July 20, 2018

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

We are looking forward to a 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 commitment is to orchestrate success for all students. The reflection for us has been “are our children learning?” and “are our children learning enough?” 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.

MISSION

*Our mission is to build every learner’s capacity by exposing them to rigorous academic programming and unique artistic experiences. We provide a creative and collaborative learning environment in which students use higher order thinking skills to solve complex problems.*

VISION

*Our vision is for all students to be prepared for the rigors of all high school, college and career experiences with the ability to interpret and evaluate their place in the world through their foundation in the arts.*

At Loiederman, we believe that “Every Student Is an Artist” in some capacity, and we encourage and celebrate every student’s efforts. As a school community we will have a strong focus on math and literacy across all content areas. Each grade level will have instructional goals specific to their needs as evidenced by the MAP testing and Progress Check data. We are focusing our efforts around the work aligned with research within *Got Data? Now What? Creating and Leading Cultures of Inquiry.*

Montgomery County 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 in the summer information link.
“Every Student is an Artist”

The students at A. Mario Loiederman Middle School for the Creative and Performing Arts have endless opportunities to engage in various artistic endeavors each and every day. We believe the arts allow our students to develop the skills required for critical thinking, and strengthen their capacity to determine for themselves how they’re going to tackle a given problem. Each time our students embark on a new artistic adventure, they are tasked with determining the path they want to take and that type of self-expression and ingenuity is what yields innovation. We are committed to growing students as scholars and artists who are an invaluable asset to our future. At Loiederman, every student is an artist!

Restorative Justice

Loiederman Middle School has embraced the mindset of restorative practices and justice to further enhance 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 the negative behavior are not placed into situations to repair the harm they have caused to others and often to not see the impact of their actions. Restorative justice and practices create those opportunities and support a true social/emotional learning environment.

Restorative Justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by negatively impactful behavior. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that allow all willing stakeholders to meet, although other approaches are available when that is impossible. This can lead to transformation of people, relationships and communities. You will hear more about our implementation of this mindset as the school year begins. Below is a link to a video that describes Loiederman’s journey thus far in building upon the community of Restorative Justice.

https://youtu.be/W_qVPiiVNhE

Summer Reading/Math 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 are hosting 6th Grade Orientation Days this year for incoming 6th graders to participate in a fun, informative activity The next one will be Tuesday, August 21, 2018, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Any 6th grade student is encouraged to attend and can sign up on our web page under the summer information button to reserve a time slot. There will also be a school-wide orientation on Thursday, August 30, 2018, for all students who are new to Loiederman. Regular bus transportation will be provided for this half-day morning session which ends at 12:00pm.
**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 includes all administrators and will be held Friday, August 24, 2018, from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. in the Media Center.** All of the Administration Team will be attending. Additional Principal Coffees will be held throughout the school year.

**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 begins the last week of September and runs through the middle of May. It offers exciting classes Monday-Thursday until 5:30pm 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 August for registration information.

**Saturday School**

The George B. Thomas Sr. Saturday School is held at **Wheaton High School** which 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 2018-2019 Saturday School Year. **The registration fee is $40 for students eligible for FARMS** and **$85 for non-FARMS. (FARMS is the Free and Reduced-price Meal Services)** **The program begins in September.** Please reference their website for more information at [http://www.saturdayschool.org/](http://www.saturdayschool.org/)

**Parent Portal (accessing grades and attendance)**

**Parent Portal Information Link**

The myMCPS Parent Portal 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. A letter will be sent to your home before school starts providing access information and instructions.
NEW Administrator- Grade 6

We are excited to welcome Mr. Clifford Cooper Jr. to our Administrative Team. Mr. Cooper is tremendously excited to join the A. Mario Loiederman Middle School for the Creative and Performing Arts as the new Assistant School Administrator. He is coming to Loiederman from Springbrook High School, where he served as the English Resource Teacher for the past four years. Mr. Cooper’s wife is starting her third year as the Assistant School Administrator at Robert Frost Middle School, and their son should be starting Kindergarten at Fields Road Elementary School in about five years. He will be the 6th grade administrator this school year, and is looking forward to helping our newest Lions and their families have a successful transition to middle school. Mr. Cooper has already had the chance to meet and work with some awesome Loiederman staff members this summer, and has high hopes and expectations for the coming school year.

NEW Administrator/Principal Intern- Grade 7

I am pleased to inform you that our school has been selected as one of several schools supporting the training of future principals in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). Mrs. Nicole J. Morgan, currently an experienced assistant principal at North Bethesda Middle School, has been selected as an MCPS principal intern for the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Morgan comes with the highest recommendations as a dynamic instructional leader and as someone who will make significant contributions to our school. It is an honor for LMS to be considered as a training site for a future principal.
The primary goal of the principal internship is to prepare candidates to become highly successful school principals in MCPS. The secondary internship experience is a combination of professional development activities, a practicum experience, and strategic coaching and mentoring.

As the principal intern, Mrs. Morgan will gradually assume responsibility for many leadership functions in our school. She will also be responsible for leading meetings and activities typically carried out by the school principal. Additionally, she will participate in seminars with other MCPS principal interns to continue to develop the necessary knowledge and skills to ensure effective implementation of the school initiatives and the MCPS strategic plan.

An important component of the secondary internship is the job-embedded opportunities for growth. To this end, Mrs. Morgan will complete a practicum experience. She will serve as Loiederman’s acting principal for a period of six weeks in the months of January and February. During this time, Ms. Sosik will be assigned to support a principal intern in a separate school. This experience allows the principal intern to take on and fulfill the full responsibilities of the principalship. We will send another letter to the community later in the school year before the transition.

I consider it a great privilege for our school to be selected to host a future MCPS principal. I am sure that all of you will join me in welcoming Mrs. Morgan as she embraces her role as a principal intern here at LMS.

A message from Mrs. Morgan:

As an instructional leader, I’ve had the pleasure of serving as an assistant principal (AP) at North Bethesda Middle School for the past five years. I’ve learned middle school students are just that, in the “middle,” working towards independence as they transition into young adults, I enjoy this phase of adolescence. I also served as an AP and assistant school administrator (ASA) at Walter Johnson High School for seven years. My experiences and background as a professional school counselor at Springbrook High School and Prince George’s County Public Schools, and educator in the District of Columbia Public Schools have shaped my core values as an instructional leader who seeks out opportunities to build and sustain positive relationships with students, parents and staff to promote and ensure the academic achievement of ALL students.

My passion for teaching and learning is contagious. I believe in cultivating a rigorous and engaging environment where students can be successful and become life-long learners with the appropriate instructional supports. As a proud mother of two sons, one headed to high school and the other going into third-grade next school year, the journey as both parent and educator informs my philosophy daily about providing the best education for ALL students. My goal as principal intern here at Loiederman is to support the continued success of our students through instructional practices, parental involvement, and community outreach and partnerships that are challenging, engaging and culturally relevant. As we prepare to collaborate next school year, I feel privileged to be join a school community that believes in student success.
**Grade Level Adult Supports and Contacts**

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
- **Mr. Clifford Cooper**  
  Administrator  
  Clifford_J_CooperJr@mcpsmd.org
- **Mr. Harold Dawkins**  
  Counselor  
  Harold_R_Dawkins@mcpsmd.org
- **Mrs. Elizabeth Merino**  
  ESOL Counselor (Resource)  
  Elizabeth_J_Merino@mcpsmd.org
- **Mr. Jeremy Snyder**  
  Team Leader  
  Jeremy_Snyder@mcpsmd.org
- **Ms. Alyssa DeLand**  
  Community Engagement Coordinator  
  Alyssa_Deland@mcpsmd.org
- **Ms. Yeni Perez**  
  Community Engagement Coordinator  
  Yeni_A_Perez@mcpsmd.org

### Grade 7
- **Mrs. Nicole Morgan**  
  Administrator  
  Nicole_J_Morgan@mcpsmd.org
- **Mr. James Risse**  
  Counselor  
  James_Risse@mcpsmd.org
- **Mrs. Elizabeth Merino**  
  ESOL Counselor (Resource)  
  Elizabeth_J_Merino@mcpsmd.org
- **Mrs. Jenna Mercurio**  
  Team Leader  
  Jenna_M_Mercurio@mcpsmd.org
- **Mr. Darrel Lau**  
  Community Engagement Coordinator  
  Darrel_Lau@mcpsmd.org

### Grade 8
- **Mrs. Megan McLaughlin**  
  Administrator  
  Megan_M_McLaughlin@mcpsmd.org
- **Mr. Chester Hardy**  
  Counselor  
  Chester_L_Hardy@mcpsmd.org
- **Mrs. Elizabeth Merino**  
  ESOL Counselor (Resource)  
  Elizabeth_J_Merino@mcpsmd.org
- **Ms. Pam Decederfelt**  
  Team Leader  
  Pamela_Decederfelt@mcpsmd.org
- **Ms. Chrissy Moore**  
  Community Engagement Coordinator  
  Christina_E_Moore@mcpsmd.org
- **Ms. Tiffany Alastanos**  
  Community Engagement Coordinator  
  Tiffany_A_Alastanos@mcpsmd.org
Standard Operating Procedures

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. If a student is absent three days or more due to illness, we will require a doctor’s note. 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, in the main office, or by email, Regina_B_Stricklin@mcpsmd.org. Students who arrive to school late before 8:30 a.m. should report directly to their Homeroom/Advisory Period. Students who arrive to school late after 8:30 a.m. should report to the Main Office to sign-in and receive a pass.

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 student 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

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

Clifford Cooper Assistant School Administrator
Erika Damare ESOL
Harold Dawkins 6th Grade Counselor
Joshua Dowling World Studies
Christine Ginnow Science
Tracy-Ann Jacas-Cook SPED Teacher
Margaret Johnsen English
Ryan Kane English
Paige Keller ESOL/World Languages
Nicole Morgan Principal Intern
Marlene Lewis Security Assistant
Allison Poonai English Content Specialist
Melissa Seesz Physical Education/Health
David Selvin Math
Jennifer Short SPED Teacher
Katherine Smolen Instrumental Music
Christina Campo Art
Crissy Wade-Fitzpatrick ESOL
**Upcoming Events/Dates**

August 30  
New Student Orientation

September 3  
Holiday- School and Offices Closed– Labor Day

September 4  
First day of School

**September 12**  
**Back to School Night**

September 10  
No School for students and teachers

September 19  
No School for students and teachers

**September 20**  
**All Grade Level Parent Meetings**

September 27 and 28  
Student Picture Day- In Gym Class

October 3  
MSMC Open House- for 5th grade families

October 5  
Early Release Day for All Students (@ 12:30)

November 6  
Offices and Schools Closed- General Election Day

November 7  
Early Release Day for All Students (@ 12:30)- End of Quarter Planning

November 12  
Early Release Day for All Students (@ 12:30)
   Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 13  
Early Release Day for All Students (@ 12:30)
   Afternoon Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 21  
Early Release Day for All Students (@ 12:30)

November 22 and 23  
Holiday- School and Offices Closed–Thanksgiving

December 24-January 1  
No School– Winter Break (Offices Closed December 24, 25 and January 1)

January 21  
Holiday- School and Offices Closed- MLK Day

January 25  
Early Release Day for All Students (@ 12:30)- End of Quarter Planning

January 28  
No School– Professional Day for Teachers

February 18  
Holiday- School and Offices Closed– Presidents’ Day

February 26-28  
Outdoor Ed Session 1

March 1  
Early Release Day for All Students (@ 12:30)

March 4-6  
Outdoor Ed Session 2

March 6-8  
Outdoor Ed Session 3

April 3  
Early Release Day for All Students (@ 12:30)- End of Quarter Planning

April 17-22  
No School– Spring Break (Offices Closed April 19 and April 22)

May 27  
No School– Memorial Day

June 5  
No School– Professional Day for Teachers

**June 12**  
**8th Grade Cruise in Baltimore and Promotion at Wheaton HS**

June 13  
Last Day of School– Early Release Day K-12
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 Parent Portal and PTSA Email accounts, as these online tools will serve as the primary communication vehicles to keep parents informed. Please feel free to reach out to our PTSA President, Tony Bonetti. His contact information is listed on the left side of our website.

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 student throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Nicole Sosik
Principal

NS:ckp
### BELL SCHEDULES

#### REGULAR DAY SCHEDULE

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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Period 5/6</th>
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#### 30 MINUTE ADVISORY HOMEROOM SCHEDULE (TO BE USED AS NEEDED)

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#### TWO HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE

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#### EARLY RELEASE DAY SCHEDULE

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**Drop-Off Procedures for LMS**

**Procedimientos de dejada de estudiante para LMS**

**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.

**Dejada de la Mañana**

- Todos los carros deben entrar por Weller Road. Los carros deben continuar hacia la parte del frente de la escuela. Por favor no se detenga en las canchas de baloncesto para dejar a su niño(a), eso puede crear un problema de seguridad.
- El carril de la izquierda no puede ser utilizado para dejar los estudiantes. Este carril es sólo para los carros que se están saliendo y para los maestros y personal de Loiederman que están tratando de parquear.
- Por favor recuerde que algunos estudiantes a veces tienen muchas cosas que bajar, así que tengan paciencia.
- Los estudiantes no deben ser dejados en Goodhill Road. Pues esto crea un problema de seguridad para todos los estudiantes. Asimismo, es ilegal hacer vueltas en U en esta calle. La esquina de Goodhill Road y Dean Street si es aceptable para dejar a su niño/niña.
Pick-Up Procedures for LMS  
Procedimientos de recogida para LMS

**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.

**Recogida de la tarde**

- Por favor sigue hacia adelante hacia el frente de la escuela para evitar que se haga tráfico en Weller Road. No empiece su propia línea.
- Parquear en la acera por las canchas de baloncesto es prohibido según las reglas de seguridad de fuego. Su carro no puede estar solo allí.
- Por favor muévase lentamente a través de la línea ya que muchos estudiantes están caminando. Si usted está en la parte delantera de la línea esperando a su hijo, puede elegir a esperar o estacionarse en el estacionamiento.
- A los estudiantes se les va a decir que deben esperar en la acera hasta que su carro este adelante. Ellos no deben de cruzar carriles.