



# LMS NEWSPAPER

A. Mario Loiederman Middle School Student Publication

DECEMBER 2020

**THIS  
ISSUE'S  
FEATURED  
ARTICLES:**

## DANCE COMPANY IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD

BY: SAMANTHA FINKELBERG & KAITLYN VALLE

- 3. What is going on at LMS?
- 4-5. How are our staff doing?
- 6. Virtual Learning Advice



*Photo Courtesy of Ms. Mercurio*

The LMS Dance Company consists of a Junior and Senior dance company. Normally, Ms. Alastanos would teach Junior Company and Ms. Mercurio would teach Senior Company. Traditionally, when we are in school the dance department holds auditions for anyone who attends LMS that is interested in participating in dance company. After, all the dance teachers will score the dancers based on their audition and choose 14-16 people per dance company who have the highest scores. The dance company season normally occurs from late September to April. Each company does 2 dances per concert and for the Spring Concert Junior and Senior do a combined dance. They also participate in any other performance opportunities such as Winter Wonderland, MCPS Showcase, State Showcase, and many more.

Many people wonder how we are supposed to do dance company in the virtual setting. Although there are many challenges that come with it, it is also very positive and has great outcomes. When we asked the dance teachers about the virtual audition process Ms. Alastanos responded, "The county mandated that we had to allow anyone that wanted to, to participate. Just to make it really equitable, to give as many kids a chance, so instead of having an audition we just had a sign-up this year." Since there were no auditions this year, anyone could join as long as they filled out the sign up form. Starting in late September the Dance Company started to teach dance combos for the dancers to get used to the virtual dance setting as well as see what works well and what doesn't.

During our conversation with the dance teachers, we asked them what one word they feel describes dance in the virtual space the best. Ms.Mercurio and Ms.Alastanos had different answers but they seemed to express a similar theme. Ms.Mecurio said that her one word to describe this experience is "flexible." She said this because she feels she is constantly changing things around to adapt to this space. Whether it is to help students or colleagues. Ms.Alastanos stated that the word she feels describes her virtual experience is "growth." She explained that growth is her word because she feels she's constantly learning new things and becoming a better dance teacher along the way. While talking about these words and their meaning to the dance teachers in virtual experience, it has truly recognized how much online learning has caused things to change, for good and bad.

During our conversation with the dance teachers we asked them if they had any future plans for dance company. Both Ms.Mercurio and Ms.Alastanos responded about trying to create a virtual dance concert. By, "editing together videos of various parts of choreography that we do in company into a one hour or so virtual concert and share that through youtube or google drive." Ms.Alastanos expressed that they want to find a good platform to put the dance concert on such as Youtube,Google Drive,etc for the LMS community and friends and family to view. They plan to have the dance concert out in late January. The Winter dance concert would showcase Dance 1, Dance 2, Dance 3, Dance As A Fine Art, Choreography, and Dance Company pieces that the wonderful dance department has been working hard on!

While we were meeting with dance teachers we took the opportunity to ask about the new performance space. They shared that although it is still being built the performance space actually looks like a building, with walls!

They had not seen it since September and were never able to go inside but they said it's looking amazing and they are extremely excited! This is going to be an amazing thing for Loiederman that we should all be ecstatic for regardless if we get to use it this year or not!



# What is Happening at LMS?

By Layla Williams



## LMS Strategic Gaming Club -

Loiederman has a place for students to interact in a 3D setting. There have already been such strong friendships developing. Please see the website from the Strategic Gaming Club that allows students and even teachers to play games like Among Us (Tuesdays, 3:15 - 4:30 PM) and Minecraft (Thursdays, 3:15 - 4:30) all hosted on Mr. Maybury's Zoom. All members who first join Minecraft are visitors until they check in with Mr. Maybury to become a member that can actually interact with the world in order to limit what is referred to as "griefing." Here is all the information on the following website. We hope to see you there!

<https://sites.google.com/mcpsmd.net/lms-strategic-gaming/home>



## Jump on Lunch with the Librarians!

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:20am - 11:50am, our librarians, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Vogan host a "lunch with the librarians", so you can eat lunch, and talk about books (or movies!)



Meeting ID: 977 7582 7137

Password: lunch

## Join Our Book Club!

Our Librarians, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Vogan have started a book club!! To find out more, jump onto Lunch with the Librarians! If you love reading, this is the place for you. Here is the link to sign up!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4DgRclYVhsw0ATKvd8uLHv7XOt9FeEtG4b5MyIA30Dd2mIlg/viewform?edit2=2\\_ABaOnucOkAQY8LELPg6MrC3GKhLW1dCXL7L-dHbtV3hOVWQUoibiVR4IKXw](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4DgRclYVhsw0ATKvd8uLHv7XOt9FeEtG4b5MyIA30Dd2mIlg/viewform?edit2=2_ABaOnucOkAQY8LELPg6MrC3GKhLW1dCXL7L-dHbtV3hOVWQUoibiVR4IKXw)

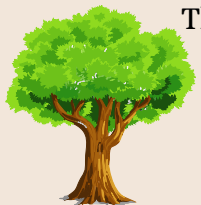


## Choose Respect Video PSA Contest Information -

The 11th Annual Choose Respect Montgomery video PSA contest is now accepting entries. This contest challenges middle and high school students to create an original 50- to 70-second public service announcement video to promote awareness of dating abuse and domestic violence among teens. The contest is open to students in Grades 6 through 12, and students may enter on their own or as a group. The top three videos win cash prizes.

The submission deadline is Monday, March 1st, 2021. More info can be found in this link :

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect/video.html>



## Join the new ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CLUB! -

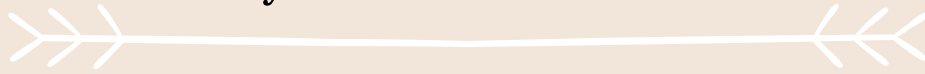
Open to all students in 6th through 8th grade, activities will include games about wildlife, identifying plants using technology, crafts, and projects to learn about weather, pollution clean-up opportunities, composting, and other natural science concepts. A Zoom link will be provided once club registration forms are received to join our virtual club. Club meetings will begin on November 16th and continue throughout the school year. Meetings are Thursdays from 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Email Ms. Campbell (Beth\_a\_campbell@mcpsmd.org) with any questions.

Here is the link for the forms:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVz1FYsW5kphT96eIQBB2xaMyF10Rz\\_JaegEmM9-ZBSUCCNw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVz1FYsW5kphT96eIQBB2xaMyF10Rz_JaegEmM9-ZBSUCCNw/viewform)

# How are our Staff doing?

By Stella Carroccio



Notice: My other teachers, you were not interviewed because I used a random name picker. You may appear in future articles.

We have all been affected by this pandemic. Sometimes, we feel like we are the only ones that feel impacted. But none of us are alone. Other people you know are going through similar things. If you feel unsure about this situation, talk to someone you trust. And sometimes, we don't think about how much harder our staff are working to make sure we have the best learning experience we can. Keep reading to find out what a few of our fellow staff are doing while staying at home.

First, we will talk about Ms. Parizer-Velez, one of our math teachers here at LMS.

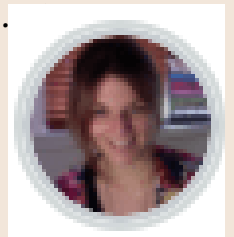
## **How have you been feeling lately?**

“My feelings really go up and down.” She says, “I have an extroverted personality so keeping socially distant is difficult for me. My husband works in an office environment so I keep myself isolated from anyone but my husband when indoors because I am terrified of being exposed to the virus, not knowing, and exposing others. So, because of this, lately my feelings have been more down than up. My up times have a lot to do with work. Teaching, though difficult online, is my HIGHLIGHT! Being able to connect with students during the week really makes me feel that I can get through these strange times, because there will be something so great waiting at the other end- Loiederman!”

## **Have you taken up any new hobbies?**

Ms. Parizer-Velez says that she's been doing a lot of reading and running. “Oddly enough, I started cooking. I have never cooked before now! I have been learning new techniques and trying new recipes. I husband!”

Ms. Parizer-Velez -->



Next, we'll hear from Ms. Paley, one of our Theater teachers and part of our Drama club.

## **How have you been feeling lately?**

“I have been feeling good lately! I really enjoy playing games with my Theatre classes and am excited Loiederman's first-ever Virtual Drama Production is about to start rehearsing. On days that I am feeling a little lonely, I try to do things that make me happy like a workout video or baking something delicious for my family.”



**Have you taken up any new hobbies?**

“I am doing more yoga than ever before, and it feels awesome! On Wednesday mornings, I really enjoy taking a virtual class with other LMS teachers taught by the awesome Ms. Vogan.”

**How have you been staying in touch with friends and family?**

"I like to call a friend or family member while out walking my dog, Cally. My pup likes to sniff every blade of grass, so we are both happy taking long strolls. Another thing my family does is play Jackbox games through Zoom. Always a lot of laughs!"

Thank you for reading, and thank you Ms. Paley and Ms. Parizer-Velez for participating!



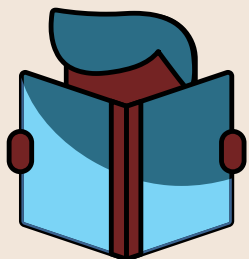
Ms. Parizer-Velez's cat in a sweater



Ms. Paley and her dog Cally

# Virtual Learning Advice

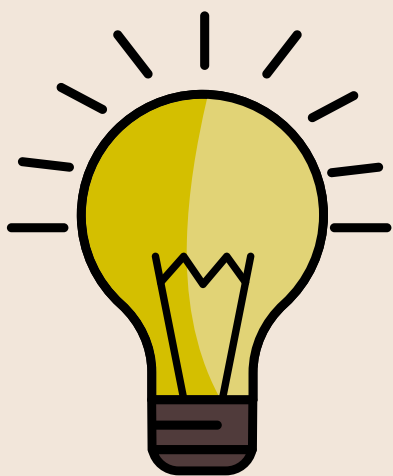
By Sarah Insa Sadio



**Do you have problems with virtual learning?**

**Trust me, that's fine! We all do! So to help, here's some advice:**

- If you have family problems, and are absent, then you can fill out an absence form on the school website!
- If you have a bad connection, then it is ok! Just email or find a way to contact your teacher, they ALWAYS understand.
- Are you having trouble with HOMEWORK? Well here is an easy way to get it done, you should make a schedule. Homework you have on Mondays you can do, so then, on Tuesdays you can do Tuesday homework! And On Wednesday, finish ALL the work you need to! Same with Thursdays and Fridays.
- OR you can mark it on your Calendar!
- OR you can tell your teacher and maybe he/she can postpone the due date!
- If you have TOO MUCH homework, make sure to mention that so you teachers can slow it down for you!



# LMS Journalists



**STELLA  
CARROCCIO**

*Sarah .J*

With, Mrs. Goldberg!

*Kaitlyn  
Valle*

LAYLA M.  
WILLIAMS

**SAMANTHA  
EINKELBERG**