

# 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: ..... Jamie Verwey

Assistant Principal: ..... Deshon Jenkins

Counselor: ..... Sandra Tavares

Counselor: ..... Kim Ceballos

ESE Liason: ..... Shelly Kramer

School Resource Officer: .... Officer Morse

## Principal's Message

Welcome, students and families, to Murdock Middle School, home of MARINER NATION. Students, whether you are returning, or are brand new, we are excited to have you on our campus. Parents and guardians, we are looking forward to working with you to provide your student a safe and engaging learning environment.

Students, it is important that you get involved in life as a Mariner. You can join one of our many clubs from Art to Robotics, run for a Student Government Representative position, attend an intramural activity, a PBIS Social, or try out for one of our sports teams. Be sure to purchase Mariner Fan Gear or just wear Mariner Blue to school especially on game days. All our students are invited and expected to get involved. Students, you will find that the more you get involved, the more you will find good friends. Together you will make your middle school years memorable.

Parents you are invited to attend our home sporting events and our academic award ceremonies. If you are unable to attend in person, then tune in via our Mariner Live Stream Broadcasts. One night a month we host a School Advisory Committee and Parent Teacher Organization and welcome your participation. A few times a year we host a Mariner Family Night. Families are welcome to join us for fun activities like laser tag and pizza.

Of course, middle school will have its challenges. It is important to start the academic year off positively. School is hard work and requires you to be organized. Students that make good grades have found out that a few key things make a big difference:

1. Come to school every day.
2. Take notes

...continues on next page

ISSUE 3 VOLUME 3

August 2022

## Principal's Message *continues...*

3. Turn in all your work (if you miss something turn it in even if it is late or incomplete). **The worst thing for your grade is a zero.**
4. Check your grades in Focus at least two times per week.
5. Ask for help. Don't wait until the week before report cards. Talk to a parent, teacher, counselor, or administrator about your grades.

If you do these things you're much more likely to make good grades and have a great middle school experience.

All of the Mariner staff are glad you and your family are part of Murdock Middle School and we look forward to your participation in Mariner Nation.

Lyman Welton  
Principal

## Assistant Principal's Message

Greetings Parents and Students,

I just wanted to take a second to welcome you to this upcoming year. We have spent an enormous amount of time planning over the summer to ensure that we make this year fun, exciting and one that you will always remember. I encourage you to please get involved and participate in a club, after-school activity or try out for one of our sport teams. In the classroom, do your best to stay focused, stay tuned in, take part in discussions, and take an active role in your learning. If you have any challenges along the way, we have so many staff members here to support. Our goal is for you to come to Murdock and have the best middle school experience possible. Let us work together to make that happen. Again, what an exciting time and we are so happy that you are a part of **Mariner Nation!**

If at any time you need my assistance, my door is always open, and I am always here to help. Let us work together and have a phenomenal upcoming year.

DeShon L. Jenkins  
Assistant Principal

## Important Policy Information

The School Board has developed a new Student Dress Code for grades 6-12. A full description of the Dress Code can be found in the Student Code of Conduct. Below in bold is the most significant change. In addition, a reminder is highlighted regarding certain symbols, abbreviations, or insignias students may not wear on campus.

**"Clothing must have sleeves and cover the body from shoulder to shoulder, one armpit across to the other armpit, and down to approximately mid-thigh. Undergarments must not be viewable. Rips, holes, or tears in clothing must be below mid-thigh. A sleeve is defined as the part of a garment that wholly or partly covers a person's arm."**

Last year we experienced an increasing number of violations related to Dress Code Policy # 7. In an effort to avoid confusion and to reduce student discipline Dress Code Policy #7 is highlighted.

*7. Gang paraphernalia, garments and/or jewelry, tattoos, or other insignias, which display or suggest sexual, vulgar, drug, alcohol, or tobacco-related wording/graphics or may tend to provoke violence or disruption in school shall not be worn.*

Recently we have experienced an increase in students wearing clothing etc. with a slogan, abbreviation, or symbol that refers to the "F" word. The School Board Policy states, students shall not use oral or written profanity. This includes wearing clothing that directly or indirectly uses vulgarity. Whether a symbol, abbreviation, or slogan. Students wearing any such symbol will be required to change their clothing. Refusing to comply with the requirement to change clothing will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The Student Code of Conduct can be found on the District website, our webpage, or you can ask our front desk personnel for a printed copy.

Lyman Welton  
Principal

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# Upcoming Events

August 9th – 4:30 – 6:00PM – Open House

August 16th – PTO/SAC Meeting – Family Resource Center – Pizza with Principals– 4:10-5:15PM

August 17th - 6th Grade Social – 4:10-5:15PM

August 18th – 7th & 8th Grade Social – 4:10-5:15PM

August 22nd – August 25th - Basketball Tryouts – 4:10-5:30PM

August 23rd – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – DISTRICT PD DAY

August 31st – Picture Day

September 1st – MMS @ PGMS Basketball Game (Girls/Boys) 5:30-7:00PM

September 5th – NO SCHOOL

September 8th –LA Ainger @ MMS Basketball Game (Boys/Girls) 5:30-7:00PM

September 13th – Picture Re-Take

September 15th – PCMS @ MMS Basketball (Girls/Boys) 5:30-7:00PM

September 20th – PTO/SAC Meeting – Family Resource Center – 4:10-5:15PM

September 22nd – Pep Rally – 6th period

September 22nd – PGMS @ MMS Basketball (Boys/Girls) 5:30-7:00PM

September 29th – MMS @ PCMS Basketball (Girls/Boys) 5:30-7:00PM

September 30th – Student of the Month Dessert with Principal

October 6th – MMS @ LA Ainger Basketball (Boys/Girls) 5:30-7:00

October 8th – Basketball Playoffs at PCHS 9:00AM-4:00PM

October 10th – Volleyball Tryouts

October 13th – End of Quarter

October 17th – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – DISTRICT PD DAY

October – 18th - PTO/SAC Meeting – Family Resource Center – 4:10-5:15PM

October 21st – Field Day (2 hours per grade level)

October 27th – First Quarter Awards Ceremony (6th Grade 10:15-11:00, 8th Grade 1:30-2:30, 7th Grade 2:30-3:30)

October 27th – MMS @ PCMS – Volleyball Game – 5:30-6:30

November 3rd – PCMS @ MMS – Volleyball Game – 5:30-6:30

November 8th – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – DISTRICT PD DAY

November 10th – LA Ainger @ MMS Volleyball – 5:30-6:30

November 15th - PTO/SAC Meeting – Family Resource Center – 4:10-5:15PM

November 15th – Afterschool Social – all grades – 4:10-5:15PM

November 17th – MMS @ PGMS Volleyball – 5:30-6:30

November 18th – Student of the Month Dessert with Principals

November 23-25th NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK


December 1st – PGMS @ MMS Volleyball – 5:30-6:30PM

December 8th – MMS @ LA Ainger Volleyball – 5:30-6:30

December 10th – Volleyball Tournament @ LBHS - 9:00-1:00PM



3



**Mariner Nation News**  
August 2022  
Published Four Times Per Year  
Charlotte County Public Schools  
1445 Education Way  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
Issue #3

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## Parent's Right To Know

As the parent of a student attending a Title I school, you have the right to request information about the Title I law and also about your students' education. The school will provide you with information, and you may also request additional information regarding any of the following issues:

The professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s);

- If your student has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher(s) that is not highly qualified, you will be notified by the school of this information;
- The professional qualifications of the paraprofessional(s) assisting your child's teacher(s);
- Your students' level of achievement on state or district assessments in reading/ language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- For information on these or other issues regarding your students' education, please contact Murdock Middle School at 941-255-7525.

## Family Resource Center

The Murdock Middle School Title I Family and Resource Center is an integral part of the school wide effort to offer educational support our families.

Our Student Success Plan is located in the front office, in the Family Center, and on the school web page.

Parents are encouraged to come to the center where they will find a variety of resources designed to give them assistance in helping their student achieve academic success.

The Family Center opens daily from 3:00-4:00. Appointments can also be made with the Title I Achievements and Family Associate by calling 255-7525 or emailing: [suzie.rossman@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:suzie.rossman@yourcharlotteschools.net)

Check out the Murdock Middle School website for announcements of PFEPT (Parent and Family Engagement Planning Team) monthly activities. The District Parent Involvement Policy and SIP is available in the office, or you can visit the District website to view the policy and link to parent involvement:

[www.yourcharlotteschools.net](http://www.yourcharlotteschools.net)

## New For The 2022-2023 School Year

Starting School Year 22-23, more information will be discovered online ONLY using the Focus Parent Portal! Parents will continue to access report cards and other important student information like current course grades, attendance, discipline referrals, and progress monitoring results. In addition, parents can update some beginning of the year forms such as the Consent Form, Student Emergency Card and Student Digital Resource Access Modification Request.

Sign up today for access to the Focus Parent Portal! For information on how to sign up for focus you can go to: <https://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/domain/40>.



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# Transportation

## Bus:

Parents, in an attempt for our students to get home in a timely manner, we are incorporating a 4:15 Bell this upcoming year. When the 4:15 Bell rings; students are expected to be on their bus and ready to exit campus. This will afford us the opportunity to clear our campus in a safe and timely manner.

## Parent Pick-Up:

Parents, if you pick your child up in the afternoon after school, please be here no later than 4:30 pm. Our staff day is over at 4:20, therefore, supervision is extremely limited, and we want your child to be safe at all times.

Secondly, when we have after-school activities such as sporting events or intramurals please be here to pick your child up when the event is over. We do not have staff present after school hours and again our goal is for your child to be safe at all times.



## Where Is My Student's Bus Stop?

The [Bus Stop Locator](#) will allow you to find the stops within the school district established walking distances of your home for every school serving students near your residence. Parents should use the [Bus Stop Locator](#). Enter your home address, select the school or schools you want to check, and click on "enter." The stops, bus numbers, and times will be displayed for your home. If no stop is listed, contact the Area Manager for your student's school.

## Where's The Bus®

Where's the Bus® allows you to see the location of your child's bus on your smartphone, tablet, or PC. Full access is FREE per household on the App Store, Google Play, or at [WheretheBus.com](http://WheretheBus.com). For more information about transportation services you can go to: [www.yourcharlotteschools.net/Page/17990](http://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/Page/17990).

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Eileen Ramos  
[eileen.amos@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:eileen.amos@yourcharlotteschools.net)

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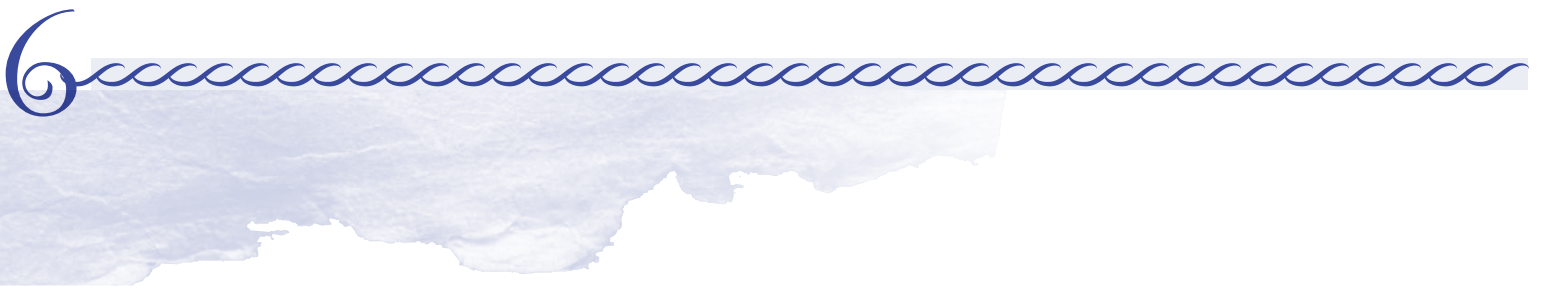
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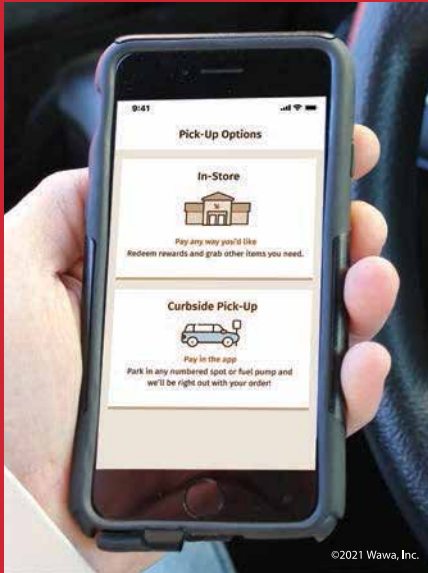
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## Early Dismissals/Late Arrivals

Between 9:30am and 3:30pm the campus gates will be closed. To access the campus, approach the entry gate and push the intercom button. Wait for the front office staff to respond. Display your photo identification and state the purpose of your visit to campus. "Hi I am here to pick up John Doe for a dentist appointment". The gate will open. Proceed to a parking place. Upon entering the front office building you need to display your ID a second time. The front office staff will then buzz you into the building. Your student will need to sign out before leaving campus.

If you are bringing a student to campus late and the gate is closed, use the same procedure to gain access to the campus. You may drop your student off at the front office. The student will sign in and receive a pass before reporting to class.

## Extracurricular Activities

Middle school students will have several opportunities to participate in activities after normal school hours. This includes but is not limited to club meetings, sporting events, dances, socials, band practice and much more. It is essential that all students are picked up from these events in a timely manner. Students picked up late will not be permitted to participate in future after school activities.

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## Interscholastic Sports

Attention all Mariners interested in trying out for interscholastic sports this upcoming 22-23 school year. You will need the following: Completed Sports Physical (by a licensed physician), Parent Consent Form and Proof of Valid Insurance. These forms can be found on the CCPS website under athletics. You may also pick up a printed copy at the school. All 3 forms **MUST** be completed and turned in before tryouts begin. Participation in upcoming boys and girls Basketball will begin late August, girls Volleyball – October and Track and Wrestling in March.

You may also call the school if you need additional information. Dates and times for tryouts and practices are set by the coaches and will be communicated by them as the season nears. Don't wait until it's too late, get your paperwork turned into Coach Summers or the front office! Go Mariners!!

All students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in order to participate in interscholastic sports.

## Anti-Bullying Policy

Charlotte County Public Schools does not tolerate bullying, which includes cyberbullying. Throughout the school year, our schools do a variety of classroom, large group, and small group lessons on bullying and bully prevention.

Though we teach all of our students that bullying is wrong, it still occasionally occurs. And, while we would like cases of bullying to be reported to the administration, they are not always reported.

Parents - if you have a bully (or cyberbullying) concern please let us know. If your child is a target and is being bullied or if you believe your child bullies others, please let us know. Open and consistent communications with the school will not only help your child but will help many others and the school. Unfortunately, some bully situations take a number of interventions before it subsides. Please continue to communicate with the school and provide any additional information that will help the school put an end to the situation.

It is important to note that investigation of cyberbullying can occur regardless of whether the bullying was conducted using public or private property (cell phone, computers, etc). Please reference Florida Statute 1006.47

Report bullying by filling out the Bully Report form which can be found on the district website at: <https://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/Page/11977>

You can also find a "Bully Button" on our website to report bullying.



## Physical Education

Welcome back Mariner Nation! We hope you all had a fun, relaxing summer break! This year in PE, we will be doing a variety of sport units and team games. We also have our new Introductory to Weightlifting program. Our newly designed PE uniforms and locker rentals will be available the first couple weeks of school! Locker rentals are \$3 for the entire year and PE uniforms vary in price! More information will be available at open house and during the first week of school. Looking forward to a great school year!

## We need spots filled...



## ...Can YOU help?

**Murdock Middle School**

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8



## Inside this Issue

Important Policy Information

Upcoming Events

*Parent's Right to Know*

*Transportation*

*and more!*

