

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 Liaison: Cara Stefanik

School Resource Officer: ... Officer Morales

Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

As we approach the end of the semester, we're filled with excitement about all the hard work and dedication you've shown. Let's keep this momentum going and finish strong!

Power Through to the Finish Line

- Stay on top of assignments: Even small steps, like completing a few problems or reading a chapter, can make a big difference. Check Focus each day. Zero's kill your grades. Turn in any missing work. Start with the easiest assignment. Remember, every little bit counts!
- Prioritize attendance: Being in class on time every day is crucial. Students that miss school fall behind in class and with their friends. Half the victory is won by just showing up. Don't be the one to miss out on the most recent lesson or social happenings. If you do miss a class, be sure to catch up promptly.
- Strengthen friendships: A little kindness can go a long way. Check in with a friend, offer help, or simply spend time together. Strong friendships can make Murdock Middle School a safe and fun learning environment for everyone.

A Bright Holiday Season

As we head into the holiday season, let's remember the spirit of giving, kindness, and joy. Take time to appreciate the little things, spend quality time with loved ones, support a classmate, and give back to your community. I know that I am thankful for all the families that support our school. May this season be filled with warmth, love, and peace for every Mariner and their Family.

Sincerely,

Lyman E. Welton
Principal

ISSUE 1 VOLUME 6

December 2024



The Controlled Open Enrollment Window and CCPS Magnet Fair is Right Around the Corner!

This is a friendly reminder from Dr. Desjardins, Assistant Superintendent of School Support Services for Charlotte County Public Schools, alerting parents that the month of January is designated as the school district's controlled open enrollment window (school choice). During this month, parents and guardians may select a school in our district other than their child's assigned geographic school for the upcoming 2025-26 school year as long as that school is not closed due to being at capacity enrollment. If a school is "open" to reassignments, it is important to note that your child is not necessarily guaranteed a spot at that location. If there are more reassignment requests for a particular school than available seats, then the district will use a random lottery to determine which students will be allowed to attend that school. If a random lottery is needed, it will be conducted during the first two weeks of February.

To assist parents and guardians with navigating through the different educational programs offered at the middle school, high school and post-secondary levels, the school district is hosting its first Magnet Fair on January 16th at Centennial Park Gym from 5:30pm to 7pm. Secondary and post-secondary schools from across the district will be highlighting their special academic programs such as aviation, cybersecurity and advanced manufacturing. For more information pertaining to the Charlotte County Public Schools Magnet Fair, please visit the school district website, Facebook or Instagram pages.

Any student who is currently on reassignment to a school other than his or her assigned geographic school is no longer required to renew his or her reassignment every year. Your student will remain on that school's roster until your student has completed the highest-grade level offered at that school (5th grade for elementary school and 8th grade for middle school). Out-of-County residents no longer need to renew their reassignment application each year they wish for their student to attend a Charlotte County Public School unless they decide to change the school their student is currently attending.

Reassignment forms are available at any Charlotte County Public School, Charlotte County Public Schools Murdock County Office, or on the web at www.yourcharlotteschools.net. A complete listing of schools that are at capacity (closed to reassignments) is also available on the school district's website. If you decide to select a school other than your child's assigned geographic school, be careful to research the special conditions such as athletic eligibility that are attached to reassignment obligations. Transportation is not provided for students who have obtained a reassignment. Out-of-County students no longer need to obtain a signature (release) from their county of residence.

Parents or guardians who have any additional questions may call 941-255-0808, extension 2141.

A Huge Thank You!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our students, parents, and staff for their incredible support of our recent fundraising event! Together, we raised a fantastic **\$4,732.00**. These funds will be used to support our students through PBIS, Mariner Athletics, and Academic Awards.

Your generosity will make a significant difference in the lives of our students. Thank you again for your support.

Lyman Welton
Principal
Murdock Middle School

Art Show

Join us on Thursday, December 12th for an evening showcasing Murdock Middle School Arts programs. At Charlotte Technical College, Art Student's will have their work on display in the lobby and the band will be performing their Winter Concert.


MURDOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL
WINTER CONCERT & ART SHOW

THURSDAY
DEC 12TH, 2024

CONCERT BEGINS
AT 6:30PM

CHARLOTTE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
18150 MURDOCK CIR,
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL





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 December 2024
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 Charlotte County Public Schools
 1445 Education Way
 Port Charlotte, FL 33948
 Issue #1

The Silent Crisis

The Negative Impact of Chronic Absenteeism on Middle School Students

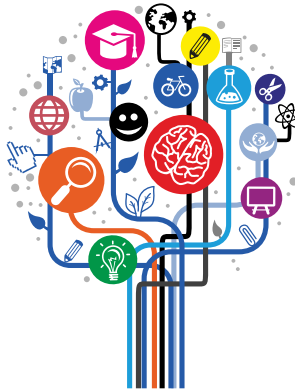
Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of school days, is a serious issue that can have far-reaching consequences for middle school students. While it may seem like a minor problem, the data reveals a troubling trend with significant implications for more than just grades. Students that miss school have more social-emotional development struggles, and their job options in the future are significantly limited.

Research consistently shows a strong correlation between chronic absenteeism and failure. Students who miss school frequently struggle to keep up with coursework, and as a result must retake classes, and attend summer school. As a result, they are more likely to fail a grade level. Studies show that students that get held back even one grade are much more likely to drop out of school.

Beyond academic struggles, chronic absenteeism has a negative impact on a student's social and emotional well-being. Missing school often leads to feelings of isolation, and decreased self-esteem. They just don't have a chance to make as many friends as their classmates that are in class every day. When a middle school student misses the chance to be with friends in a learning environment, they experience loneliness and feelings of failure. Simply put, students who are chronically absent miss out on important social interactions. All young teens need friends and mentors. School provides both.

Parents make the biggest difference in middle school attendance. When parents recognize the long-term consequences of chronic absenteeism, they stress the importance of being in school all day every day. While it does not feel like it, - students actually listen to their parents. Parents, that require their middle schooler to be in school every day get to see their student gain confidence, build friendships and succeed academically.

To address this issue, schools and communities must work together to identify and support students who are at risk of chronic absenteeism. 1 Early intervention strategies, such as regular attendance checks, parent-teacher communication, and attendance incentives, can help to prevent absenteeism from becoming a chronic problem. 2 By prioritizing attendance and providing students with the support they need to succeed; we can help ensure a brighter future for all.




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2024 Pep-Rally

On October 3rd, we held our annual Pep-Rally. The Pep-Rally is put together by PBIS, which stands for Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports. Since this is a PBIS event, students without referrals are permitted to attend. Murdock Middle School's chorus sang the National Anthem, while the band played pep music. We also had a performance by Port Charlotte High School's Cheerleading Team. Lastly, there was a game called "Head, Shoulders, Knees, Cone" where staff versed some students. A huge shout-out to Ms. Bruss, who's in charge of PBIS, and Mr. Jordan, who's the chorus and band teacher!



Spirit Week



October 28th - November 1st, 2024

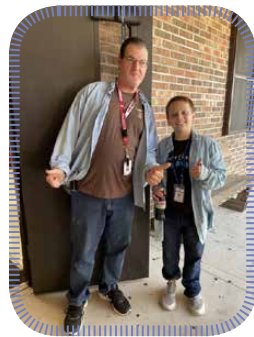
Monday: Crazy Sock Day



Tuesday: Color Wars
(Red-6th grade,
Yellow-7th grade,
Blue-8th grade)



Wednesday:
Teacher / Student Swap



Thursday: Character Day



Friday: Mariner Day



Marty the Mariner

This school year, Murdock Middle School decided to introduce a mascot. Our mascot's name is Marty the Mariner and students can see him at different events on campus. Our hope is that the mascot will help increase school spirit. If you're lucky enough to run into Marty, make sure you say hi!



After School Tutoring & Clubs

Tutoring 4:20-5:20		
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	ALGEBRA 8-9 MATH 7TH 8-9 SOCIAL STUDIES 8-9 (ALL GRADE LEVELS)	ELL 8-9 SCIENCE 8-9 (ALL GRADE LEVELS)
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
ALGEBRA 8-9 SOCIAL STUDIES 8-9 (ALL GRADE LEVELS)		
MURDOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL		

MURDOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL
AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

- WYDLIFE
TUES 4:15-5:15PM
- SCIENCE INQUIRY
TUES/THURS 4:15-5:15PM
- ROBOTICS
WED 4:15-5:15PM
- PERCUSSION - TUES
(STARTING OCT. 1)
4:15-5:15PM
- AV CLUB
VARIOUS AFTER SCHOOL EVENTS
- BEADING - JEWELRY MAKING
MONDAY 4:15-5:15PM
- PBIS KIDS CLUB
2ND & 4TH TUE/THUR 4:15-5:15PM
- STUDENT GOVERNMENT
2ND TUE/MONTH - 8:15AM
4TH WED/MONTH - 4:15PM

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED

Title 1 Family Engagement

My name is Marlene Adebayo, and I am the Family Advocate for Murdock Middle School. You can reach me by phone at 941-255-7525 Ext 5214 or email me at marlene.adebayo@yourcharlotteschools.net. I am here to help you with any needs you might have in regard to your students.

The family resource center will be hosting a Social Media Safety event on December 17, 2024 with two different time slots for parents' participation, 8:30-9:30am and 5:30-6:30pm.

In addition to the Social Media Safety Event, Murdock Middle School will be hosting the following events for families:

- Algebra Math Night- March 12th, at 8:30am-9:30am or 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Family Resource Room.
- Riser Night for 5th graders- April 30th 4:30pm-5:30pm in the gymnasium

For all the above events the first 100 parents who attend will receive refreshments and pastries.

I look forward to seeing you at our Murdock events. I am available to meet anytime throughout the school day by appointment if you require any assistance. Please feel free to contact me via email or phone to set up a time that meets your needs. Please visit our school website for any reminders about upcoming events and dates. Let's continue to make this school year fantastic.

Winter Concert

"Wow, I didn't know I could do that!"

That is one of the best sentences a teacher (or a parent) gets to hear. It usually gets accompanied by a beaming smile and is the fruit of many failures. So long as the tries outnumber the failures by one, progress continues. When the number of tries and the number of failures is equal and stay equal, we hear the opposite: "I can't!" I often tell our students that "I can't" is awfully close to "I quit" if we aren't careful.

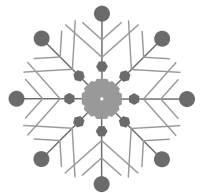
When our students pick up an instrument or open their mouths to sing, they make an investment in the possible. Not that they are destined to be professional performers, but that they are destined to be more tomorrow than they are today. They don't have to be perfect, but today they can be better than they were yesterday. The same attention to detail and consistency that makes a great musician makes a great manager or lawyer. The eyes and ears that learn to discern beauty begin to see that beauty in individuals, groups, and situations around them, making them great helpers, mentors, and friends. They see potential in situations and their peers. They see potential in themselves. They strategize how to bring that potential to reality.

It's more than pep band or concert choir. It's more than the right notes and right rhythms. It's daring to try and risk succeeding!

Take a look at your child. See the potential. Nurture it. Tell them, "One more try!"

Come see the potential at our upcoming Winter Concert! Thu, December 12, 2024, at 6:30 PM
Charlotte Technical College Auditorium

Until then,
John Jordan



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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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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.
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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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SCAN ME

Media Center News

Exciting happenings in the library! Changes have been made to make it easier to browse and find a book to read. A few new book sections have been added to the library: Fantastic Florida, Sunshine State Young Readers Awards, careers, and B.E.S.T. titles for language arts and history. There are also new fiction and nonfiction books ready for reading.

Students can borrow up to two books for two weeks at a time. Families, please help your child to remember to return their library books on time so they are available for others to read.

SORA, our eBook and audiobook platform is available to all students. SORA can be accessed through ClassLink either at school or at home. With over 300 titles available, there is something for everyone. Students also have access to Comics Plus. This is our comic and graphic novel platform. There are over 10,000 titles to choose from including graphic novel versions of classic literature, which make for a great introduction to well-known novels.

This year the library is hosting several live, virtual, author visits. Kwame Alexander, Mo Williams, and Jason Reynolds are a few of



the authors spending time with us. The authors discuss their latest books and the writing process. During the visit, students engage in a mini writing lesson.

Remember, it's always a great time to read. School library books, graphic novels, comics, 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.



Happy reading!

Mariner Spirit Squad

We are so excited to introduce our newest club, the Mariner Spirit Squad! We are proud of our amazing cheerleaders who are going to uplift everyone's spirit at all our sporting events throughout the year and also elevate the excitement and engagement on campus! Our squad is composed of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and anyone is welcome to join.

We look forward to helping our students share their school pride!

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Murdock Middle School

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Attend School All Day Every Day

Attendance is very important to us here at Murdock Middle School. In hopes of encouraging attendance, the week of Thanksgiving, Murdock did a raffle for students who attended all three days (Nov 25-Nov 27). Students who attended all three days with no tardies, late arrivals, or early releases were entered into a raffle for a \$10 Target Gift Card. There were 3 gift cards per grade level given out. Gift Cards were given out at the end of the day on Wednesday 11/27 to the students pictured. We had over 230 students eligible to be entered into the raffle.

Many more gift cards and other incentives will be occurring throughout the school year in order to reward students' attendance.



Girls Volleyball Team Undefeated and Eyeing Championship



The Murdock Mariner girls' volleyball team continues their dominant season, boasting an impressive 4-0 record. With two more regular season games scheduled for December 3rd and 5th, the team is gearing up for the playoffs at Lemon Bay High School on December 7th at 9 AM.

The team's success can be attributed to their unwavering dedication and hard work during every practice session. The players are determined to bring home the championship title this year, and their collective effort is evident in their on-court performance.

As the playoffs approach, the team remains focused and determined. They are eager to showcase their skills and secure a victory at the championship.