

# 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, I just finished a review of our 2022-23 academic performance with our new Superintendent of Schools, Mark Vianello. I am pleased to report our students earned their best Florida State Tests scores in a decade. We grew in all three Language Arts and all three Math categories. Our students' scores moved from C's to A's in all Math areas and from a B's to an A's in Social Studies. I just can't say how proud our Mariner Faculty and Staff are of our students. Further, we also experienced a significant decline in disciplinary referrals, and an improvement in attendance. Because of this I want to say a huge thank you and congratulations to our students, their parents and families and every member of our Mariner Staff. While I would love to celebrate a little longer, we are already well into the 2023-24 school year. Like in team sports, those are last year's scores. We are now looking forward to seeing the growth and successes of all our Mariner students in the 2023-24 school year.

To create diverse learning opportunities, we have added a few new exploratory classes. For the first time we are offering an Entrepreneurial and Small Business Industry Certification to some of our 8th grade students. Those students can also earn high school credit along with their industry certification. We also purchased a new coding software "Minecraft" which will extend students computer coding skills and improve their ability to communicate with the robots they

...continues on next page

ISSUE 4 VOLUME 4

October 2023



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

build. In addition to these amazing new opportunities, MMS now offers 3 chorus classes to complement our growing band program. Our Mighty Mariner Band has expanded to include a Pep Band as well. The Pep Band played for the first time at our final home basketball game. Their musical performance added excitement and fun to an already electric atmosphere. It was incredible to see them work so well together after only practicing for a few short weeks. We hope to see our exploratory offerings expanded to help students find a pathway to careers that excite them and provide the potential to earn an excellent living. Clearly, we had a great 2022-23 and we are now continuing to build on that success.

Like all successful organizations, we always look for areas to improve. This year we are focusing on student attendance. The data is clear, students that attend school 95% of the time make better grades and build better friendships. Missing just two days in a month puts the student at risk of falling behind. Two days does not sound like much but at the end of the year that is 18-20 days of school, or equal to missing one month of their education a year. It is the same as missing 1 and ½ years of their K-12 education. Parents, we need your help. Please get your students to school on time every day and keep them on campus for the entire day. We know things happen and students must miss days from time to time. But you can help us be successful by making sure they know you expect them to be in class each day.

Again, thank you to every adult that helps make Murdock Middle School a great place for students.

Lyman E. Welton  
Principal

## Media Center News

### Fall into a Good Book!

We are well into another exciting year in the library. Students have many opportunities to use the library and get involved in a variety of fun learning activities. Once again, students can take part in the Reading Regatta starting in January.

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, play a game, and catch up on current events.

With so many choices it's a great time to read. School library books, public library offerings, eBooks, and audio books there's something for everyone. Reading can lead to a better life. The benefits of regular reading include stronger vocabulary, better communication skills, increased attention span, stress relief, increased knowledge and empathy, and a safe way to explore the world.

We wish all Mariners a safe and prosperous fall and winter season.



Susan F. Williams, M.D. P.A.  
**PEDIATRICS**  
17928 Toledo Blade Blvd  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
(941) 743-7337 (PEDS)

A cartoon illustration of four diverse children (two girls and two boys) sitting happily in a white hammock. They are surrounded by palm trees and a beach setting.

New Patients Welcome!

W H A T I S  
M I S S I N G ?  
Y O U

Advertise in the  
*Mariner Nation News!*  
This is a wonderful way for your  
company to get community  
recognition and exposure, and  
at the same time help support  
your local schools!

**Brianna Rogers**  
brianna.rogers@yourcharlotteschools.net  
**Murdock Middle School**

## PBIS

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports' (PBIS) next referral free event is coming. For sixth graders, it is on October 17 in the gym from 4:10-5:15 and for seventh and eighth graders, the event is on October 18 in the gym from 4:10-5:15. It is a Halloween party and costumes are allowed; however, masks and weapons cannot be a part of the costume. Also, chips, candy, and soda will be on sale for one dollar. Students must be referral free from September 15-October 17 to attend the event.

## Academics

Mariners,

Quarter two is officially here! We have started the school year off right with record high attendance at sporting events and students with academic growth. We need to keep up the momentum by keeping in mind the importance of our grades in all classes. As quick as quarter two came, midterms are already rounding the corner. Midterms are worth 20% of your semester grade. The semester grade is how you earn your credit for each class. Please make sure you set aside time in your schedule to start preparing and studying for each exam. The midterm schedule is below.

- Monday, December 18th: 1st and 2nd Period
- Tuesday, December 19th: 3rd and 4th Period
- Wednesday, December 20th: 5th and 6th Period
- Thursday, December 21st: 7th Period
- Friday, December 22nd: No School for Students/Teacher Workday

Keep up all the hard work you do daily and remember to do your best in all you do!

Jamie Verwey  
Assistant Principal of Curriculum

**FLORIDA FAMILY PHARMACY**

14889 Tamiami Trail  
North Port, FL 34287  
(Located in Shoppes of North Port Plaza)

**941-444-2215**

HOURS: Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 6:00pm • Saturday: 10:00am - 2:00pm

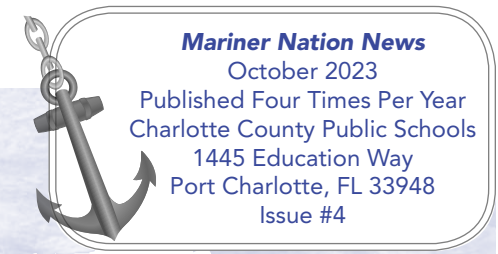
[www.FloridaFamilyPharmacy.com](http://www.FloridaFamilyPharmacy.com)

**\$25 In-Store Credit** with your transferred prescription  
FLORIDA FAMILY PHARMACY • 941-444-2215  
Restrictions apply. One per client. With this coupon.

**Landsberg Bennett**

PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

[landsbergbennett.com](http://landsbergbennett.com)  
(941) 391-8000



CHARLOTTE  
**C B H C**  
Behavioral Health Care

**Services for children, teens, & adults:**

• Individual Therapy	• Group Therapy
• Teleservices	• Psychiatric Services
• Bullying	• Parent/Child Conflict
• Trauma Therapy	• Anger Management
• Case Management	• Substance Use

**(941) 639-8300**

1700 Education Avenue, Punta Gorda  
21500 Gibraltar Drive, Port Charlotte

**Slack**  
ORTHODONTICS

Maura Stanchak, DDS, MS  
Specialist in Orthodontics

**941-249-9193**

18334 Murdock Circle • Port Charlotte, FL 33948

[www.SlackOrthodontics.com](http://www.SlackOrthodontics.com)

**CAMP BOW WOW**  
DOGGY DAY CARE & BOARDING • GROOMING

**FIRST DAY FREE!**

- ✓ LIVE WEB CAMS
- ✓ INDOOR & OUTDOOR PLAY YARDS
- ✓ SPACIOUS CABINS
- ✓ SOCIALIZATION WITH OTHER DOGS

CAMP BOW WOW® PORT CHARLOTTE  
[campbowwow.com/port-charlotte](http://campbowwow.com/port-charlotte)  
941-875-9410

\*LEGAL WOOF: Offer valid only at above location. New customers only. Camper must meet entrance requirements. Other restrictions apply.





## Life Science

It has been a busy first quarter in Ms. Bruss' life science classroom. Students have learned about science investigations, the inquiry process, and lab safety. They just wrapped up a unit on Cell Theory-Structure and Function of Cells. Students had to investigate and explain the components of the scientific theory of cells. To help memorize the organelles in cells, they created their own Shrinky dink plant cells. Next up: Classification!

## 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!

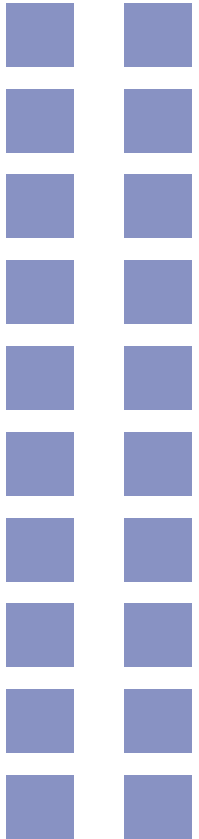
**Brianna Rogers**  
[brianna.rogers@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:brianna.rogers@yourcharlotteschools.net)





## Robotics

Robots teach students how to have fun. Builders Building projects for Robotic Challenges.



Are you getting the fiduciary advice for your retirement that you deserve? Call us for a no-obligation review.

[www.hibiscusinvestments.com](http://www.hibiscusinvestments.com)  
(941) 391-8140

Landsberg Bennett Private Wealth Management ("LBPWM") is an SEC registered investment adviser with its principal place of business in Punta Gorda, Florida. Investing involves risk, including risk of loss. For additional information about LBPWM, please request our disclosure brochure as set forth on Form ADV using the contact information set forth herein.

SERVING  
*Breakfast & Lunch*  
ALL DAY

**Sweet's**  
*Diner*

2300 Tamiami Trail #9 • Port Charlotte, FL  
941-624-3700  
Open Everyday 6am - 2pm

HOME OF THE PORT CHARLOTTE, FL  
**PILE UP**  
*Sweet's Diner* NEVER  
BE  
HUNGRY  
AGAIN



# Mariner Athletics



Hello Mariner families! With basketball season just wrapping up, our attention turns to volleyball. Girls' volleyball tryouts will be held from Thursday, October 19th and Friday, October 20th after school from 4:15 pm until 5:30 pm. Please, if your child is trying out, plan on being able to pick them up by 5:30 pm. Girls who plan to try out must have an updated physical on file. Physical forms are in the gym. If you have any questions, reach out to Coach Strauss. For those lucky enough to make the team and carry on our legacy of excellent volleyball standards, practices will be Mondays-Thursdays from 4:15 pm until 5:30 pm as well. The season will last from Monday, October 23rd until the County Tournament on Saturday, December 9th at Lemon Bay High School. We are so excited for this next volleyball season to kick off! The match schedule is as follows:

### 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)

Also, be on the lookout for our pilot soccer program! The district is trying out a pilot soccer season this year. As of now, it looks like it will be from February 12th through March 2nd of 2024, which is right after Track and Field but before Wrestling. Keep your eyes peeled and ears open for any updates regarding this exciting new development!

**A few spots are left!**



**We need you!**

**Advertise in the  
Mariner Nation News!**

This is a wonderful way  
**for your company**  
to get community  
recognition and exposure,  
and at the same time **help**  
**support your local**  
**schools!**

**Brianna Rogers**  
[brianna.rogers@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:brianna.rogers@yourcharlotteschools.net)

**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.



## FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

### 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.

Anonymous or Non-Anonymous

You decide whether you want to include your name and contact information.

Convenient

Submitting a tip is quick and easy using our mobile app or website.

Include Photos and Video

You can also include photos or video with your tip report.

### 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's 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.

#FORTIFYFL

GETFORTIFYFL.COM

## We Need You

to bring this newsletter to press

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



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

Brianna Rogers • [brianna.rogers@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:brianna.rogers@yourcharlotteschools.net)

charlotte advanced  
ORTHODONTICS

BRACES & INVISALIGN®  
FOR ALL AGES

Dr. Christina Pepper

Board Certified Orthodontist

WWW.ONEOFKINDSMILES.COM | (941) 629-2221

Interest-Free Payment Plans | Low Down Payment | Low Monthly Payments | Insurance Provider

1182 Tamiami Trail  
UNIT-C  
Port Charlotte

Auto Repair Service Center

Schedule your appointment today!

941-235-8963

Preventative Maintenance

Parts Replacement

Body Paint & Repair

feosmotorsports.com



**Murdock Middle School**

17325 Mariner Way  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Non Profit Organization

U.S. Postage PAID

Orlando, FL

Permit# 2346

8



## Inside this Issue

Media Center News

PBIS

Academics

Life Science

Robotics

and more!

