

MARINER NATION NEWS

Murdock Middle School

17325 Mariner Way, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

941.255-7525 Attendance: 941.255-7525

Hours Operation: 8:35 A.M- 4:20 P.M.

Administration

Principal: Lyman Welton

Assistant Principal: Christine Young

Assistant Principal: Deshon Jenkins

Counselor: Sandra Tavares

Counselor: Kim Ceballos

ESE Liason: Shelly Kramer

School Resource Officer: Officer Morse

Principal's Message

Students,

Welcome students to your 2020-21 school year at Murdock Middle. Mariner Nation has not gathered on campus since before spring break and we have missed you. To all students attending Murdock for the first time, you are now proud members of Mariner Nation and we cannot wait to meet you.

Mariners, this is going to be an unusual school year. Each student will need to discover how they can make Murdock Middle a positive and safe learning environment for everyone. In addition, every student will need to develop a plan for their own academic growth and success. The good news is that all the adults on this campus believe in you. We are confident of your ability to rise above our current challenges.

As your principal, I can recall the strength of last years 7th graders, now our 8th graders. As a class, you bonded and matured demonstrating the ability to treat each other with dignity. You understand all Mariners, no matter the color of skin, gender, faith, etc., are worthy of respect. Last year's 6th graders, this year 7th graders, are the most spirited group of students we have seen in a long time. You cheered on all our sports teams, and showed up in large numbers to all the school events. You encouraged your classmates to do their best in class and to never give up. This gives me confidence in your ability to have an even better year in 2020-21.

Students, as your principal, I expect you to come to school with a positive attitude, ready to learn, respectful of others. All Mariners are responsible for their own words and actions. We expect the words that come out of your mouth to be positive, encouraging and kind. Name calling or putting another person down is immature and unacceptable. Being ready for school means having your supplies with you, completing your assignments, and preparing for tests. If you are not prepared for class, then don't blame anyone else, like parents. Rather, take responsibility and say, "it is my fault," then plan to do better.

Students, we believe in you. We have all missed you and are looking forward to seeing you in person. It will not be long and we will be celebrating your successes as Mariners.

Lyman Welton

Principal

ISSUE 1 VOLUME 2

August 2020





Principal's Message

Parents,

I am writing to inform families of procedures we are putting into place to meet CDC and Charlotte County Health Department guidelines to the best of our ability. I anticipate these will remain in effect for at least the first nine weeks of school.

Social Distancing:

As recommended by the CDC, and the state and local health department, individuals should avoid contact with those outside their immediate family. When this is not possible a distance of six feet or more is best. I want to be clear, on campus, it is impossible to keep students six feet apart. While we are taking numerous steps to create social distancing between students, in most cases the classrooms, walkways, and the cafeteria are not large enough to maintain six feet of distance between students.

Mask:

Masks are to be worn by all students and adults at all times when on school grounds. This includes but is not limited to the following areas: busses, bus ramp, parent drop off and pick up, pods, on sidewalks during transitions, in all buildings, and the café except while eating or drinking. Mask must cover both the nose and mouth. Exceptions may be made during outdoor PE activities when social distancing is maintained. We realize some people may have a medical condition that makes wearing a mask difficult. When you provide a written statement from your health care provider you may wear a shield instead. All others must wear a mask as required by schoolboard policy.

Arrival:

The parent drop off gate will open at 8:00 and close at 9:30 each morning. The pedestrian gates used by students walking or riding their bike to school will open at 8:30 and close at 9:30. Students should not arrive on campus before 8:30 as the gates will be locked. If a student arrives before 8:45 they are to proceed to their grade level designated area at the front of the school. Eighth graders will be stationed at the gate between A and J building. Seventh graders will meet near the main entrance to A building. Sixth graders meet at the gate between A and D buildings. Signs will be posted during the first week of school. Bus riders will remain on the bus until dismissed by an adult. Bus dismissal will be done in an orderly fashion and staggered to minimize crowding on walkways.

Campus Opening:

Campus will open for students, as usual, at 8:45. Once on campus students are to report directly to the café for breakfast. Students not eating breakfast must report to their designated pod: B Pod for 8th, G Pod for 7th and D pod for 6th grade students. All café lines will have signs marking where students should stand. Stations for hand sanitizers will be available. It is not possible to create 6 feet of distance between students in the café. Students will be dismissed from breakfast in an orderly manner with times slightly staggered to minimize crowding. Students are to maintain as much space as possible between themselves and other students.

Classrooms:


Desks will be as far apart as possible. Working with partners or in small groups will be eliminated whenever possible. Each room will have hand sanitizer. Students will be encouraged to bring a small 3.5 oz bottle of hand sanitizer and carry it with them during the school day. It is expected that each student will take responsibility to protect their own health to the greatest extent possible by keeping as much distance between themselves and other students. During transitions gathering in groups is not permitted. Students are to proceed directly to their next class.

Lunch:

Lunch times will remain the same as last year. The café seating has been arranged to increase social distancing but students will not be seated six feet apart. Hand sanitizing stations will be provided in the café. When in line students are responsible for maintaining distance from their peers. Mask must be worn while in line to pick up food.

Dismissal:

Dismissal is at 4:10. The Parent pickup gate will open at 3:30. Students will be dismissed by Pod to minimize congestion on the walkways. Students are to go directly to their designated dismissal area. Those student walking or biking home are to leave campus ASAP. Bus riders are to report directly to the bus ramp and board their bus without delay.



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PE:

Students will not be required to dress out for PE during the first 9 weeks of school. Students will not use locker rooms during that time period.

Technology Classes:

Where possible computer classrooms have been expanded to maximize distance between students. This is not possible in all technology classes. Students on computers will be spread out when possible. Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before and after they use a computer station.

Media Center:

The number of students in the media center at one time will be limited to allow for social distancing. Tables will be sanitized nightly. Check in and out procedures will minimize contact. Signage will designate where to stand during checkout. Books will be sanitized before being returned to circulation.

Lyman Welton
Principal

We Have New Gates!

Accessing campus using our new security gates:

Parking lot gates open every morning at 8:00. All campus gates will close at 9:30. During the school day, 9:30-3:30, gates will remain closed. If you need to access the campus between 9:30 am and 3:30, use visitor parking lot gate. Approach the gate camera located on the driver side of the gate and use the following entry procedures:

1. RING THE DOORBELL
(push the button located at the bottom of the camera)
2. State your name.
3. State the reason for your visit.
ex: "I need to pick up my child."
4. State the students name.
5. Show your valid photo identification.
Hold the photo identification up to the camera.
6. Wait for the gate to open.
7. After parking, enter the double doors located in the front of the administration building. Once in the foyer, ring the door bell and present your photo id to enter the main office.

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Family Engagement

Mariner Families,

I want to introduce myself to you all. My name is Chell Pender, and I am the Title 1 Family Associate for Murdock Middle School. I am here to help you in any way I can. This year will be a little different, but together we can make it great. I am available through virtual meets, emails or phone. I look forward to hearing from you and am open to any ideas you may have on how we can make this year memorable for your student. All Title 1 information you may need is available on our website under the Title 1 tab. I am hoping that after the first of the year we can collaborate on some fun activities or workshops that might interest you and your family. In the past, we have held several fun events such as a Family Glow Run, parent and child Martial Arts workshop, and many more informative meetings. I would love to hear about anything that would interest you and your family. All ideas are welcome! You can reach me at 941.255.7525 ext. 211 or at: chell.pender@yourcharlotteschools.net.



Welcome to Murdock!!

There is a youth group meeting at Community Life Church every Tuesday at 6:30pm located at: 19408 Edgewater Dr., Port Charlotte. The church has graciously donated some back packs to our school for those that need one. If you would like to learn more about the youth group program please contact Chell Pender at 941.255.7525 ext. 211. Community Life Church is an amazing part of our community and they do great things for our youth!

Chell Pender

Title 1 Family Associate

chell.pender@yourcharlotteschools.net

941-255-7525 ext.211



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Local Law Enforcement
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State-Level Officials
State-level officials also have access to your tips to make sure proper steps are taken.

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.

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Ways For Students To Report

1. Verbal reports to any adult
2. Written reports to adults
3. Anonymous Reports: Use online school website - the "Bully Button"

WHAT CAN A STUDENT DO IF THEY ARE BEING BULLIED?

- Say something to an adult
- Find a friend
- Ask for help
- Exit the area



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Does Your Family Need Assistance?

Do you and your family live in any of the following situations?

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing
- In an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations
- On the street, or
- You are a school-aged youth living on your own

Then you (if a school-aged youth) and/or your children have certain rights and/or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

You (if a school-aged youth) and / or your children have the right to:

- Attend school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there.
- Continue in the school attended before you became homeless or the school last attended, if that is your choice and it is feasible.
- Receive transportation to the school attended before you or your family became homeless or the school last attended, if you or a guardian requests such transportation.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other students served in these programs.
- Receive free school meals.

For more information or assistance, please call: Renee Rebhan, LCSW, *Homeless Education Liaison*, Charlotte County Public Schools, (941) 255-7480.

Unity
AUTHOR UNKNOWN

I dreamed I stood in a studio and
watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's
mind and they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher
the tools that were used
were books, music, and art.
The other, a parent,
worked with a guiding hand
and a gentle, loving heart.

Day after day,
the teacher toiled with touch
that was deft and sure.
While the parent labored close nearby
and polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when their task was done,
they were proud of
what they had wrought,
For the things they had molded into a child
could neither be sold nor bought.

And each agree they would have failed
if each had worked alone.
For behind the parents stood the school
and behind the teacher stood the home.




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Drug Free Charlotte County

As some things are going back to normal, it seems that nothing is the same. As parents, we worry. We worry about our jobs, the economy, bills, the pandemic, the list goes on and on, but we probably worry the most about our children. Our children have worries too. Our kids worry about what the new school year will look like, will they be going to school from home or be able to see their friends, will they need to wear masks, will they be in one classroom all day, will they be able to take the classes they need to graduate, will they have testing or not...We may not have all the answers, but we can be there for our kid's worries, and help them to stay grounded during this time of unknowns. Here are some tips to helping our kids manage their own worries:

1. Model healthy coping behaviors. It is important to share with our children that we too have worries and show them healthy ways that you deal with worries. When your children see you modeling healthy behaviors, they are more likely to engage in those same healthy behaviors as well.
2. Listen. Let your kids express what they are worried about. As much as you may want to interject or tell them that their worries are minor issues, hold back and just listen. What they are worried about is big to them, if we try to minimize that then they are most likely to shut down and become defensive while they feel that you don't understand them.
3. Comfort them. We may want to use the box phrases and tell them that everything will be fine and that they need not worry, but the truth will be a much more appreciated response. You can say to them that you don't know what changes you will see in the future, but that you will be there beside them to help them through whatever may come up. You can remind them of their support system of family or friends. You can discuss things that you know won't be changing. You can talk about things that they are looking forward to doing once they are able to do so.

4. Keep them informed. If your kids are anything like mine, you have already found out that their friends know EVERYTHING, and they like to share this information with your kids, whom take it as set in stone facts. The bottom line is our kids are information seekers. Their brains are rapidly growing. They want to know what is happening around them. Rather than waiting for your kids to get possible inaccurate information from friends that may cause more worry, talk to them about truthful information in an age appropriate way. It may be beneficial to give your children small amounts of information at a time so that they have time to process that information, but no one knows your child better than you, so consider what you feel will be best for your child.



5. Practice stress relieving skills together. Worry = Stress. Think about some stress relieving activities you may want to do together. Perhaps you want to learn a new hobby together, get creative, start a journal (you can even write to each other in a journal...sometimes this is a good way for kids to get their thoughts and feelings out as they have more time to process and express), get active (bike, swim, walk, run, workout videos, yoga, dancing, boxing, soccer, basketball, baseball, whatever activity you enjoy), get out in nature, find a way to laugh (read goofy jokes, sing everything instead of saying it, watch comedy, play in the rain, create funny videos together, etc.), breathing techniques, sensory activities, listen to your favorite music, cook together, whatever you choose, the idea is that it helps relieve stress and when you are doing it together you are building family bonds as well. For more tools and tips visit us online at www.drugfreecharlottecounty.org or follow us on social media: Facebook: Drug Free Charlotte County, Twitter: @DFCCTweets, Instagram: DrugFreeCharlotteCounty.

Jen Bernardi, *Prevention Program Coordinator*

Drug Free Charlotte County

jen.bernardi@yourcharlotteschools.net

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Murdock Middle School

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PE/Sports

I hope everyone is having a great summer. PE classes will look a little different this year because of COVID-19. We will still be active and exercise will take place. Parents and students: Our number one priority is student health and safety! That means we might not be using equipment or working in groups until the CDC permits. Please enter this school year with an open mind and be flexible as we navigate how to have an amazing PE class amidst the pandemic. See you soon!

Aaron N. Walker

Physical Education/Wellness Teacher

Murdock Middle School

Media Center News

Welcome back to another great year! Upon the return to school, the library will be open to students. Students are invited to use the library before school, during lunch, as well as throughout the day with their teacher's permission. There are new books to read and a book delivery service will begin operation making it easier for students to get the title they want. There are also ebooks available through the SORA app, located in Classlink. Currently there are over thirty ebook titles and additions being made each month. With safety in mind, there are some new procedures for library use. Students will receive details about the changes within the first few weeks of school. Mrs. Ping, the librarian, and the rest of the library staff look forward to seeing everyone and helping all to meet their reading goals.

