

# 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

Mariner families,

This letter comes with a sincere thank you to our parents and guardians. Our students behavior on campus has significantly improved over past years. This is particularly surprising given all the difficulties and turmoil during 2020. With a heated presidential election, racial tensions, economic setbacks, and a global pandemic, you would think students would be acting out. This has not been the case and we believe this is due in a large part to the support given to students at home.

As we start a new year and a second semester of learning, We are once again asking you to continue, and when possible, increase your involvement in your students education. Here are 7 ways to help your student be successful in school

1. Make sure your student is in school on time.
2. Check their grades in Focus every week.
3. Check their bookbag for organization.
4. Make sure they have their school supplies with them.
5. Set clear expectations like "In our home we expect you to do your best everyday" or "You know we expect you to work hard and treat others with respect."
6. When they work hard or meet a goal, celebrate their success in some small way.
7. Let them know that their grades are their responsibilities-not yours- "I will always support you, but your success or failure is yours."

Again, we thank you for helping us achieve a successful first semester. We look forward to an even better second half of the school year. If we can be of any help please contact the school at 941-255-7525.

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ISSUE 1 VOLUME 3

January 2021



# Principal's Message

*continues...*

## Brief Covid-19 Update from the Principal

December brought in an increase in the number of student absences due to Covid-19. At the time of this writing we had nine students out. None of them had gotten a positive test. Most were out because a parent or grandparent in the home tested positive first. Some students were sick with Covid-19 symptoms but had not as of yet received test results.

Our school has had very few cases and we believe this is because our students and staff have been faithful in complying with the mask mandate. Without parental support, the requirement to wear masks would have been a difficult challenge. This has not been our experience. Even though we are all tired of wearing masks, our students and staff continue to do so successfully. Unfortunately, we anticipate the mask mandate remaining in affect for the 3rd quarter. Let's hope for a brighter outlook for the end of the school year. Thank you for supporting us as we try to keep your student safe and healthy.

Lyman Welton

*Principal*

Murdock Middle

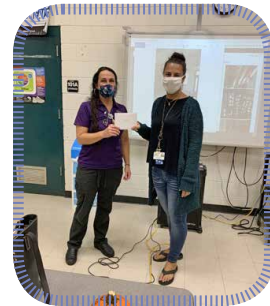
# Family Engagement

## PTO

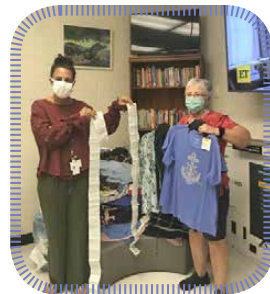
This quarter, PTO has sponsored the staff holiday party, continuing to celebrate staff with a personalized item for their birthdays, as well as gifting the school \$500 towards getting a new logo printed on the gym floor. We also have helped sponsor the 4.0 luncheon from Moe's Restaurant, and this upcoming 4.0 luncheon from Chick-fil-a. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month, and you can join us virtually, in person, or by phone. Next meeting is January 19, 2021.

## NJHS

This quarter NJHS has worked hard getting the school clothes and shoe closet up and organized. These kids are working on doing our first school wide Spelling Bee! They have organized this Spelling Bee with the help from Mrs. Ping on getting the words, ordering trophy's, as well as a celebratory luncheon for the winners of each grade level.



I just wanted to tell everyone, that SNACC committee (which is mostly all of CHAMPS cafe in the district) headed by the President our own Heather Reid of Champs, took up a food and clothing drive for our school. I went and spoke to this group, telling them the needs of our community here at Murdock, and in just a short couple of weeks they have filled our pantry and gave so many things to our closet. I believe that we need to




provide our kids with everything they need to be successful from education to making sure they are not hungry, to providing them adequate clothing to live day to day. If you know of kids that are in need, please let myself or the counselors know and we will do whatever it takes to help these kids.

*Many thanks to Louse Hall who bought \$300 worth of clothes for our clothes closet.*

## BCT Program

Charlotte Technical College and Murdock Middle are partnering to bring a Building Construction Technology (BCT) program to middle school. It is a pilot program. Starting 2nd semester, twenty-five 7th graders will attend a BCT STEM course taught in our campus. Twenty-five 8th graders will attend a block class on the CTC campus. Both programs are hands on. Students can elect to continue the program in 9th grade.



**Mariner Nation News**  
 January 2021  
 Published Four Times Per Year  
 Charlotte County Public Schools  
 1445 Education Way  
 Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
 Issue# 1

# Winter Media Center News

Although the weather is warm, it's still a great time to cozy up with a good book. Students are welcome to visit the library during the school day to check out books, work on research projects, and enjoy a little quiet reading time. In addition to the school day, the Media Center is open in the morning before 1st period. During this time, students can work on homework, read, check out books, do personal research, and catch up on current events.

We now have ebooks and audiobooks available! Students can access these materials using MMS SORA, which is on Classlink, or by using the SORA app on a smartphone. The SORA app is a free download. We have over 200 titles available and are adding new ones each month.

Our Mariner Reading Challenge is in full swing. The purpose of the challenge is to have students read titles they normally wouldn't choose, such as non-fiction and biography. It is styled like a bingo card. Students can choose which squares to fill using the twenty-five categories. Rows, columns, four corners, and a full card earn rewards. Students have until the beginning of April to complete the challenge.

This year the library has been host to several activities. Selected Language Arts students viewed a live virtual play and were able to speak with the playwright. Art club and Mariner Pride continue to meet after school. Reading students have benefited from the reading environment to choose and read books that help them grow as readers. Credit Recovery students have been making great strides and are on their way to having all the credits they need to continue to the next grade level.

We are looking forward to a terrific second semester. For more information about the Media Center and the programs offered, please visit our web page. Thank you for your continued support.



Susan F. Williams, M.D. P.A.  
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## Nurses' Alert



Florida Law requires all students 10 years old or older to have a Tdap (Tetanus) vaccine, this is Mandatory for entrance into 7th grade. Parents please get a head start and have your 6th grader vaccinated to avoid the crunch next year.



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# Mariner Nation Spelling Bee!!



Dr. Young holding the trophies!!



6th graders in round 2 of the bee!!!!



7th graders in round 2 of the bee!!!!



8th graders in round 2 of the bee!!!!



The Champions!!!!



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## PE / Sports

Physical Education is rolling right along. We are still doing as many activities as possible that do not involve any equipment and use of our hands; but, with the approval of our principal and other county leaders, we have started to offer basketball and volleyball with limited numbers of participants. Students are required to wear masks at all times during these activities and they are optional for their FITT Friday Reward choices. The students have responded well to these activities and we continue to do our best to be physically active and healthy while following CDC guidelines.

– Aaron N. Walker, *Physical Education*

## Mariner Nation Girls Volleyball Team!!



## Yearbook

Mariner Parents students are steadily working on your child's 2020-2021 Mariner Yearbook. This school year has been like no other, and our students have come up with awesome and unique methods for covering this year. If you haven't already made sure to reserve your child's copy of the 2020-2021 Yearbook. This book will be like no other. Price is currently \$30 and Mr. Hoyle accepts cash or check (Check made out to Murdock Middle Yearbook). If you would like to order online use the following link.

<https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/SelectTask>

Yearbook ID: 14272521

### MARINER 2020/21 YEARBOOK PRE-ORDER

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# SPIRIT WEEK



*Pastor Devin and her congregation from Wintergarden Church, took time to hand deliver individual boxes of cookies to staff and get a nice treat for the holidays. Following all COVID guidelines.*

# Pies with the Principal!



*DBS*

**DARA B. SORAH, CPA, P.A.**  
 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AND CONSULTANT  
Florida Institute of Certified Public Accounting/American Institute of Certified Public Accounting

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**DARA B. SORAH, CPA**  
 1435 COLLINGSWOOD BLVD. SUITE G  
 PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33948

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Ph (941) 979-8860 Fax (941) 889-7155  
 dsorah@darabsorahcpa.com



## FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

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### QUICKLY AND EASILY SUBMIT A TIP

By accessing FortifyFL, students can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information.

<p><b>Anonymous or Non-Anonymous</b></p> <p>You decide whether you want to include your name and contact information.</p>	<p><b>Convenient</b></p> <p>Submitting a tip is quick and easy using our mobile app or website.</p>	<p><b>Include Photos and Video</b></p> <p>You can also include photos or video with your tip report.</p>
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### QUICKLY SEND TO AUTHORITIES

FortifyFL automatically routes your tip report to the appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.




**Your School Officials**

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

**Local Law Enforcement**

Your local police department or sheriff office receive copies of your tips automatically.

**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



## Murdock Middle School

17325 Mariner Way  
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## TV Production

Hey Mariner Parents, TV production has been full steam ahead for the last few months and the students have risen to the unique challenges of supporting school-wide efforts due to Covid-19. Our team has been actively tasked with live streaming a multitude of events such as award ceremonies, Spelling Bees, and of course our Mariner athletics. Make sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel WMAR to get notified of all school events.

