
Colonel Zadok Magruder High School

Office of the Principal

July 27, 2008

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the 2008-09 school year! We are looking forward to everyone's return, as well as, the opportunity to provide an excellent educational experience for all of our students.

We appreciate the funding and support Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has received from the County Council in these tight budget times. However, the funding MCPS received was less than the Board of Education's requested amount. MCPS staffing allocations are based on projected enrollment. As a result of the current fiscal situation, it may become necessary for staffing changes to occur in some schools if student enrollment falls below the projected enrollment and does not justify the previously allocated staffing.

We certainly hope that, at the beginning of the school year, our actual enrollment matches the projected enrollment. 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.

We have been working diligently over the summer to prepare for the new school year. Thanks to the efforts of our building services staff, we have been cleaning our entire facility.

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Lakeisha Adamson is joining our staff as an assistant principal. Ms. Adamson served as acting assistant principal at Watkins Mill High School last year. She is replacing Ms. Frishman, who has moved on to Gaithersburg High School. We are very fortunate to add Ms. Adamson to our administrative team after two years of great work at Watkins Mill High School. We have also added several new members to our staff. They will be introduced on the Magruder website.

This spring we continued the practice of mailing home course confirmations in addition to distributing copies to students. Counselors met with families in late May and early June and have published dates of their availability during July. **By July 30, all changes needed to have been completed on students' schedules.** These procedures were implemented, with parent and staff input, in order to effectively schedule students far in

advance of the opening of school. We are pleased with the results of this early planning. When students receive their schedules on the first day of school, it should, therefore, not be necessary to make schedule changes, with the exception of rare cases such as a student's completion of a summer school course. During the first week of school, counselors will be working with new enrollees and students with incomplete schedules due to **unusual circumstances**. If a student has one of these **unusual circumstances** and wishes to request a schedule change, the schedule request form should be submitted to counselors the second week of school.

I also want to say thank you to the students, parents, and staff who worked together to analyze data and write our **School Improvement Plan**. This total effort was an example of the Baldrige School Improvement model at its best that will serve as our focus for the 2008-09 school year. The model is one in which stakeholder input is sought and used to implement a meaningful and effective plan or blueprint for success. This model of collaboration will serve as the vehicle for creating a positive learning environment and a climate of academic excellence at Magruder High School.

As part of our efforts to create a positive climate, it is important to respect the established discipline code. An important component is the ID policy. The **ID policy** is continuing for the upcoming year. Students are required to carry their IDs with them (either in their wallets or in the plastic holder in their student handbook) and to present their ID when requested by staff. In this way, we will still ensure that everyone in our building is a person who is permitted to be on our campus. As before, **MP3 players, iPods, and other electronic devices** are to be turned off and put in backpacks before entering the classroom for first period. **Cell phones** are to be turned off and put in backpacks upon entering the building and for the duration of the school day. We ask that parents not call or send text messages to students during the school day. Please call the main office if you need to contact your child. Use of cell phones and text messaging during the school day is not permitted. No cameras are allowed in school. We are prohibiting students from taking pictures or making videos without administrative approval. We will also continue to enforce our dress policy that was implemented three years ago. Please review these policies with your student prior to shopping for new school clothes. The dress policy is included in this mailer. Your support is a vital component in our efforts to establish and maintain a climate that is conducive to teaching and learning.

Members of our staff have been very actively preparing for the start of another wonderful school year by attending classes and workshops that focus on topics that will allow us to provide a world-class educational experience for all Magruder High School students. We are excited about the growth of our academy programs as other learning opportunities for our students. We look forward to the continued development of our smaller learning communities, as well as our reading program, alternative education program and other support programs. We will be discussing this new structure and additional instructional initiatives at PTSA meetings and other parent meetings. Your participation is encouraged and all are invited.

The staff is looking forward to a successful year and we are eager to greet returning students and those students new to our school. The Magruder staff would like to make the transition for these ninth grade students as smooth as possible. To that end, we have planned a special **orientation for Friday, August 22, 2008**. This program, which will begin in the auditorium, will run from 7:25 until 11:10 a.m. School buses will be provided and will follow their normal routes and times according to the attached schedule. Buses will leave school at approximately 11:10 a.m. to take students home. This orientation program is provided so that incoming students will have the opportunity to meet their teachers and other school staff, as well as to follow their class schedules prior to the first day of school. It is also an excellent time for students to acquaint themselves with the layout of the building and to bring their **five dollar deposit** for hall lockers. It should also be noted that students will be required to pay **five dollars** for their **student planner**.

On the evening of **Thursday, August 21, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.**, we will host a **special parent orientation** for parents of ninth graders and other new students. There will be a dance for ninth grade students and a general meeting for parents. We hope you can join us.

For your convenience, attached is a prepayment form for SNAP (School Nutrition Accountability Program), a computerized cash register system for our cafeteria. This year, Magruder HS, Redland MS, Cashell Elementary, and Sequoyah Elementary will pilot a program called myLunchMoney.com. This is a new option to make prepayments to your child's cafeteria account using your credit card. Information about this pilot program is also included in this mailing. The meal prices have changed from last year and are as follows:

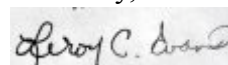
Breakfast:	\$1.30
	30 cents for the reduced price eligible student
Lunch:	\$2.65
	40 cents for the reduced price eligible student

Please mark your calendars with the date for this year's **Back-to-School Night: Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** It is important that you meet your student's teachers and hear about their curriculum objectives and expectations first hand. Research shows that students whose parents are involved in school tend to do well academically. Since we are a very large school and parking is limited, we will be running buses from several **satellite parking lots** beginning at 6:00 p.m. Satellite locations are Sequoyah Elementary, Flower Hill Elementary, Redland Middle, and Shady Grove Middle Schools. The buses will leave at 6:00 p.m., in order to return to the satellite lots to make a second trip to Magruder at approximately 6:25 p.m. and a third trip at approximately 6:50 p.m. A bus for individuals with disabilities will be provided at Sequoyah Elementary School. If you arrive before 7:00 p.m., please join me for an informal discussion and question and answer session beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

As we complete our summer planning, we are anticipating an exciting and successful year of achievement and growth. We would like to encourage parents to contact teachers, counselors, grade-level administrators, or me if you have any questions or concerns.

Magruder is a great community of people committed to our core values of treating each individual with fairness, respect, and dignity. By continuing to work together and communicating with each other, we will help all of our students grow and gain the knowledge needed to be successful in a challenging global society.

Sincerely,



Leroy C. Evans
Principal

LCE:cg

- Attachment (1) [Back to School Night](#)
- Attachment (2) [August-September MHS Calendar of Events](#)
- Attachment (3) [MCPS School Calendar 2008-2009](#)
- Attachment (4) [Testing Schedule 2008-2009 \(HSA & AP\)](#)
- Attachment (5) [Parent Resources to Address Issues or Concerns](#)
- Attachment (6) [How Do You...?](#)
- Attachment (7) [Counselor Assignments 2008-2009](#)
- Attachment (8) [Counseling Services Calendar 2008-2009](#)
- Attachment (9) ["Tentative" Counselor Summer Schedule 2008](#)
- Attachment (10) [Art Department News/MHS Listserv](#)
- Attachment (11) [Required Course Fees](#)
- Attachment (12) [Suggested Materials/Supply List](#)
- Attachment (13) [Calculator Purchase/Rental Program](#)
- Attachment (14) [MHS Summer Reading 2008](#)
- Attachment (15) [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act - English](#)
- Attachment (16) [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act - Spanish](#)
- Attachment (17) [Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment - English](#)
- Attachment (18) [Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment - Spanish](#)
- Attachment (19) [Request to Withhold Release of Student's Image 2008-2009](#)
- Attachment (20) [MHS Parking Application](#)
- Attachment (21) [MHS Student and Vehicle Information](#)
- Attachment (22) [MHS PTSA Directory Opt-Out Form](#)
- Attachment (23) [MHS PTSA Membership Form](#)
- Attachment (24) [Magruder PTSA Communicates!](#)
- Attachment (25) [Dress Policy](#)
- Attachment (26) [myLunchMoney.com Pilot Program](#)
- Attachment (27) [SNAP Cafeteria News for 2008-2009 - English](#)
- Attachment (28) [SNAP Cafeteria News for 2008-2009 - Spanish](#)
- Attachment (29) [General Sports Information 2008-2009](#)
- Attachment (30) [MHS Athletic Department Coaches 2008-2009](#)

- Attachment (31) [Purchase Season Passes](#)
- Attachment (32) [Athletic News on the Web](#)
- Attachment (33) [MHS Online Store](#)
- Attachment (34) [P.E. Uniform Sale](#)
- Attachment (35) [MHS Bus Routes Letter](#)
- Attachment (36) [MHS Bus Routes Schedule](#)