July, 2015

Dear Student,

I hope you are having a wonderful summer that is fun, safe, and exciting. I cannot wait to hear your summer stories of adventures and memories. My time this summer was spent visiting family, going to the beach, golfing, catching up with old friends, attending baseball games and summer festivals, and taking last minute road trips has been enjoyable. In between that fun I have been here at Loiederman with many of our staff thinking about last year and planning for how we can elevate your experience this school year. 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.

Middle School can be challenging in that we know you all are exploring your interests, who you want to be, your beliefs, your values, your friendships, and your learning preferences. Don’t worry, we are here to support you along the way. Start to think about how you feel you can be successful and what you need to begin to know about yourself. Below are some links of resources for you to check out to get you started for this school year. The last link is information for you to understand how your teachers will be incorporating higher order thinking skills in your classrooms through Blooms Taxonomy. Check out this cool information!!

http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/school/middleschool/
http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/what-to-expect-grade/preparing-middle-school
http://www.brighthubeducation.com/parenting-middle-schoolers/3173-ten-tips-for-a-successful-start-to-middle-school/
http://www.nwlink.com/~donclark/hrd/bloom.html

Our Loiederman staff has been working hard this summer to make this school even better than what it has been. The building services staff has worked many hours getting the building clean and creating an environment that you will take pride in each day. Be sure to thank them when you arrive the first day of school. We will all be part of keeping the building clean and safe.

Each year the Loiederman Staff looks back at how things were done and tries to make changes to make them better. For some of you there will be some differences such as a new ways for students to be involved, some new policies, changes in how administrators work with students for certain issues, and classroom learning opportunities.

As a staff, we have discussed ways to improve the routines of Loiederman Middle School to maximize your learning experience. We will go over these procedures in more detail the first week of school during Town Halls, but below is a list of some changes to expect. Read over each bullet and think about any questions you may want to ask the first week of school.

- **We will have a new bell schedule.** Every day you will report to your assigned homeroom location. There you will eat breakfast and listen to the announcements. Homeroom will be from 8:15a.m.-8:30a.m. The school day this year will end at 3:00p.m. Occasionally we will run homeroom for 30 minutes for important information and activities to occur. It is important for you to be to school on time so you can be informed about what is happening in the school community. The new bell schedule is included with this letter for your review. It is important to get to class on time. You will not be hearing announcements of hall sweeps very often this year. Students out in the hallway after the late bell without an excused pass will receive detention slips.
• All students will be able to enter the building at 7:55 a.m. Eighth graders will report to the gym, seventh graders will report to the cafeteria, and sixth graders will report to their hallways located at the far end of the building. All 7th graders must enter through the side cafeteria door. **Students or staff are no longer allowed to enter the building through the side entrance.** Students will have an opportunity to get a pass from teachers the day before for morning academic help. Students may use their signed passes beginning at 7:55a.m. by presenting them to their administrator before reporting to that teacher. All students will be released to lockers at 8:05a.m.

• Your counselors will all be moving with their grade levels so all 7th and 8th graders will have their same counselor as last year. In order for you to get to know them they will be available during your lunch periods up in the cafeteria. This is a great time for you to see them for small requests or to schedule a time that they can pull you from a class. You can also make appointment to see your counselor before school and after school or you can email them directly. It’s most important for you to remain in classes as much as possible so making appointments is important.

• **Get to know your Team Leaders!!** They are going to be a strong support for you throughout the year. Below are your grade level adults to go to:

**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  
Ms. Jessica Gottlieb  
Ms. Suzanne Abu-Sharr  
Ms. Katie Becker  
Mr. Tom Bolgiano  

Administrator  
Counselor  
Counselor (Resource)  
Team Leader  
Community Engagement Coordinator  

Royce_A_Wallace@mcpsmd.org  
Jessica_M_Gottlieb@mcpsmd.org  
Suzanne_M_Abu-sharr@mcpsmd.org  
Katie_E_Becker@mcpsmd.org  
Isaiah_T_Bolgiano@mcpsmd.org

**Grade 7**

Mr. Norman Edwards  
Mr. James Risse  
Ms. Pam Deederfelt  
Ms. Kim Prillman  

Administrator  
Counselor  
Team Leader  
Community Engagement Coordinator  

Norman_A_Edwards@mcpsmd.org  
James_Risse@mcpsmd.org  
Pamela_Decederfelt@mcpsmd.org  
Kimberly_D_Prillman@mcpsmd.org
Continue to have fun for the rest of the summer. **Be sure to get all your school supplies, complete your summer reading assignments, practice summer math, and get some rest to be ready to learn.** The most important thing to do is to wake up your brains, get your body ready for routines, and get psyched for a great year that is ahead. We have some new faces at Loiederman that are eager to meet all of you. I am so excited to see all of you and to begin our next journey together.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sosik
Principal

NS:dlw