

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: Jake Monteleone

Counselor: Sandra Tavares

Counselor: Kim Ceballos

ESE Liason: Shelly Kramer

School Resource Officer: Officer Morse

Principal's Message

Mariners,

Welcome students and families to Murdock Middle School's 2023-24 school year. I hope you had a great summer break and were able to spend time with family and friends. Our entire Mariner family is looking forward to having you on campus, and in our classrooms. Before we focus on the start of 2023-24 school year, I want to congratulate our Mariner Family for an outstanding 2022-23 school year. Our students demonstrated tremendous growth on the Florida State Test in Math, Language Arts, and Civics. This improvement came while our community was recovering from the effects of Hurricane Ian, and when a large construction project began on our campus. Even these major disruptions did not prevent our teachers from teaching and our students from learning. These gains in learning can only occur when families, faculty, and staff work together to support our students. I want to thank each of you for your support and hard work. I am confident that our Mariners will continue to learn and grow during the 2023-24 school year.

In addition to academic success, our students excelled in Band, scoring high marks in competitions, and wowing audiences at their concerts. Our sports teams brought home a championship, and were competitive in every game or match. We witnessed our young scientists expand their learning and explore a wide variety of fields at our Annual Science Fair. Our Tech Department continues to offer opportunities for our students to gain real world skills in Office 365, multimedia, broadcasting, design, large format and 3D printing, coding and robotics.

Now for a few important updates. Mr. Jake Monteleone is our new Assistant Principal for

...continues on next page

ISSUE 2 VOLUME 4

August 2023

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Discipline and Facilities. He is a former Mariner student, a Charlotte County Public School graduate and has taught at Murdock for the past 10 years. Be sure to welcome Mr. Monteleone when you see him around campus.

The construction project continues to move steadily forward. Five more classrooms were completed over the summer which means we are half way through the project. In addition, many other classrooms received new interactive flat screen panels, two new white boards, and a new bulletin board. These classroom upgrades will result in an improved learning environment for all our students. Each year we attempt to broaden our Exploratory offerings. This year we are piloting a Small Business and Entrepreneurship Industry Certification class for some of our 8th grade students, and adding a new Chorus class as well. All of these changes are designed to make Murdock Middle School a place where students want to attend, teachers want to teach, staff want to work, and parents and the community are proud to call their own.

Students, we missed you and have been looking forward to having you back on campus. If you are new to our school then we want you to know that you are a Mariner as soon as you walk on our campus. Every Mariner is important. As your principal, I believe in each of you and you have every right to believe in yourself. I expect you each to come school prepared to learn, determined to do your best, and committed to treating others with respect. It won't be long and we will be celebrating your success as a Mariner at Murdock Middle School.

Lyman Welton

Principal

Important New District Policy

This year the district is requiring all students to wear a photo ID. This policy has been in effect for the past two years at our high schools and is now required for elementary and middle school students. The wearing of ID badges is becoming common in the work place, college campuses and now in many of our nation's K-12 schools. It is just one more safety measure our district is putting place. In order to access campus during the school day the student must wear their photo ID badge. The district has purchased lanyards and the ID cards. ID badges and lanyards are provided free of charge to the family. Students will be receiving their ID's during the first week of school. The photo is the same as the student photo in Focus. Parents you can support this change by reminding your student to wear their ID every day.

Dress Code

Murdock follows the district's policy on dress code. That policy states that clothing must have sleeves and cover from shoulder to shoulder and down to the middle of the thigh. Proper footwear shall be worn at all times, and there are no hats (or any other headgear), hoods, or sunglasses allowed. Any clothing/jewelry with obscene, vulgar, or otherwise inappropriate symbols or material on them are not allowed. For the full dress code policy, please visit the Code of Student Conduct by visiting it online at the following link: <https://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/cms/lib/FL02211872/Centricity/Domain/1999/CCPS%20Dress%20Code%202022-2023.pdf>



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your local schools!

Eileen Ramos
eileen.ramos@yourcharlotteschools.net
Murdock Middle School



MURDOCK MIDDLE UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

- 9 - OPEN HOUSE 5:00-6:30
- 10 - FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS
- 15 - PTO/SAC MEETING - 5:00
- 16 - 6TH GRADE SOCIAL - 4:15-5:00
- 17- 7TH & 8TH GRADE SOCIAL - 4:15-5:00
- 21-25 - BASKETBALL TRYOUTS
- 22 - ELA TESTING PM1
- 29- MATH/ALGEBRA TESTING PM1
- 30 - PICTURE DAY
- 31 - BASKETBALL GAME - MMS @ PGM - 5:30

SEPTEMBER

- 4 - NO SCHOOL
- 7 - BASKETBALL GAME - LAA @ MMS-5:30
- 14 - BASKETBALL GAME - PCM @ MMS-5:30
- 19 - PTO/SAC MEETING - 5:00
- 21 - BASKETBALL GAME - PGM @ MMS-5:30
- 28 - BASKETBALL GAME - MMS @ PCM-5:30



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Assistant Principal Mrs. Verwey

Welcome Back Mariners!

We are thrilled to start a new school year with you. Last year was a success, being our first year to have the FAST (Florida Assessment of Student Thinking) test administration, which replaced the FSA test. The best part was not just seeing the scores the next day, but you, the students, looking for the growth that you made from the previous testing date. We always state that you must do your best in all that life has to offer. Therefore this year, we will be rewarding those of you who continue to show growth throughout the year with mini celebrations, just as another incentive for you to push yourself towards always doing your best. This is a friendly reminder that you must earn credit in your four core classes, in order to be promoted to the next grade level. The four core classes are Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Keeping that in mind, we want you to succeed in all of your classes, not just the core. Please remember to do your best every step of the way in school, sports, friendships, and life in general. Please feel free to stop in and see me if you have any questions that may arise.

Jamie Verwey

Assistant Principal

YOU ARE THE MISSING PIECE!

Help **Murdock Middle School** by advertising in the *Mariner Nation News!*

Your advertisement helps fund the newsletter and at the SAME TIME your business gets community recognition and exposure.

If you can help us out by advertising or would like more information, contact the school today!

Eileen Ramos
eileen.amos@yourcharlotteschools.net



Assistant Principal Mr. Monteleone

There is a new but old face in the front office. My name is Jake Monteleone, and I am taking over for the legendary Mr. Jenkins, as the new Assistant Principal at Murdock Middle School. I have been a teacher here at MMS for the last ten years, and I was a student here as well. After MMS and Port Charlotte High, I attended FGCU and USF. I have spent the last ten years giving my absolute all in the classroom to help the children that pass through Murdock become better people and live better lives. I have covered for administration countless times, orchestrated numerous events, and sponsored/coached a myriad of sports and clubs. I am devoted to this new position just as I was in the former. I am beyond excited for this year to start. Gooooooo Mariners!

Jake Monteleone

Assistant Principal

Cellphone Policy



Governor DeSantis signed a law that went into effect July 1, 2023 prohibiting student use of cell phones and other electronic devices in classrooms. The CCPS Student Code of Conduct states "Student use of cellular phones or other electronic devices is strictly prohibited during the instructional time. Cellular phones or other communication devices used during the school day or on the school bus without specific permission will be confiscated." An electronic communication device includes any device capable of receiving or transmitting text, email, voice or image/photo. All Murdock Middle School students are required to turn off and store their cell phone and all other electronic communication devices in their bookbags before coming onto campus in the morning. They are to remain off and stored until the dismissal bell. Electronic communication devices are not to be carried on the student's person including pockets. Any device capable of communicating must be turned off and stored in a purse or bookbag. Any violation of this policy will result in the following:

- 1st Offense: The device is confiscated and turned into the front office. Student may pick up the device at the end of the school day. Parent is notified.
- 2nd Offense: The device is confiscated turned into the front office and will remain at the front desk until it is picked up by a parent or guardian.
- 3rd Offense: The student will be required to turn in the electronic device to the front desk each morning before starting the school day. They will pick up the device at the end of the day.

A student's refusal to turn in communication device when directed to do so by a staff member or administrator will face additional discipline.



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SPORTS 2023-2024

Middle School Athletics

We offer four interscholastic sports. Students grades six through eight can try out and play for our middle school squads. Before trying out, students must earn and maintain a 2.0 GPA, have a physical, proof of insurance, and liability waiver. In order to play athletes must meet the team behavioral expectations and comply with the Student Code of Conduct.

Despite being the "small" middle school in our District, we are a three-time boys' basketball county champs, three-time girls' track county champs, and our girls' Volleyball Team went undefeated winning a championship. Murdock Middle School students have always excelled, grown, and given 100% to our sports programs over the years. We are sure the next group of Mariners will carry on this tradition. We encourage all students to try out and become a Mariner athlete! We also offer a variety of intramural sports that are played solely within the school against fellow classmates. A calendar of these intramural "seasons" will be coming out shortly. For all sports related questions, contact our Athletic Director, Coach Emily Summers at Emily.Summers@yourcharlotteschools.net.

Basketball (Boys/Girls)

Games: 5:30pm/6:30pm	
8/31	LAA @ PCM / MMS @ PGM (Girls/Boys)
9/7	PGM @ PCM / LAA @ MMS (Boys/Girls)
9/14	PCM @ MMS / PGM @ LAA (Girls/Boys)
9/21	PCM @ LAA / PGM @ MMS (Boys/Girls)
9/28	MMS @ PCM / LAA @ PGM (Girls/Boys)
10/5	PCM @ PGM / MMS @ LAA (Boys/Girls)
10/7	Playoffs at PCHS at 9am (Saturday)

Volleyball

Games: 5:30pm	
10/26	MMS @ PCM / LAA @ PGM
11/2	PCM @ MMS / PGM @ LAA
11/9	LAA @ MMS / PCM @ PGM
11/16	PCM @ LAA / MMS @ PGM
11/30	LAA @ PCM / PGM @ MMS
12/7	MMS @ LAA / PGM @ PCM
12/9	Playoffs at LBHS at 9am (Saturday)

Track and Field

Meet Time: 9am start	
2/10	(Saturday) @ Charlotte High School

Wrestling

Dual Matches			
Match time: 5:30pm			
4/18	PGM @ PCM	4/18	LAA @ MMS
4/25	MMS @ PGM	4/25	PCM @ LAA
5/2	PGM @ LAA	5/2	MMS @ PCM
County Tournament - Time: 10am start			
5/4	(Saturday) @ Charlotte High School		

A few spots are left!



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Eileen Ramos
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**Murdock
Middle School**

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.





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State-Level Officials

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Clubs

Here at Murdock, there is a wide variety of clubs for students to get involved in. They include, but are not limited to: Art Club, Robotics Club, Run/Walk/Jog Club, Student Government Association (SGA), Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), PBIS Kids Club, and Recycling Club. We encourage all Mariners to find and join a school club!



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