



Megan McLaughlin, Principal

12701 Goodhill Road

Silver Spring, Maryland 20906

(240) 740-5830

www.loiedermanarts.org

July 31, 2026

Dear Students, Parents, and Caregivers:

We hope everyone has been able to enjoy a safe and restful summer! This summer, our instructional leadership team gathered and analyzed student voice data and academic performance data from the school year. We are pleased that our students continue to make progress in literacy and math although there is still much room for improved performance overall. This year, our instructional focus directly aligns with our shared districtwide commitment to ensure that all students will be prompted to think effortfully in order to meet or exceed grade-level standards. Our upcoming school improvement plan includes timelines to implement and monitor our goals to ensure we measure our success along the way. Additionally, we will introduce some changes in response to student and family feedback in the following areas:

- **Daily Lions' Den Advisory & LMS News Show:** Students will begin each day with Lions' Den Advisory, including the LMS News Show, to stay informed, build community, and reinforce school expectations. Students, you asked for news every day, and we listened!
- **Student Planners:** Each marking period, students will receive a new planner to record assignments, track important dates, and strengthen organization and time-management skills.
- **Homework Folders:** Students will receive a labeled homework folder with designated pockets to organize materials between home and school, supporting responsibility, and executive functioning skills.
- **Consistent Canvas Course Pages:** All teacher Canvas pages will follow a common layout and include an assignment tracker on the homepage. This consistent design will make it easier for students and families to locate important information, monitor assignments, and stay informed about due dates and upcoming deadlines.

As we did at the start of every 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 new learning with our Loiederman lions!

Sincerely,

Megan McLaughlin
Principal

MCPS and Loiederman Middle School Cell Phone Policy

Because we prioritize the physical and emotional well-being of our students, four years ago our leadership team agreed it was best to move to an *Away All Day* policy for our students. Our decision aligns with the MCPS cell phone policy for middle schools and will also follow the recent Maryland Phone Free Schools Act established by the Maryland State Department of Education to restrict the use of cell phones in all schools by the 2027-2028 school year. 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. Loiederman will continue our *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.

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 24** from **8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** 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 25**.

Back to School Night

Loiederman's Back to School Night will be **Thursday, September 3rd from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** This night is a great opportunity to meet your student's teachers and hear about what your students will be learning. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

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 www.MySchoolApps.com; this is the preferred application method. All interested families must reapply each school year.

Apply online NOW at MySchoolApps.com (Translations available) Click [here](#) for an English video tutorial. Click [here](#) 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.schoolcashionline.com/>



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.

Mr. Chet Hardy 504 Coordinator Chet_L_Hardy@mcpsms.org School phone - (240) 740-5840	<i>Helps with:</i> All three grade levels for students with 504 accommodations. If your child is supported with a 504, he is your main contact.	<i>Ayuda con:</i> Para los tres niveles de grado, en el caso de los estudiantes con adaptaciones del plan 504: si su hijo cuenta con el apoyo de un plan 504, él es su contacto principal.
Ms. Bethanie Weitz Resource Teacher for Special Education Bethanie_G_Weitz@mcpsmd.org School Phone - (240) 740-5830	<i>Helps with:</i> All three grade levels for students with special needs. If your child is supported with an IEP, she is your main contact.	<i>Ayuda con:</i> Los tres niveles de grados para estudiantes con necesidades especiales. Si su hijo recibe apoyo de un IEP, ella es su contacto principal.
Ms. Carol Fernandez Community School Liaison/ Coordinadora de la comunidad de padres Carol_Fernandez@mcpsmd.org MCPS phone - (227) 271-3770 <i>Habla español</i>	<i>Helps with:</i> 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.	<i>Ayuda con:</i> 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.
Mrs. Lesia Perkins Pupil Personnel Worker/ Trabajadora de personal estudiantil Lesia_R_Perkins@mcpsmd.org School phone - (240) 740-5840	<i>Helps with:</i> Family Welfare - Mental Health, Financial Resources, Transportation, Advocate for student/ family	<i>Ayuda con:</i> Bienestar familiar: salud mental, recursos financieros, transporte, defensor del estudiante/familia



Grade Level Leads and Contacts

Meet Your 6th Grade Loiederman Middle School Team

Coming Soon! Please reach out to any member of our administrative team in the meantime if you need assistance. 6th Grade Assistant Principal/Subdirector School Phone - (240) 740-5830	Helps with: General Concerns/Questions Bullying Teacher Concerns Student safety concerns	Ayuda con: Preocupaciones generales y preguntas Acoso Preocupaciones de los maestros Preocupaciones por la seguridad de los estudiantes
Mr. James Risse 6th 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
Ms. Elena Kerr 6th Grade Team Leader/Líder de equipo Elena_Kerr@mcpsmd.org School phone - (240) 740-5830	Helps with: 6th 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.

Meet Your 7th Grade Loiederman Middle School Team

Ms. Eriel Jeffery 7th 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: Preocupaciones generales y preguntas Acoso Preocupaciones de los maestros Preocupaciones por la seguridad de los estudiantes
Ms. Cynthia Purich 7th Grade Counselor/Consejero Cynthia_L_Purich@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 7th Grade Team Leader/Líder de equipo Jonathan_Coor@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.



Meet Your 8th Grade Loiederman Middle School Team

Ms. Ashton Pontious <u>8th Grade Assistant Principal/Subdirector</u> Ashton_L_Pontious@mcpsmd.org MCPS cell phone -	<i>Helps with:</i> General Concerns/Questions Bullying Teacher Concerns Student safety concerns	<i>Ayuda con:</i> Preocupaciones generales y preguntas Acoso Preocupaciones de maestros Preocupaciones por la seguridad de los estudiantes
Mrs. Theresa Morgan <u>8th Grade Counselor/Consejera</u> Theresa_Morgan-Elam@mcpsmd.org School phone - (240) 740-5840	<i>Helps with:</i> Bullying Emotional Concerns Class Changes	<i>Ayuda con:</i> Acoso Preocupaciones emocionales Cambios de clase
Ms. Marie Ostrega <u>8th Grade Team Leader/Líder de equipo</u> Veronica_M_Ostrega@mcpsmd.org School phone - (240) 740-5830	<i>Helps with:</i> 8th Grade Information Building and repairing relationships with peers/teachers Creating fun school wide activities	<i>Ayuda con:</i> 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	Monique Martinez
English	Mary Peeples-Peterson
Math	Gretchen Gregg
Science	Cecilia Gonzalez
Social Studies	Kenneth Crown III
Spanish	Vicky Guevara
SPED	Amy White-Steiner
Security	Brandon Stanley

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 14, 2026**. 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 [here](#). Current MCPS families must contact the Loiederman Counseling Office at 240-740-5840 to receive an activation letter to sign up. [Here are the directions for activating your ParentVue Account](#). 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 17-21	Professional days for teachers
August 24*	Student Transition Day (NEW students only)
August 25	First Day of School (all students)
September 3	Loiederman Back to School Night
September 7	Holiday–School and Offices Closed; Labor Day
September 18	Early Release Day for All Students (LMS dismisses @ 12:30 p.m.)
September 21	No School for staff and students–Non-Instructional Day
October 12-13	Loiederman Student Picture Day
October 16	No School for Students–Professional Development Day for Staff
November 2	No School for Students–Grading and Planning for the End of Term
November 3	Holiday–School and Offices Closed; Election Day
November 23, 24 and 25	Early Release Day for All Students (LMS dismisses @ 12:30 p.m.)
November 26 and 27	Holiday–School and Offices Closed; Thanksgiving
December 23	Early Release Day for All Students (LMS dismisses @ 12:30 p.m.)
December 24-31	Winter Break –No School (Offices Closed Dec. 24-25 & 30-31)
January 1, 2027	Winter Break Holiday–School and Offices Closed; New Year’s Day
January 18	Holiday–School and Offices Closed; MLK Day
January 25	No School for students–Grading and Planning for the End of Term
February 15	Holiday–School and Offices Closed; Presidents’ Day
February 26	Early Release Day for All Students (LMS dismisses @ 12:30 p.m.)
March 9	No School for Students–Professional Development Day for Staff
March 26 and 29	Spring Break Holiday–Schools and Offices Closed
March 30-April 2	Spring Break–No School (Offices Closed April 1 and 2)
April 12	No School for Students–Grading and Planning for the End of Term
April 22**	No School for staff and students–Non-Instructional Day
May 4	8th Grade Panoramic Photo
May 17**	No School for staff and students–Non-Instructional Day
May 31	Holiday- Offices and Schools Closed- Memorial Day
June 9	LMS 8th Grade Promotion @ 5:30 p.m. @ Wheaton HS
June 11	Last Day of School- Early Release Day (Dismiss @ 12:30 p.m.)
June 14**	Professional Day for Teachers- End of Quarter Planning
June 18	Offices and Schools Closed- Systemwide Closure

***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 all students new to a school or MCPS.**

****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: April 22, May 17, June 14, 15, 16 and 17.**



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: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx>
- **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.





WELCOME, Families!

**A. MARIO LOIEDERMAN
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

MEET OUR SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAM

**We are here to support our students
and families!**



MEET OUR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Main Office: (240) 740-5830



★ **Ms. Megan McLaughlin**
Principal



★ **TBD**
6th Grade Administrator /
Magnet Coordinator



★ **Ms. Eriel Jeffery**
7th Grade Administrator



★ **Ms. Ashton Pontious**
8th Grade Administrator



Ms. Christina Portillo
Administrative Secretary
Christina_K_Portillo@mcpsmd.org



Ms. Heather Alonzo
Financial Specialist
Heather_K_Alonzo@mcpsmd.org



Ms. Cynthia Cortez
Attendance Secretary
Cynthia_J_Cortez@mcpsmd.org



Ms. Cindy Soto
Main Office Secretary
Cindy_M_Soto@mcpsmd.org



MEET OUR COUNSELING TEAM

Counseling Office: (240) 740-5840



Need help with a schedule change
or want to speak with a counselor?

**Please call the counseling office
to make an appointment.**



Ms. Isabel Rodriguez
Counseling Secretary
Isabel_B_Rodriguez@mcpsmd.org



Mr. Benjamin Goldberg
Resource Counselor
Benjamin_D_Goldberg@mcpsmd.org



Mr. Chet Hardy
504 Coordinator
Chester_L_Hardy@mcpsmd.org



Ms. Theresa Morgan
8th Grade Counselor
Theresa_Morgan-Elam@mcpsmd.org



Ms. Cynthia Purich
7th Grade Counselor
Cynthia_L_Purich@mcpsmd.org



Mr. James Risse
6th Grade Counselor
James_Risse@mcpsmd.org



Ms. Lesia Perkins
Pupil Personnel Worker
Lesia_R_Perkins@mcpsmd.org



Ms. Carol Fernandez
Community School Liaison
Carol_Fernandez@mcpsmd.org



MEET OUR LINKAGES TEAM

Linkages Office: (240) 740-5844



Our Linkages Team
provides additional
support and resources
for students and
families.



Ms. Hanna Addis
School Coordinator



Ms. Chiara Izquierdo Parada
Family Case Manager



Ms. Alondra Hartness
Child & Family Therapist



Mr. Noah Wallack
Child & Family Therapist

*Together, we
make a
DIFFERENCE!*

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS



HEALTH ROOM
(240) 740-5832



CAFETERIA
(240) 740-5834



MAIN OFFICE
(240) 740-5830



COUNSELING OFFICE
(240) 740-5840



LINKAGES OFFICE
(240) 740-5844



WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES!

Please don't hesitate to reach out — we are committed to creating
a welcoming, safe, and successful school experience for every student.



LOIEDERMAN

MIDDLE SCHOOL



SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

26-27



Loiederman Middle School is requiring all students to come to school with the following school supplies.
Additional supplies may be requested by individual teachers.



La Escuela Media Loiederman requiere que todos los estudiantes traigan a la escuela los siguientes útiles escolares.
Los maestros podrán solicitar útiles adicionales según las necesidades de sus clases.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Backpack



3-Ring Binder (2-inch or 3-inch)



Subject Dividers (8)



Loose-Leaf Paper Wide Rule



Pencil Pouch



#2 Pencils OR
Black pens and Blue Pens



ÚTILES ESCOLARES



Mochila o Bolson



Carpeta de 3 anillos
(de 2 o 3 pulgadas)



Divisores para las materias (8)



Papel de hojas sueltas
(papel con líneas anchas- Wide Rule)



Estuche para lápices



Lápices #2 o bolígrafos
negros y azules



LOIEDERMAN WILL PROVIDE ALL STUDENTS WITH:



Student Planners



Homework Folder



Combination locks for
hallway and PE lockers



LOIEDERMAN PROVEERÁ A TODOS LOS ESTUDIANTES CON:



Agenda escolar
para estudiantes



Carpeta de tareas



Candados de combinación
para los armarios en los
pasillos y para Educación Física

♥ Be Respectful.

☆ Be Responsible.

🐾 Be a Lion.

TOGETHER WE ROAR!