

Megan McLaughlin, Principal

12701 Goodhill Road

Silver Spring, Maryland 20906

(240) 740-5830

www.loiedermanarts.org

July 25, 2025

Dear Students, Parents, and Caregivers:

We hope everyone has been able to enjoy a safe and restful summer! During the summer, our instructional leadership team gathered and analyzed student voice data and academic performance data from the school year. We are proud to share that we have seen marked improvement in our students' performance on the district level progress checks and state-level assessments. Although we have much to celebrate, there is still room for improved performance overall. We have revised our school-wide instructional focus to provide engaging and differentiated learning experiences that ensure all students are appropriately challenged. To support our need for continued student academic growth, the instructional leadership team refined our lesson planning process to help teachers design powerful instruction tailored to diverse learners, with a focus on developing student thinking and their skills in every content area.

Our upcoming school improvement plan includes timelines to implement and monitor our goals to ensure we measure our success along the way. As we did at the start of last school year, we remain committed to the importance of supporting the whole child. We look forward to the first day of school where we can begin to share our learning with our Loiederman lions!

Sincerely,

Megan McLaughlin Principal



# Revised MCPS Cell Phone Policy

MCPS has made changes to the Electronic Device Policy which will affect the use of cell phones, AirPods, headphones and other personal mobile devices. Because we prioritize the physical and emotional well-being of our students, three years ago our leadership team agreed it was best to move to an *off and away all day* policy for our students. The purpose of the school day is for students to learn new information and to interact with staff and peers. Oftentimes, cell phones can become a distraction for adolescents, and we want to ensure our students are focused on academics throughout the day. This means that Loiederman will continue our *Off and Away All Day* policy this school year. Specifically, students may bring their phone and other electronic devices to school, but all devices will be put away in lockers at the start of the school day and must not be used in the classroom or the hallways during the school day.

Please click here for the revised MCPS Personal Mobile Device Policy

# Changes to Middle School Grading & Reporting

MCPS has made some changes related to grading and reporting, specifically how final grades will be calculated, expectations for teachers to return graded assignments, and revised timelines for retakes and turning in late assignments.

- Please click here for an MCPS One-Pager.
- Please click here to see an MCPS video.

# **New Student Transition Day**

This year, only *Grade 6 students* and *new-to-Loiederman students* will be coming to school for a full day on **Monday, August 25**. This day will serve as the orientation for all of our *new* students. This means that the first day of school for Grade 7 and Grade 8 students who attended Loiederman last year will be on **Tuesday, August 26**.

# Parent/Caregiver Hybrid Info Session

On **Thursday**, **August 21**, we will host a hybrid information session for parents and caregivers to provide more details and information related to the MCPS changes that were just shared above and other important updates for the upcoming school year.

• Thursday, August 21 from 10:00 - 11:00 am - parents and caregivers are invited to learn more about the changes to the Grading and Reporting policy, cell-phone policy, and other school year 25-26 information in the Performance Space or you can view the presentation on a private link (we will post the link on our website and send it out via ParentSquare as we get closer to the date).

If you are unable to attend, please do not worry! We will post the recording of our presentation on our website.



## **Restorative Approaches**

Over the last several years, Loiederman Middle School has embraced the mindset of restorative approaches to further enhance a culture of respect and a positive school climate. Research supports that when negative behaviors are simply dealt with by a one size fits all consequence, the behaviors often do not change and likely will be repeated. Individuals who are the offenders of negative behavior are not placed into situations to repair the harm they have caused to others and often do not see the impact of their actions. Restorative approaches create those opportunities and support a true social/emotional learning environment.

# Excel Beyond The Bell (EBB)

Loiederman Middle School has a wonderful partnership with the Montgomery County Recreation Department offering a FREE after-school program, Excel Beyond the Bell. This program typically begins the last week of September and runs through the middle of May. It offers exciting classes Monday-Thursday until 5:30 p.m. for a variety of interests. Transportation is offered for students who regularly would receive this service. Students must register for these sections. Stay tuned for registration information that will be available in the beginning of September!

## FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS (FARMS)

Families who meet certain federal income standards are eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits. All children use their MCPS ID number at the register so confidentiality is maintained and no child is overtly identified as receiving free or reduced-price meals. Only one application is needed for all students in a household. A new application must be completed for any family requesting assistance this school year. Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) applications have been updated for the new school year, and are now available online at <a href="https://www.MySchoolApps.com">www.MySchoolApps.com</a>; this is the preferred application method. All interested families must reapply each school year.

Apply online NOW at <u>MySchoolApps.com</u> (Translations available) Click <u>here</u> for an English video tutorial. Click <u>here</u> for a Spanish video tutorial.

Federal eligibility guidelines change each school year; therefore a new application must be submitted each school year. All students in the family should be listed on one household application. A notice will be mailed home to each student if you are approved for meal benefits or do not qualify for meal benefits. Please keep this important document for your records and use throughout the school year. Families may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year. Households that are unable to apply online should contact their school or the Division of Food and Nutrition Services at 240-740-7400. **Please click here to apply online.** 



# Parent Portal (accessing grades and attendance)

#### **Parent Portal Information Link**

The myMCPS Parent Portal for ParentVUE is used as the primary home-to-school communication vehicle for schools to share information regarding grades, attendance, scheduling, and more. The myMCPS Parent Portal is live for all parents and students. Above is a link that takes you to the portal and provides information about logging into the account as well as all the features.

# MCPS Online Payment Method

Montgomery County Public Schools has transitioned to a new online payment system called SchoolCash Online as its preferred method of payment for all school-related fees.

SchoolCash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. SchoolCash Online will help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into schools' bank accounts and eliminating the need for teachers to handle money. In addition, once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities!

Powered by KEV Group, SchoolCash Online is the industry leader in the management of school fees. The new system puts all of the school-related fees online for purchase so users can make purchases online using a credit card or e-check. A processing fee will be included on all items available for purchase, regardless of the type of payment used on SchoolCash Online or at the school.

Parents/guardians can register now at- https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/

# NEW Community School Liaison: Ms. Carol Fernández

My name is Carol Fernández and I am thrilled to introduce myself as your newest collaborative partner! This coming school year I will assume the role of the Community School Liaison at A. Mario Loiederman Middle School.

I am a product of both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties public schools systems, as well as a proud UMD alum! I have extensive experience in Montgomery County Public Schools and have benefited firsthand from the positive impact of a strong connection between school, home and community.



My role as the Community School Liaison is to support our students, families, and staff by working closely with you and with local organizations. My goal is to help make sure everyone in our school community has access to the resources they need, whether it's things like dental or vision care, after-school programs, or other supports that help our kids thrive. To do this, I'll start by learning what our community needs through surveys and conversations. Then, together, we'll create a plan to bring in the right services and programs. The more voices we hear from, especially yours, the better our plan will be.

I'm excited to collaborate with families, staff, local groups, and community leaders to strengthen and expand the supports already in place, so every student continues to feel valued and set up for success. I look forward to meeting you and working together to continue building on all the great things already happening at Loiederman.

Follow me on Instagram @LoiedermanCSL to stay updated on resources, events, and all the ways we're growing together! To learn more about Community Schools click <a href="here">here</a>.



# Grade Level Adult Supports and Contacts

We have begun to organize and align adult support to students as we move into next school year. As students navigate through their next school year we want them to experience unified social emotional and academic support. Our teams have been expanded and have planned coordinated efforts to increase communication and enhance articulation as students move through middle school. Listed below are the grade level adult supports. Feel free to communicate with any of them before the school year begins and certainly throughout the school year.

#### Ms. Bethanie Weitz

Resource Teacher for Special Education

Bethanie G Weitz@mcpsmd.org.

School Phone - (240) 740-5830

#### Mr. Kimani Middleton

Pupil Personnel Worker/
Trabajador de personal estudiantil
Kimani\_Middleton@mcpsmd.org
School phone - (240) 740-5840

#### Ms. Elisabeth Fisher

EML Therapeutic Counselor/
Consejera para estudiantes recién llegados
Elisabeth M Fisher@mcpsmd.org
MCPS phone - (240) 447-8832
Habla español/Fala Portugues/Parle
français

#### Ms. Carol Fernandez

Community School Liaison/ Coordinadora
de la comunidad de padres
Carol\_Fernandez@mcpsmd.org
MCPS phone - (227) 271-3770
Habla español

## Helps with:

All three grade levels for students with special needs. If your child is supported with an IEP, she is your main contact.

#### Helps with:

Family Welfare - Mental Health, Financial Resources, Transportation, Advocate for student/ family

#### Helps with:

Supports newcomers with adjustment and wellbeing through culturally informed individual and group sessions (in and out of the classroom). Refers to community partners. Open communication with parents.

#### Helps with:

Supports families navigate the school system, connect them with resources and services, build partnerships with local organizations, and support efforts that promote student success and family engagement.

#### Ayuda con:

Los tres niveles de grados para estudiantes con necesidades especiales. Si su hijo recibe apoyo de un IEP, ella es su contacto principal.

#### Ayuda con:

Bienestar familiar: salud mental, recursos financieros, transporte, defensor del estudiante/familia

#### Ayuda con:

Apoya a los recién llegados con su adaptación y bienestar a través de sesiones individuales y grupos culturalmente adecuados.
Referencias a socios comunitarios si es que mantiene una comunicación regular con los padres.

#### Ayuda con:

Apoya a las familias a navegar el sistema escolar, las conecta con recursos y servicios, establece alianzas con organizaciones locales y apoya iniciativas que promueven el éxito estudiantil y la participación familiar.



## **Grade Level Leads and Contacts**

# Meet Your 6th Grade Loiederman Middle School Team

Ms. Eriel Jeffery

6th Grade Assistant Principal/Subdirector

Eriel Jeffery@mcpsmd.org

School Phone - (240) 740-5830

Helps with:

General Concerns/Questions

Bullying

**Teacher Concerns** 

Student safety concerns

Ayuda con:

los estudiantes

Ayuda con:

preguntas

Acoso

Preocupaciones generales y

Preocupaciones de los maestros

Preocupaciones por la seguridad de

Acoso Bullying

Cambios de clase

Mr. Chet Hardy

Ms. Elena Kerr

6th Grade Counselor/Consejero

Chet L Hardy@mcpsms.org

Elena\_Kerr@mcpsmd.org

School phone - (240) 740-5830

School phone - (240) 740-5840

6th Grade Team Leader/Líder de equipo

Helps with:

Helps with:

6th Grade Information

**Emotional Concerns** 

Class Changes

Building and repairing relationships

with peers/teachers

Creating fun school wide activities

Avuda con:

Información de sexto grado Construir y reparar relaciones con

Preocupaciones emocionales

compañeros/maestros

Crear actividades divertidas para

toda la escuela.

# Meet Your 7th Grade Loiederman Middle School Team

Mr. Aaron Barnett

7th Grade Assistant Principal/Subdirector Aaron B Barnett@mcpsmd.org

MCPS cell phone - (240) 987-6910

Helps with:

General Concerns/Questions

Bullying

Teacher Concerns

Student safety concerns

Ayuda con:

Preocupaciones generales y

preguntas

Acoso

Preocupaciones de maestros

Preocupaciones por la seguridad de

los estudiantes

Mrs. Theresa Morgan

7th Grade Counselor/Consejera

Theresa Morgan-Elam@mcpsmd.org

School phone - (240) 740-5840

Helps with:

Bullying

**Emotional Concerns** 

Class Changes

Ayuda con:

Acoso

Preocupaciones emocionales

Cambios de clase

Ms. Marie Ostrega

7th Grade Team Leader/Líder de equipo

Veronica M Ostrega@mcpsmd.org

School phone - (240) 740-5830

Helps with:

7th Grade Information

Building and repairing relationships

with peers/teachers

Creating fun school wide activities

Ayuda con:

Información de sexto grado Construir y reparar relaciones con

compañeros/maestros

Crear actividades divertidas para

toda la escuela.



## **Grade Level Leads and Contacts**

# Meet Your 8th Grade Loiederman Middle School Team

Ms. Ashton Pontious

8th Grade Assistant Principal/Subdirector

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Ashton L Pontious@mcpsmd.org School Phone - (240) 740-5830 Helps with:

General Concerns/Questions

Bullying

Teacher Concerns
Student safety concerns

Preocupaciones generales y preguntas

Acoso

Ayuda con:

Preocupaciones de los maestros Preocupaciones por la seguridad de

los estudiantes

Mr. James Risse

8th Grade Counselor/Consejero james\_risse@mcpsmd.org

School phone - (240) 740-5840

Helps with:

Bullying Emotional Concerns

Class Changes

Ayuda con:

Acoso

Preocupaciones emocionales

Cambios de clase

Mr. Jonathan Coor

8th Grade Team Leader/Líder de equipo

<u>Jonathan\_Coor@mcpsmd.org</u> School phone - (240) 740-5830 Helps with:

8th Grade Information

Building and repairing relationships with peers/teachers

Creating fun school wide activities

Ayuda con:

Información de sexto grado Construir y reparar relaciones con

compañeros/maestros

Crear actividades divertidas para

toda la escuela.

#### **New Staff**

As always, we have had some staff changes for the coming school year. We are excited to welcome these outstanding staff members:

ELD Tatiana Taratynova ELD Camila Gimenez Fraiz

**ELD** Olga Pranovich **English Ashley Grullon** PE/Health Sophia Tripoulas Olivia Nealis Math Math **Emily Frocke** Math **Emily Parr** Science Kristina Reyes **Social Studies** Jay Capitelli **Social Studies** Varada Maulkin



#### **PTSA**

If you would like to volunteer to lead or support our PTSA, please let us know! We are in need of a PTSA President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

## Student Transportation

According to MCPS Department of Transportation, student bus stop information from Map Net will be displayed in ParentVUE/StudentVUE on or about Friday, August 15, 2025. Students should use their assigned bus stops for efficient routing and to help reduce transportation costs.

### **School Communication**

Developing strong and consistent school home and school communication networks is crucial to ensuring you and your child's best school experience. Here are the key ways you can connect with us:

- **Sign up for ParentVue-** Families new to MCPS can sign up <a href="here">here</a>. Current MCPS families must contact the Loiederman Counseling Office at 240-740-5840 to receive an activation letter to sign up. <a href="Here are the directions for activating your ParentVue Account">Here are the directions for activating your ParentVue Account</a>. Once you have an account set up, please make sure that you do the following:
  - Update emergency contact information as well as information about those who are allowed to pick up your child from school.
  - Include an email address to access Synergy mail that will be the main form of communication with your teachers and the school.
  - Download the Synergy app on your phone to get updates about any messages that are waiting for you. Here are the directions for downloading the ParentVue App on your smartphone.
- Parent Square Sunday Voice Messages and Emails- Parent Square calls will continue to be
  made every Sunday evening with school updates and reminders to keep you informed of the
  school calendar, school system initiatives, and important school updates. This information will
  also be distributed by email, so please keep your phone number and email up to date.



## **Upcoming Dates and Events**

August 18-22 Professional days for teachers

August 25\* Student Transition Day (new students only)

August 26 First Day of School (all students)

September 1 Holiday- School and Offices Closed– Labor Day

September 4 Loiederman Back to School Night September 23 No School for staff and students

September 26 Early Release Day for All Students (LMS dismisses @ 12:30 p.m.)

October 2 No School for students and teachers
October 13-14 **Loiederman Student Picture Day** 

October 17\*\*

No School- Professional Day for All Staff

October 20 No School for staff and students

November 3\*\*

No School for students- Grading and Planning for the end of term

November 24 and 25

Early Release Day for All Students (LMS dismisses @ 12:30 p.m.)

November 26 Offices and Schools Closed- Systemwide Closure November 27 and 28 Holiday- School and Offices Closed- Thanksgiving

December 24-31 No School– Winter Break (Offices Closed Dec. 24, 25, 30 and 31)

January 1, 2026 Holiday- Offices and Schools Closed- New Year's Day

January 1 and 2 No School– Winter Break

January 19 Holiday- Offices and Schools Closed- MLK Day
January 26\*\* No School- Grading and Planning for the end of term
February 16 Holiday- School and Offices Closed- Presidents' Day

February 17 No School for staff and students

February 27 Early Release Day for All Students (LMS dismisses @ 12:30 p.m.)

March 20\*\*

No School- Professional Day for All Staff

March 30 and 31 No School- Spring Break

April 1-6 No School- Spring Break (Offices closed April 1, 2, 3, and 6)

April 15\*\* No School for students- Grading and Planning for the end of term

May 6 8th Grade Panoramic Photo

May 25 Holiday- Offices and Schools Closed- Memorial Day

May 27 No School for staff and students

June 11 LMS 8th Grade Promotion @ 6:00 p.m. @ Wheaton HS

June 17 Last Day of School- Early Release Day (Dismiss @ 12:30 p.m.)

June 18\*\* Professional Day for Teachers- End of Quarter Planning
June 19 Offices and Schools Closed- Systemwide Closure

<sup>\*\*</sup>If the school year is disrupted by emergencies and schools are closed three or more days, dates identified as possible make-up instructional days include: October 17 and November 3, 2025; January 26, March 20, April 15, June 18, June 22, June 23, June 24, June 25 and June 26, 2026.



<sup>\*</sup>Student Transition Day is a non-instructional full day for students entering Grades K, 6, and 9; students entering Grade 3 in elementary schools that service only Grades 3-5; and students new to a school or MCPS.

# **Emergency Closings or Delayed Openings**

School is occasionally closed all day or delayed in opening due to unsafe weather conditions. Parents are asked to listen to the radio or TV for information about closings. (Listen for Maryland – Montgomery County). MCPS offers numerous ways for parents to learn about school closures, delayed openings, and early dismissals due to inclement weather. For more information, visit:

- AlertMCPS Receive text messages or emails from MCPS during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. Parents can also sign up to receive alerts specific to their child's school. Subscribe to AlertMCPS at: <a href="http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx">http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx</a>
- MCPS homepage http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/
- MCPS cable channel Comcast 34, Verizon 36 or RCN 89
- Ask MCPS 301-309-6277. Staff take calls from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, in English and Spanish.

# Happy New School Year!

Again, the staff and I look forward to working closely with you to support our students, and we are committed to assisting you anyway we can in the educational process. Feel free to contact us by phone or email if you ever have a question or concern. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of your summer, and I look forward to working with you and your students throughout the school year.





## Meet our Admin Team: Main Office: (240) 740-5830

#### Ms. Megan McLaughlin - Principal

Mr. Aaron Barnett - 7th Grade Administrator
Ms. Eriel Jeffery - 6th Grade Administrator
Ms. Ashton Pontious - Magnet Coordinator/8th Grade Administrator

Ms. Christina Portillo, Administrative Secretary - <a href="mailto:Christina\_K\_Portillo@mcpsmd.org">Christina\_K\_Portillo@mcpsmd.org</a>
Ms. Heather Alonzo, Financial Specialist - <a href="mailto:Heather\_K\_Alonzo@mcpsmd.org">Heather\_K\_Alonzo@mcpsmd.org</a>
Ms. Cynthia Cortez, Attendance Secretary - <a href="mailto:Cynthia\_J\_Cortez@mcpsmd.org">Cynthia\_J\_Cortez@mcpsmd.org</a>
Ms. Cindy Soto, Main Office Secretary - <a href="mailto:Cindy\_M\_Soto@mcpsmd.org">Cindy\_M\_Soto@mcpsmd.org</a>

# Meet Our Counseling Team: Counseling Office: (240) 740-5840

Please call the counseling office to make an appointment if you have questions about a schedule change or to speak with a counselor.

Ms. Isabel Rodriguez, Counseling Secretary-Isabel\_B\_Rodriguez@mcpsmd.org

Mr. Benjamin Goldberg (Resource) - <u>Benjamin\_D\_Goldberg@mcpsmd.org</u>
Ms. Cynthia Purich (504's) - <u>Cynthia\_L\_Purich@mcpsmd.org</u>
Mr. Chet Hardy (Gr. 6) - <u>Chester\_L\_Hardy@mcpsmd.org</u>
Ms. Theresa Morgan (Gr. 7) - <u>Theresa\_Morgan-Elam@mcpsmd.org</u>
Mr. James Risse (Gr. 8) - <u>James\_Risse@mcpsmd.org</u>

Mr. Kimani Middleton, Pupil Personnel Worker - <u>Kimani\_Middleton@mcpsmd.org</u>
Ms. Carol Fernandez, Community School Liaison - <u>Carol\_Fernandez@mcpsmd.org</u>
Ms. Elisabeth Fisher, EML Transition Counselor - <u>Elisabeth\_M\_Fisher@mcpsmd.org</u>

# Meet our Linkages Team:

Linkages: (240) 740-5844

Ms. Catherine Melendez (Coordinator)
Ms. Astrid Flores (Case Manager)
Mr. Noah Wallack (Child and Family Therapist)

## Important #'s:

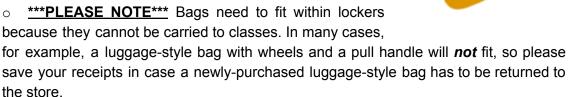
Health Room: (240) 740-5832 Cafeteria: (240) 740-5834



# <u>Loiederman School Supplies</u>

## The following materials are recommended for the first day of school:

- A three-ring binder-at least 3"wide
- A pouch for pencils and pens
- Eight subject dividers for the three-ring binder so there is a section for eight classes.
- Pack of pencils
- Pens (blue or black ink)
- One pack of wide-ruled loose-leaf paper
- Two pocket folders
- Two single-subject spiral notebooks
- One bag or backpack



No markers (water-based or permanent ink) of any kind should be brought to school.

## The following materials are recommended for home use:

- One set of 100 post-it notes for taking notes along the margin of texts
- Two highlighters for marking up articles or other readings

#### **Physical Education Clothes**

• Students should bring a plain t-shirt/sweatshirt and shorts/sweatpants from home to be worn during physical education. Students do not need these clothes on the first day of school but should bring them in by the end of the first week.



