

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,

Thank you, parents and teachers, for all you do to make Murdock Middle a great place for our students. Together, we have come a long way in creating a learning environment that is safe and inviting. Every Mariner, parent, teacher, student, support staff, has been and continues to be critical in building a positive school climate. We are like a farmer preparing the ground for seed. The ground must be healthy for the crops to grow. The school environment must be positive for students to succeed. While we don't have a perfect school climate, because of you, we improve every semester. Our next steps are to add to our positive climate by building a culture where the pursuit of excellence is the norm for every Mariner.

Every parent/guardian wants to see their child succeed in life. Every educator wants to see their student achieve their goals. We all hope they have a bright future, hopefully one better than our own. This includes a safe home, a full refrigerator, reliable transportation, health care, clothing, meaningful and profitable work and positive relationships with family, and friends. As adults, life experience has taught us these dreams, hopes, and goals, don't come easily. It seems like they are getting harder and harder to obtain. That is why at Murdock Middle we are committed to creating a culture that makes achieving the American Dream, possible for all our students. Together, parents and educators can help prepare students for the future. Here are a few practical actions we can take to help students on the road to success.

First, we can be honest. We can tell them what it takes to achieve the American Dream. The American Dream is an opportunity. It is not a right nor a promise. It is a journey that must be navigated. No one hands out a preplanned map to success. No one traveled the path for us and there will not be someone to travel it for them. To obtain their individual American Dream, they will have to earn

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ISSUE 1 VOLUME 5

February 2024



Principal's Message

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it for themselves. We help our students by being honest. By telling them if they want a good life they have to plan and build it.

Second, we can require them to develop habits that lead to good relationships and good jobs. Strong families, lasting friendships and jobs that lead to good paying careers require purposeful planning, sacrifice and work. In a recent survey, 270 Charlotte County business leaders stated they need their new hires to be capable of the following 5 things. This is listed in order of importance and need. They need new hires to have 1. Good communication skills 2. Strong work ethic 3. Problem solving skills 4. Time management 5. Attention to details. It is informative to learn Charlotte County businesses that will be hiring our students are focused on "soft skills." Their message was clear "we can provide the job specific" skill. We are looking for new hires that show up on time, work hard, and communicate in a respectful manner. These soft skills, are skills, parents and educators can model and teach our students.

We believe our students will learn and demonstrate the skills needed to achieve success. We hope to see every Mariner approach the day determined to be and do their best. It took all of us to build a safe, orderly and positive climate. It will take every adult and student to establish a culture that promotes excellence in each Mariner. At Murdock Middle we promise to build a school culture where the pursuit of the American Dream is a daily practice. It is exciting to think about all the positive things our students will accomplish for themselves, their families, and their community as they start working toward their future.

Focus

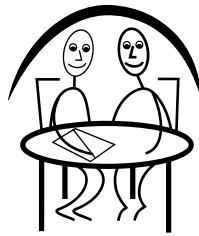
Charlotte County Public Schools

<https://focus.yourcharlotteschools.net>

CCPS has gone paperless. If you currently do not have a parent Focus account, please sign up today. To see report cards, assignments, attendance, etc., a parent Focus account is necessary. This will also let you update emergency contact information, new address, telephone numbers, and first day of school forms that must be filled out. Staff no longer have access to enter this information for you. If you need assistance or do not have a computer, please stop by the school and we will assist you. Also, please call 941-255-7525 and ask us for the student's ID and parent pin number.



After School Tutoring



After school tutoring can be a stepping stone for students who need help academically. Tutoring helps students become more engaged in learning, improve academic skills, and build confidence. Murdock Middle School offers several afterschool tutoring opportunities for students. Tutoring takes place right after school and students must be picked

up by 5:00PM. Please reach out to the teacher listed below for any questions or concerns:

- 6th Grade Math – Wednesday's Room D-10– Ms. Rogers (brianna.rogers@yourcharlotteschools.net)
- Pre-Algebra (Jan 11th, Jan 25th, Feb 8th, Feb 22nd, March 7th, April 11th, April 25th and May 9th) Room D-1 - Mr. Thorpe (brandon.thorpe@yourcharlotteschools.net)
- Algebra – (Jan 18th, Feb 1st, Feb 15th, Feb 29th, March 4th, April 8th, May 2nd and May 16th) Room D-1 – Mr. Thorpe (brandon.thorpe@yourcharlotteschools.net)
- Science – Tuesday's – Room G-5 – Ms. Reed (Ashley.reed@yourcharlotteschools.net)
- Spanish – (dates/times varies) contact Ms. Cichon (carmen.cichon@yourcharlotteschools.net)

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Title 1 Family Engagement

Mariner Families

I want to introduce myself to all my fellow mariners and families. I am Marlene Adebayo, the Title 1 Family Associate for Murdock Middle School. I am here at your service to offer any help that I can. I am available through email, phone, or virtual meetings.

I am looking forward to hearing and meeting you all. As always, your ideas are very valuable in making this school year and other years memorable for your students.

All Title 1 information is available on our website under the Title 1 tab. I will be hosting a High School Transitions workshop for the 7th and 8th graders in February, with morning and evening times to accommodate all busy schedules. More information will be coming soon.

I also have some fantastic activities and workshops coming up in just a few month – some of the topics include Social Media Safety, STEM with refreshments and dinner included, and Breakfast with Parents. All upcoming events will be posted on our website and a remind message will be sent to Mariner families. In the meantime, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to reach out to me via phone 941-255-7525 ext. 5214 or by email at marlene.adebayo@yourcharlotteschools.net.



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Charlotte County Public Schools
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Yearbooks On Sale Now

Students were sent home with Mariner yearbook order forms. The cost of yearbooks are \$30 – checks can be made payable to Murdock Middle School. All payments and order forms should be given to Mr. Hoyle in room E2. Please contact Mr. Hoyle at Dakota.hoyle@yourcharlotteschools.net for any further questions.

Don't wait - Reserve your yearbook now!



Don't Forget Your Badge

Purpose: To enhance student safety by identifying individuals who should not have access within CCPS school campuses.



Background- Per the 2019 Marjory Stoneman Commission Report, all students should be required to wear school issued identification badges (Level One Recommendation). Charlotte County Public Schools began to implement this recommendation at the start of the 2018-19 school year with Charlotte High School issuing student identification badges. The start of the 2019-20 school year began with all four high schools issuing student identification badges.

Requirement- All Charlotte County Public Schools will require student identification badges for the start of the 2023-24 school year. Implementation and enforcement of this initiative will be the responsibility of the school principal.

Students Enjoying a Little Down Time in the Pods



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!

Brianna Rogers
brianna.rogers@yourcharlotteschools.net



Murdock Middle School Mariner Athletics



Boys and Girls Soccer

Murdock Middle Athletics is super excited to finally add soccer as one of our sports to offer our students this Spring. We just got our brand-new uniforms, and they look GREAT! There will be a boys' and girls' team. For students interested, tryouts will take place Monday February 12th – February 14th. Students MUST have a sports physical completed by a doctor and on file with Coach Strauss to try out. Season will include two full weeks of practice at MMS and then a tournament to follow at Centennial Park starting at 9 am on March 2nd. We cannot wait to see all the talent our students bring to the soccer team here at Murdock Middle!

Pie in the face

Our athletic program had the opportunity to sell Candy Cane Grams for our students to send a friendly holiday message to friends, teachers etc. along with a candy cane the week before winter break. For each candy cane gram that was purchased, our students were put into a drawing to win a few things, but the biggest and most rewarding thing to win was a chance to pie Mr. Monteleone in the face. Our winner was 8th grade student, Wyatt Dickinson, who was ironically the very first student to purchase a candy cane gram. The pie in the face event was broadcast live on our very own Mariner TV for all students and staff to see. By the smile on our winner's face, I would say it was worth purchasing a candy cane gram.



Wyatt Dickson
– winner of the
candy gram
fundraiser pies
Mr. Monteleone

Girls volleyball:

Our Lady Mariner volleyball team had such an amazing season this year. They finished the season with a record of 4-2 and placed 2nd (runner up) in the county championship. They fought a hard fight against PGMS in the championship game. It was by far the most thrilling and rewarding game for our girls. The entire season, they practiced and worked hard to improve every time they stepped on the court together as a team.



Boys Basketball

Our Mariner basketball team finished their season 3-3 this year. The boys worked hard and finish 2nd (runner up) in the county championship.



Girls Basketball:

Our Lady Mariner basketball team had an amazing building season this year. The girls improved every game they played and every time they stepped on the court as a team. Even though they finished the season 0-6, they had such heart and determination to give it their all every time they stepped on the court. It was amazing to watch how much they improved through practices and game days.



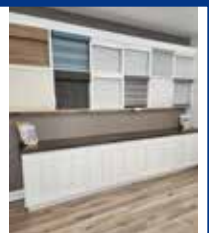
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Congratulations Students

Each month teachers nominate students for "Student of the Month". These nominations are not necessarily based on academics but are true reflections of students who represent Murdock Middle Schools values by showing kindness to all, focused in class, making good choices, respectful, responsible and ready to learn. The below students have shown that they are true "Mariners":



OCTOBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH –

pictured left to right:

Ethan Burke, Stephen Duncan, Ella Barber, Jayla Thomas, Lucan Saunders, Harmony Silva



JANUARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Pictured left to right:

Mariia Elfimova, Vasthy Jean Louis, Patrick Beiner, Aubree Childress, Wag Fleurilus, Eduardo Ramirez

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Brianna Rogers
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**Murdock
Middle School**

Field Trips



It's that time of year again. Murdock Middle School will be taking deposits for the upcoming field trips.

6th Grade – On May 14th sixth grade students are scheduled to take a daylong field trip to **LEGOLAND** Florida Resort. We feel this trip gives our students an education and desirable off-campus experience at this world-renowned park. The cost of the trip is \$60.00 per student. Price includes admissions to the park and transportation via charter bus. Students will travel by charter bus and all participants must travel on the designated buses. Student would need to be at school by 7:45AM on the morning of May 14th. We will return to MMS at approximately 7:00PM.

6th GRADE PAYMENT DATES (located outside F2 from 8:40-9:00AM during these dates):

- January 30th – February 2nd
- February 27th – March 1
- March 11th – March 14th – **FINAL BALANCE DUE**

For more information contact Ms. Bruss (Allison.bruss@yourcharlotteschools.net).



7th & 8th GRADE – BUSH GARDENS FIELD TRIP: On Thursday, May 16th seventh and eighth grade students are scheduled to take a daylong field trip to **BUSCH GARDENS**, Tampa. We feel this trip gives our students an education and desirable off-campus experience at this world-renowned park. The cost of the trip is \$115 per person. This price includes admission to the park, transportation via charter bus, and a meal and snack certificate. The meal certificate includes one entrée, one side item or dessert, and one regular fountain beverage at select restaurants. Students will need additional money for other purchases they wish to make:

7th GRADE PAYMENT DATES (located between G and D Pods from 8:40AM–9:00 AM during these dates):

- January 30 – February 2,
- February 27 – March 1
- March 11 – March 14 – **FINAL BALANCE DUE**

For more information including chaperone and/or scholarship opportunities contact:

- 7th Grade – Mrs. Herring (jeanette.herring@yourcharlotteschools.net)
- 8th Grade – Mrs. Staggs (robyn.staggs@yourcharlotteschools.net)


Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY:

- 10th – Track Meet @ CHS
- 12th – 16th Soccer Tryouts
- 16th – Hurricane Makeup Day (students and teachers report)
- 19th – NO SCHOOL**
- 20th – March 1st – Soccer Practice
- 15th – During School PBIS Event
- 20th – PTO/SAC – High School Transition Workshop
- 23rd- Student of the Month
- 27th – March 1st - Field Trip Collection

MARCH


- 2nd – Soccer Tournament
- 14th – End of 3rd Qtr
- 14th – Day in the Life of a Pirate
- 15th – Teacher Work Day
- 18th- 22nd – Spring Break
- 25th – Wrestling Practice
- 26th – PTO/SAC – Social Media Safety Workshop
- 29th – NO SCHOOL**



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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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Your School Officials

The tip report goes to your local school officials when submitted.

Local Law Enforcement

Your local police department or sheriff's office receive copies of your tip automatically.

State-Level Officials

State-level officials also have access to your tip 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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