

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

Mariners,

We have completed 25% of the 2020-21 school year and are entering the 2nd quarter. Our new sixth grade Mariners have adjusted to life at Murdock Middle. We are pleased to say they are a positive addition to our student body. Our 7th graders are focusing on the increasing academic workload that comes with being a second-year student in middle school. Our 8th grade class is having a year to remember. Their final year at Murdock will be unlike any other. Across the three grade levels, students have new opportunities for growth as citizens and learners.

To maximize these opportunities for growth, our students need adult support at home. Every student needs a significant adult to take an active role in their learning. Below are five ways parents/guardians can make a significant difference in their student's growth.

1. **Set clear goals.** For example: "I expect you to turn in all your assignments. Zeros are not acceptable"
2. **State clearly that the student is responsible for their grades.** "Your grades are your responsibility, and I/ We expect you to always do your best. No excuses and no blaming others. It is your job to learn. The grades you get are the grades you earn."
3. **Let them know you expect to see growth not perfection.** It is okay to make mistakes. It is not okay to quit or turn in sloppy work."
4. **Don't miss this step!** It is super important and a powerful tool in supporting your students learning. Review your students grades with them every week. If you are not sure how to check their grades, ask them to show you. Or call the school and one of us will be glad to help.

ISSUE 3 VOLUME 2

October 2020

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Principal's Message

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5. **Reward students along the way.** Middle school students need frequent recognition for their efforts. Waiting for report cards or even progress reports is usually too long. Praise both their hard work and their scores throughout the quarter. It is okay to use tangible rewards. You are not bribing them. It is like getting a paycheck at the end of your work week. With students, giving them a small token lets them know you are monitoring their progress. Do not go overboard or it will backfire. The praise and the reward should match the level of effort/growth. Big successes should come with more recognition.

Just remember to inspect what you expect. Middle schoolers will often say things to get you to stop doing your job as a parent. It is normal adolescent behavior. They may say something like "Why don't you trust me? I am not a little kid anymore." They are partly correct -they are not little kids anymore. However, you can respond with "It is not about trust. It is about responsibility. Just like you are responsible for your grades. I am responsible for monitoring them. It is just part of being a good parent. You can always count on me to do my job. I am counting on you to be mature enough to do yours.

Lyman Welton,
Principal

Covid 19 Update

The year 2020 has been disruptive. Each week brings a new challenge to our nation, community and school. None of us are completely immune to the events of the last several months. With a global pandemic, hurricanes, wildfires, social protests, violence, and an emotional presidential election always in the news it would be easy to be distracted. In all of this turmoil, we could lose sight of our purpose. I am pleased to say that Murdock Middle School staff, students and families are resilient, optimistic, and focused on the education of our students.

Our faculty and staff come to work each day ready to support student learning. Our students enter campus ready to learn. In response to the corona virus students behave responsibly. They wear their masks without fail. We observe them using hand sanitizer, keeping the café clean, and reporting any potential risks. We are proud of efforts to make Murdock a healthy learning environment. They represent what it means to be a Mariner.

We also recognize the students' positive behavior is a reflection of the parenting efforts of our Mariner Families. Students are making good decisions because the adults at home and school are setting clear expectations and modeling safe behaviors. For the immediate future the Charlotte County School Board Mask Policy remains in effect. When School Board Policy changes, we will notify all mariner students and their families. Until then we continue to clean our campus nightly and remind all students, staff and visitors to wear masks whenever they are on School Board Property.

Lyman E. Welton
Principal



Family Engagement PTO News

Hey there Mariner Families, I want to reach out to every one of you and encourage you to be a part of PTO. This year we have made it so easy, that you can come in person, join in virtually, or call in by phone. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, at 5pm. This is an opportunity to have a voice in what you would like to see go on in our school. With restrictions to Covid-19, things look a little different this year, but we are being creative, and coming up with different ideas. You can always email me as well, and I can send you the agenda and notes. Our next meeting is October 20th at 5pm. Please contact me at chell.pender@yourcharlotteschools.net.

Murdock Middle School's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and the School Advisory Committee (SAC)

- Meetings begin at 5pm
- How to Attend:
 - **In Person** – Enter through Family Center outside door on left-hand side of the Main Office/Building A
 - **Online Meeting** – click on this link, you might be asked to download Google Meet, video conferencing application <https://meet.google.com/mey-jnoe-ves>
 - **By Phone** – Call the number below and enter the code when prompted
Dial-in:(US) +1 513-486-2309
PIN:172 585 555#

If you cannot attend but would like updates on PTO/SAC activities, please join our Google Classroom by entering the Class Code: lzidezr

For more information, please email Chell Pender at Chell.pender@yourcharlotteschools.net or call 941-255-7525, EXT 211.

Nurses' Alert

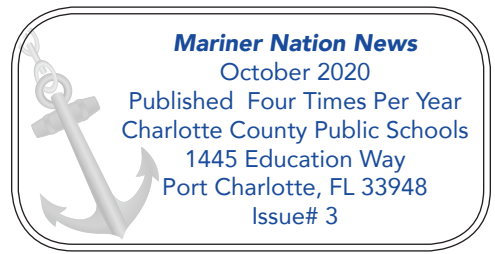
Florida Law requires all students 10 years old or older to have a Tdap (Tetanus) vaccine, this is Mandatory for entrance into 7th grade. Parents please get a head start and have your 6th grader vaccinated to avoid the crunch next year.



Susan F. Williams, M.D. P.A.
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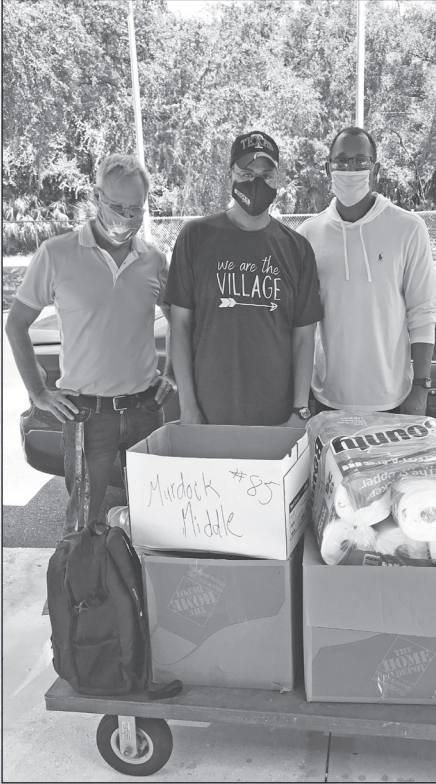


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Family Engagement



Thank you to our community partners Kevin Mccloud with Murdock Baptist Church and Pastor Devin with Wintergarden Church.

Media Center News

The Library is open and already we have had many students checking out books, working on class assignments, and reading. We are promoting safety in the library through mask wearing and by encouraging social distancing and the use of hand sanitizer. When books are returned, they are quarantined for several days before they are placed back in circulation.

This year we have two options to help students get the books they want when they cannot get to the library. The first is our Book Dash Delivery system. This system allows students to choose books using the Destiny catalog. When their choice is available it is delivered to the student during school hours. The second option is to use SORA MMS to borrow an ebook or an audio book. SORA MMS is found in ClassLink and students sign in using their student number. SORA is also available for use on a smartphone. The app is a free download in the Apple Store or Google Play. This user-friendly app has over 150 books to choose from. No longer do students have an excuse for not having something to read with Book Dash Delivery and SORA.

In a few weeks the library will be kicking off our annual Mariner Reading Challenge in which students are tasked with reading a book of their choice each month from November to April. Students completing the challenge will be invited to participate in a reading celebration at the beginning of May. For a book to qualify for the challenge it needs to be a part of our MMS library collection, which includes the ebooks and audio books found on SORA MMS. The Mariner Reading Challenge also includes the 2020-2021 SSYRA titles. Each year a committee selects books to be a part of the Sunshine State Young Readers Award. There are fifteen titles on the list and students are encouraged to read and then vote for their favorite. Voting is done in the Spring and the winner is announced in late April.

This year the library is once again host to the Art Club. Art Club meets after school from 4:15-5:15 the first and third Wednesday of each month. We have some fun activities planned to include button making and paper folding. All students are welcome to participate. Students need a way home at 5:15.

The library is also host to Mariner Pride, our Gay-Straight Alliance. The purpose of Mariner Pride is to promote diversity, tolerance, understanding, and kindness within our Mariner community. All are welcome to attend. Mariner Pride meets after school from 4:15- 5:15 on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Students need a way home at 5:15.

We at your school library are excited about this school year and are here to serve the Mariner community.



24 Hour Crisis Line
941-575-0222

Services for children, teens, & adults:

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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>Anonymous or Non-Anonymous</p> <p>You decide whether you want to include your name and contact information.</p>	<p>Convenient</p> <p>Submitting a tip is quick and easy using our mobile app or website.</p>	<p>Include Photos and Video</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.



<p>Your School Officials</p> <p>The tip report goes to your local school officials when submitted.</p>
<p>Local Law Enforcement</p> <p>Your local police department or sheriff office receive copies of your tips automatically.</p>
<p>State-Level Officials</p> <p>State-level officials also have access to your tips to make sure proper steps are taken.</p>

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.

#FORTIFYFL
GETFORTIFYFL.COM



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
- Ask for help
- Find a friend
- Exit the area



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Mr. Herring's Classes

Mr. Herring's classes will be concentrating and working incredibly hard on the writing process, which will include the multi-paragraph essay format. In addition, they will be focusing on sentence structure, spelling, and editing skills.

In literature, they have begun a unit on the elements of a short story and a novel. Comprehensive thinking, literary terms, and writing assignments have been implemented.

NJHS

This year we have a great group of academic achievers that will be inducted to National Junior Honor Society. We already have a big project ahead of us, and I'm excited for these kids to start. Last year, this group ordered Murdock bracelets to sell to help support them. We are starting to sell them for \$1.00. Please consider purchasing a bracelet which you can buy in the front office at any time. Your support for these kids is important. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to Chell.pender@yourcharlotteschools.net.

Things to Know

Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/MurdockMiddleSWFL>

School Website:

<https://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/Domain/1467>

WMAR YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg4Ttq--3eK6GrwlqJnbJNA>

Picture Day: October 23rd

Yearbooks can be ordered online or at Murdock. The cost is \$25.00 cash or check accepted. See Mr. Hoyle in E2 for details.

The School Yearbook ID is Yearbook ID: 14272521

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

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Drug Free Charlotte County

Mindfulness

As we head into the final stretch of 2020, I think we can safely say that this has been an extraordinarily stressful year! It has been stressful for parents, and it has been stressful for kids. If you have scrolled through your news feed lately you have probably seen all the memes about the stresses of dealing with working from home, homeschooling kids, nothing is normal, etc. Sad to say most of those memes seem to suggest that drinking large amounts of alcohol is how to get through these stressful situations. Sure, memes are just supposed to be jokes, but did you know that according to Nielsen, alcohol sales have increased dramatically since covid-19. This would lead me to believe that perhaps many people are using alcohol as a coping method, which can be not only very unhealthy but also not such a great example for our kids.

So, what can we do to relieve stress? Well, there are many things: listen to music, draw, exercise, sports, write, paint, build, garden, walk, swim, breathe, imagery, start a gratitude journal, help others, seek counseling or other professional help, talk about it with someone you trust, the list really goes on and on, everyone has a different technique that will work for them. One method of stress relief that has garnered a lot of attention in recent years due to its proven positive effects is Mindfulness. Mindfulness is a



technique that parents can use, and so can our teens.

Maybe you're wondering what is Mindfulness? Mindfulness is really a method of focusing in on your surroundings, and on yourself. It is a way of training your brain to focus, and in doing so, you gain more control over feelings of anxiety, anxiousness, worry, and stress, and your able to replace those automatic negative thoughts with positive thoughts until the positive though becomes the norm rather than the negative one.

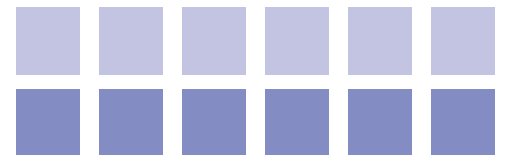
If you think this sounds good to you, and you would like to give it a try,



you can start simply with breathing. Close your eyes and really pay attention to the air as it enters your nostrils. Feel the way that it fills your lungs. When you exhale take note of the way your body releases the air. Feel your body in your seat. Feel your feet on the ground. Continue breathing in and out and focusing on the breathing. When you notice your mind wandering to other thoughts, force yourself to focus back in. You can try to do this by repeating a word in your head, like "breath". If you practice this technique regularly, and not just when you feel stressed, but also when you are calm, you will begin to see the positive outcomes it brings. This is something

you can teach to your teens and even model the behavior for them.

If you enjoy the mindfulness breathing exercise, there are many other types of mindfulness exercises that you can try. This may be the most challenging time that our teens have ever faced, let's be the example to them on healthy ways to manage stress so that they will know exactly what to do throughout their life when it comes to difficult situations.

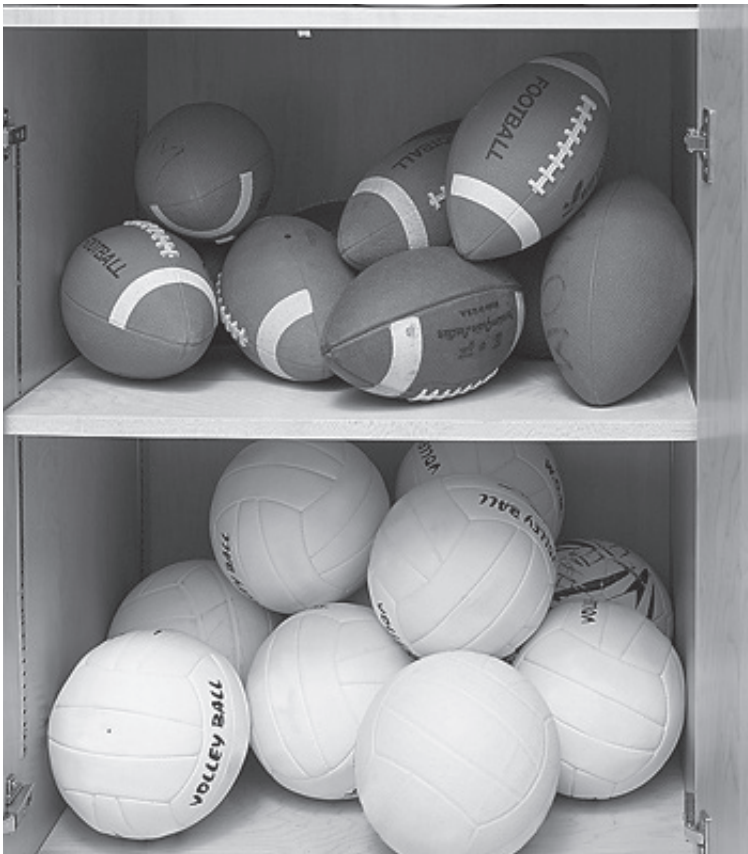




Murdock Middle School

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PE/SPORTS

Lady Mariner Volleyball

Any lady Mariners wishing to try-out for the competitive Interscholastic Team will need the following documentation turned into Coach Gretzler's office prior to tryouts:

- Medical Sport Physical (Completed by a licensed Physician)
- Parent Consent Form
- Valid Proof of Insurance (Separate copy of ID card or information filled out on parent consent from)

TRYOUTS WILL BEGIN OCTOBER 26TH (Monday) and conclude on **OCTOBER 29TH** (Thursday)

The final roster will be posted on Friday, October 30th, in the afternoon near the Gymnasium and J-building Offices near parent pickup.

If you have any questions, contact Coach Gretzler.

GO MARINERS!!