parent Teacher Student Association. Dues for adult members are \$10.00. Students may join at a discounted rate of \$5.00. Please see the enclosed form.

Physical Education/Dance Uniforms: In order to fully participate in physical education and dance classes, students must change their clothing. Our P.E. teachers will sell Loiederman P.E. uniforms for \$15.00 (T-Shirt + shorts + tax) during orientation and the first week of school. (Checks should be made payable to Loiederman Middle School and may be made in installments. In addition, grants are available to support families with financial need.) If students do not wish to wear the Loiederman uniform, they must supply a gray shirt and black shorts/sweatpants of their own. During cold weather, students should wear gray or black sweat pants and a gray or black sweatshirt or long-sleeved t-shirt. Our locker room facilities provide opportunities for students to shower or wash after class. This practice will be strongly encouraged. Students should take their uniforms home each Friday to be washed and returned for Monday.

School Store: Loiederman operates a school store most Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings which will be open to students who would like to purchase school supplies or Loiederman clothing. Students can also redeem

School Supplies: Please see the enclosed list for information about recommended school supplies.

Sports this Fall- 7th/8th Graders:

- Girls Softball (7th/8th grade)
- Boys Softball (7th/8th grade)
- Co-ed Cross-Country (7th/8th grade)

Seventh and eighth grade boys and girls interested in trying out for interscholastic softball or cross-country this September must submit (or have on file at the school) an updated physical signed by a physician within the last two years. In addition, students must be academically eligible based on grades from the fourth marking period (June 2009). This means students must have a 2.0 grade point average and no more than one grade of E.

If selected for the team, students must also pay the extracurricular activity (ECA) fee. Information about the ECA fee was mailed to homes by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). Sixth graders are not permitted to try out for interscholastic softball (or other interscholastic sports) in MCPS. However, intramurals are available to sixth, seventh and eighth graders. These sports and activities will be offered based on student interest and staff availability. Questions about softball try-outs should be directed to our athletic director.

Student Schedules: Students will attend four classes, a 25-minute ASK period and a 30-minute lunch period daily. Students will be given a copy of their schedules when they arrive to school on **Monday, August 31, 2009**.

Classes will alternate on odd period days (1, 3, 5 and 7) and even period days (2, 4, 6 and 8). The odd/even rotation is locked in at the beginning of the year and will remain constant. For example, Tuesday, December 1st is an odd day and Wednesday, December 2nd is an even day. If we had a one-day snow cancellation on December 1st the odd day would drop out of our schedule completely and students would return to an even day on December 2nd.

Summer Math: We do not require Loiederman students to complete a summer math review packet. However, we do have optional materials for interested students. Please visit our website and

download the file with the name of the class you will be entering this fall.

<http://www.loiedermanarts.org>

Summer Reading: All students should complete their summer reading assignments in order to be prepared for the new school year. If your child has misplaced his or her copy of the summer reading assignment, please visit the link on our website or pick up a copy in the main office. Assignments were distributed to students in June.

<http://www.loiedermanarts.org>

Textbooks: Students will be issued textbooks in many of their classes that they will keep in their possession. As soon as they receive the texts, students should write their names in ink in the space provided. Students should cover the texts with book

covers or sleeves to help keep them in good condition. Students must return the exact book they were issued by the teacher in good condition at the end of the course. Students who lose or damage textbooks will be charged to replace or repair them.

Yellow Emergency Information Forms: Students are issued yellow emergency information forms on the first day of school and are asked to take them home for completion. The information on these forms is not shared outside of the school system and is our only means to contact family members in the event of an emergency. **Students should return yellow forms to their homeroom teacher no later than Thursday, September 3rd so they can be issued a locker.** If information changes during the school year, the parent/guardian should inform the school of the change.

Key Loiederman Dates for the Fall

Thursday, August 27	Orientation for all 6 th Grade Students and new 7 th & 8 th Grade Students from 7:55 to 11:40 am
Thursday, August 27	Pack Your Own Picnic Night- LMS courtyard from 5:00 to 7:00 pm
Monday, August 31	First Day of School from 7:55 am to 2:40 pm
Thursday, September 10	Back to School Night from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Wednesday, September 16	Health Curriculum/Red Flags Awareness Program Information Night from 7:00 to 8:30 pm
Wednesday, September 30 (odd) and Thursday, October 1 (even)	Individual Student Pictures by LifeTouch Studios- during PE/Health Classes
Wednesday, September 30	8 th Grade General Parent Information Meeting – 7:00 – 8:00 pm
Tuesday, October 6	Parent/Principal Coffee (drop in) from 9:30 to 10:30 am
Thursday, October 8	6 th Grade General Parent and Outdoor Education Information Meeting from 7:00 to 8:30 pm
Wednesday, October 21	7 th Grade Parent Information Meeting - 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Summary of Loiederman Fees

<p>\$15.00... Physical Education Uniform/Dance Uniform* *Uniform from previous school year or gray shirt/black shorts are fine.</p> <p>\$10.00... Perspectives in the Fine Arts (all 6th graders)</p> <p>\$10.00... Art (Exploring Art, Foundations of Art) & Digital Art (Intro Computer Art)</p> <p>\$ 5.00... Choral Music dry cleaning fee for concert attire, if required for General Chorus, Chorus A/B, 6th Grade Chorus.</p> <p>Summary of replacement fees (if initial items are lost):</p> <p>\$ 5.00 agenda book</p> <p>\$ 5.00 hallway combination lock</p> <p>\$ 5.00 PE - T-shirt – Gray shirt is acceptable</p> <p>\$10.00 PE – Black or dark athletic shorts are acceptable</p>
--