Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Welcome back for another exciting year filled with new opportunities at A. Mario Loiederman Middle School. I hope you and your families are enjoying a refreshing and relaxing summer.

In meeting with our Instructional Leadership Team throughout the summer, we developed an overarching charge to develop a focus and be strategic in our thinking to be sure each student experiences a positive difference each day in every classroom. Our core values of communication, commitment, consistency, and caring are the driving force within this Professional Learning Community. We are committed to good first instruction that is carefully planned to incorporate the needs of each child as an individual in a classroom environment. We believe that “Every Student Is an Artist” at Loiederman in some capacity and we encourage and celebrate every student’s efforts. Our instructional focus as a Loiederman Community is a belief that students need be immersed in equitable classroom environments that incorporate Higher Order Thinking skills through Authentic Tasks that result in Literate Lions. As a school community we will have a strong focus on math and literacy across all content areas. Each student will be able to make claims, provide evidence, complete an analysis, and link their learning to real world applications.

Montgomery Public Schools prides itself on the consistent implementation of its core values which are: learning, relationships, respect, excellence, and equity. Loiederman Middle School echoes these values through the unique learning experiences within the creative and performing arts. I have included some information for your reference of how the arts experience elevates learning for each student as lifelong skills.

Summer Assignments

It is valuable for students to maintain their learning routines as well as continue the use of their skills particularly in math and reading. As a reminder, the expected summer reading assignments for all grade levels can be found on our website. These summer reading assignments have a deadline and do become part of the first quarter grade. Additionally, there are options of math supports for all students to explore on our website as well. Limited paper copies can also be picked up in our main office throughout the summer.

Orientations

We have a one day 6th Grade Orientation Day with two time slots this year for incoming 6th graders to participate in this fun, informative activity August 4, 2015 at 11:00am-1:00p.m. or 3:00pm-5:00 p.m. Any 6th grade student is encouraged to attend and can sign up on our web page to reserve a time slot. There will also be a school-wide orientation on Thursday, August 27, 2015, for all students who are new to Loiederman. Regular bus transportation will be provided for this half-day morning session.

Principal Coffees

It is important to me to facilitate open communication so we can appropriately support students and create a positive middle school experience. I will be hosting periodic Principal Coffees to allow an opportunity for parents and community members to share ideas and be provided school-wide updates. The first Principal Coffee will be held Thursday, August 20, 2015 from 9:00am-10:00am in the Media Center. All of the Administration Team will be attending. Additional Principal Coffees will be held before each PTSA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by the monthly PTSA meeting for you to attend.
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 begins the 1st week of October and runs through the middle of May. It offers exciting classes Monday-Thursday until 5:15pm for a variety of interests. Transportation is offered for students who regularly would receive this service. Students must register for these sections. Stay tuned in September for registration information.

Saturday School

Loiederman Middle School is fortunate this year to be one of the sites for the The George B. Thomas Sr. Saturday School. Saturday School offers tutoring and mentoring in reading/language arts, mathematics, and test-taking skills for students in grades 1-12. Online registration is now open for the 2015-2016 Saturday School Year. The registration fee is $40 for students eligible for FARMS® and $70 for non-FARMS. (* FARMS is the Free and Reduced-price Meal Services)

Comparative Prices:

- For students eligible for FARMS® the fee is $40
- For non-FARMS students the fee is $70

The registration fee is $40 for students eligible for FARMS® and $70 for non-FARMS. (FARMS is the Free and Reduced-price Meal Services)

OCTOBER 3, 2015 is Opening Day and Registration for Students and Parents. Opening Day is from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at all 12 Saturday School Learning Centers. Don’t forget to bring a copy of the latest report card on the first day of Saturday School. Please reference their website for more information at http://www.saturdayschool.org/

NEW Administrator

We welcome Ms. Megan McLaughlin as our new Assistant School Administrator. Ms. McLaughlin will be the administrator for Grade 8 this year. She obtained a B.A. Secondary Education and Literature from American University; M.S. Gifted Education from Johns Hopkins University. Ms. McLaughlin has been an English Teacher in five different MCPS middle schools over the last 17 years. In 2005, Ms. McLaughlin helped open Loiederman as a 7th Grade English teacher and Team Leader. Before returning to Loiederman as the Assistant School Administrator, Ms. McLaughlin was the Content Specialist for English and ESOL at Tilden Middle School. Welcome her into the Loiederman Family!

Administration, Counseling, and Team Leaders

We have begun to organize and align adult supports 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 supports. 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.

**Grade 6**
- Dr. Royce Wallace Administraror: Royce_A_Wallace@mcpsmd.org
- Ms. Jessica Gottlieb Counselor: Jessica_M_Gottlieb@mcpsmd.org
- Ms. Suzanne Abu-Sharr Counselor (Resource): Suzanne_M_Abu-sharr@mcpsmd.org
- Ms. Katie Becker Team Leader: Katie_E_Becker@mcpsmd.org
- Mr. Tom Bolgiano Community Engagement Coordinator: Isaiah_T_Bolgiano@mcpsmd.org

**Grade 7**
- Mr. Norman Edwards Administrator: Norman_A_Edwards@mcpsmd.org
- Mr. James Risse Counselor: James_Risse@mcpsmd.org
- Ms. Pam Decederfelt Team Leader: Pamela_Decederfelt@mcpsmd.org
- Ms. Kim Prillman Community Engagement Coordinator: Kimberly_D_Prillman@mcpsmd.org
“Every Student is an Artist”

Albert Einstein, a famous scientist, said, “True art is characterized by an irresistible urge in the creative artist.” The students at A. Mario Loiederman Middle School for the Creative and Performing Arts have an opportunity to engage in many artistic endeavors. The arts enhance cultural appreciation and awareness! The arts also provide opportunities for self-expression, bringing the inner world into the outer world! Every student at Loiederman has the opportunity to discover the arts through higher order thinking, engaging lessons, and performances. Through the creative process, every student develops an understanding and appreciation of the fine and performing arts. At Loiederman, every student is an artist!

Standard Operating Procedures

NEW Online Payments for PE Uniforms

New for this school year, parents have the options to purchase your child’s PE uniform online via our school website all school year long. Avoid the hassle of sending cash or a check with your child to school. Just click on the online school payment link on our school’s web-site to purchase your child’s PE uniforms. Your child will receive their PE gear through their PE class.

Entering the Building

From 8:15a.m.- 3:00p.m. our school operates under the ACS (Access Control System) to maintain the safety and security of the building. To enter the building during that time, all visitors must press the button located to the left of the front main exterior doors. You must then wait for a response from the school staff, who will ask you to identify yourself, as well as, ask the purpose of your visit.

Morning and Afternoon Drop-Off/Pick-up

We understand that the morning times can be busy and we have an increased number of students who participate in a carpool. In order to facilitate a safe and smooth drop off for your students, we have included procedures below for all adults dropping off and picking up students. Please review these in advance and share them with your student so we can work together to keep everyone safe.

Students who ride buses will be dropped off at the front doors of the building in the bus loop. The doors to the school will open at 7:55 a.m. Students will report directly to their grade level areas:

- 6th Grade – must enter through the Grade 6 far entrance and be seated in the 6th Grade Hallway
- 7th Grade – must enter through the Café door only. No students or staff may enter through the side entrance. This door will remain locked for security purposes so we can monitor everyone entering the building. Please note this is a change from previous years.
- 8th Grade – Must enter through top Gym entrance and gather in the gym

Attendance

A written explanation of every student’s absence is required from the parent/guardian within three days of the student’s return to school. We have template notes available on our website as well as in the main office, or you may choose to write your own. Please include your child’s full name, grade, and ID number if known and you or your child may submit it to our attendance secretary, Ms. Regina Stricklin. Regina_B_Stricklin@mcpsmd.org. Students who arrive to school late before 8:30a.m. should report directly to their Homeroom/Advisory Period. Students who arrive to school late after 8:30a.m. should report to the Main Office to sign-in and receive a pass.
**Staff**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Subject/Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Stouffer</td>
<td>Algebra</td>
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<tr>
<td>June Sawah</td>
<td>BSM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darrell Prather</td>
<td>BSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tiffany Alastanos</td>
<td>Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allyson Hawkes</td>
<td>Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alyssa Deland</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>ESOL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Akua Gaudry</td>
<td>French</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lissette Morvis</td>
<td>Math</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathryn Willis</td>
<td>Math</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>Math</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>Paraeducator</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melvin Pumphrey</td>
<td>Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Roessler</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Foret</td>
<td>SPED</td>
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<td>Jody Janosky</td>
<td>SPED</td>
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<td>Leslie Sadlier</td>
<td>SPED</td>
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<td>Craig Powers</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
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**Upcoming Events/Dates**

- **August 27** - New Student Orientation
- **August 31** - First day of School
- **September 7** - No School - Labor Day
- **September 8** - Eighth Grade Parent Meeting
- **September 9** - Back to School Night
- **September 14** - No School
- **September 17** - Seventh Grade Parent Meeting
- **September 30** - Sixth Grade Parent Meeting
- **September 23** - No School
- **October 2** - Early Release
- **October 16** - No School
- **October 21** - Open House
- **November 2** - No School
- **November 11, 12** - Early Release Day K-12: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **November 25** - Early Release
- **November 26, 27** - Thanksgiving
- **December 24-January 1** - No School – Winter Break
- **January 4-8** - Outdoor Education
- **January 15** - No School MLK Day
- **January 25** - No School
- **February 15** - No School – President’s Day
- **February 26** - Early Release
- **March 24-April 1** - Spring Break
- **April 26** - Primary Election
- **May 30** - No School Memorial Day
- **June 17** - Last Day of School Early Release

**Important**

Please carefully review the information posted on our website, which highlights important details about school operations, policies and procedures, important dates, and information from the PTSA. Meanwhile, please be sure to stay informed of up-to-date news and information by checking our website regularly and by signing up for the Loiederman/PTSA Email List at LoiedermanPTSA+subscribe@googlegroups.com. Furthermore, we will rely on Edline for online grades and home-school communication; additional information about Edline account activation will be provided during the first
week of school and at Back-to-School Night. It is imperative that all students and parents have active Edline and PTSA Email accounts, as these online tools will serve as the primary communication vehicles to keep parents informed.

Again, the staff and I look forward to working closely with you to support our students, and we are committed to assisting you any way 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 student throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Nicole Sosik
Principal

NS:dlw
Loiederman Middle School
Pick-Up and Drop-Off Procedures

Morning Drop-Off

- All cars must enter from Weller Road. Cars must continue to drive toward the front of the school. Please do not stop at the basketball courts to drop off your child as it creates a safety issue.
- The left hand lane may not be used to drop off students. This lane is only for cars exiting and staff trying to park.
- Please remember that some students have lots of equipment sometimes to unload, so be patient.
- Students should not be dropped off on Goodhill Road. It creates a safety issue for all students. Also, it is illegal to make U-Turns on this street. The corner of Goodhill Road and Dean Street is acceptable.

Afternoon Pick-Up

- Please pull forward toward the front of the school to avoid a backup on Weller Road. Do not start your own line.
- Parking along the curb by the basketball courts is prohibited as per fire safety regulations. Your car cannot be unattended there.
- Please move slowly through the line since many students are walking. If you are at the front of the line still waiting for your child, you may choose to wait there or park in the lot.
- Students will be told they must wait on the sidewalk entrance until their ride pulls forward. They may not walk across lanes.