

# 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

Mariners,

Welcome students and families to Murdock Middle School's 24-25 school year. I hope you had a great summer break and were able to spend time with family and friends. Our entire Mariner family is looking forward to having you on campus, and in our classrooms. Before we focus on the start of 24-25, I want to recognize a few outstanding accomplishments in 23-24. Our Science Department had a turnaround this year. Science is possibly the most difficult and certainly the most comprehensive Florida State Test in middle school, and our students had significant gains for the first time in four years. This turnaround did not happen by chance. We chose to make science a priority in our School Improvement Plan. As a result, our teachers developed and executed a plan to help our students grow in this important academic area. Our PTO and SAC supported this plan and our students did the work. As a result, our students had significant gains for the first time in four years. Other equally impressive academic gains were accomplished in Math, and Algebra 1. We had more students earn a high school credit in Alg1 this year than at any other time in the past 10 years. We also had 19 eighth grade students earn two industry certifications in just one year. For the first time we added Chorus as an exploratory and witnessed these students join our Mighty Mariner Band in two spectacular concerts.

One of our primary objectives has been to make Murdock Middle School a place where students want to attend, teachers want to teach, staff want to work, and parents and the community are proud to call their own. This year we witnessed this objective being achieved. Our community came out in large numbers to support their students. The crowds at our awards ceremonies, sporting events, and concerts were frequently standing room only. We filled all the bleachers and chairs at our 6th grade riser night

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ISSUE 3 VOLUME 5

August 2024





# Principal's Message

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with the crowd spilling over into the rest of the gym. Viewership of our Mariner Studio's live streaming continues to grow as does our Facebook following. Our Technology Department continues to shine. In a recent district meeting the Director of Career and Technology stated "Murdock Middle Schools' Technology program is a high school program being executed on a middle school campus". This year that department will partner with FPL to feature a drone program, another will partner with CTC to introduce students to careers in high paying jobs in Robotics and Electronics. By the end of semester one our 8th grade students will select an initial pathway for their future. This is an initiative started by our superintendent referred to as the Three E's, Enrollment, Employment, or Enlistment.

While we have much to celebrate, we have room for improvement. Our greatest need for improvement is in the area of Literacy. Our students are behind in the areas of Reading and Language Arts. This effects their growth in every subject area. As a result, we will build growth in these areas as a priority in our School improvement Plan for this coming school year. Mariner Families, our students need your help to overcome the gaps they have in this subject area. You can help support them by doing two important things. First, make sure they are in school every day - all day. Students that miss just 10% of class time fall behind the other students. That is just 2 days per month. Two days per month is equal to missing four weeks of school. Three days a month six weeks! Students just cannot keep up with their classmates when they miss more than one day per month. Second, check their grades in Focus every week. Select a day maybe Monday or Friday. Check their grades and make sure they turn in any missing work. When we work together, parents and teachers, our students will learn and excel.

I am confident that with your support and with us working together the students of Murdock Middle School will continue to grow and will make our community proud.

Lyman E. Welton

Principal Murdock Middle School

# Message from the Assistant Principal of Curriculum

Welcome Back Mariners,

I am so excited to have you back on campus and look forward to a great school year. We have lots of new and exciting events planned this year to encourage you to participate and become more involved in learning and your academic success. To provide you with a sneak peek, one event we have scheduled will be held quarterly and if you meet all the qualifications you will be able to participate in each period that you qualify for. Some of the qualifications will include a passing grade, completed assignments, positive attendance, minimal tardies, and zero referrals for that class period. Each quarter we will have new, fun, and exciting events planned. More information will come when we have our class meetings. Please mark your calendars for these upcoming state testing days, and try not to plan any doctor appointments on the days below.

August 21, 2024	FAST PM 1 Math
August 27, 2024	FAST PM 1 ELA
Midterms	December 16-19, 2024
January 14, 2025	FAST PM 2 Math
January 22, 2025	FAST PM 2 ELA
TBD April 7-11, 2025	State Writing Test
May 6, 2025	FAST PM 3 ELA
May 13, 2025	FAST PM 3 Math Algebra 1 EOC
May 20, 2025	Science & Civics EOC
May 23-29, 2025	Finals

Your Mariner Assistant Principal of Curriculum,  
Jamie Verwey

Susan F. Williams, M.D. P.A  
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# Media Center News

Welcome back to school Mariners! The books have missed you.

The library is ready for an exciting year. 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 are welcome to visit the library during the school day to check out books, work on school assignments, 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, play a game, and catch up on current events.

Students can borrow up to two books for two weeks at a time. Families, please help your child to remember to return the 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 have the chance to explore their creativity at the monthly Morning Make and Take sessions. During that time students can engage in arts and crafts such as making buttons, friendship bracelets, and origami. Students are also invited to explore their creativity at the Mariner Arts and Crafts club. Beginning date to be determined.

The Mariner Reading Challenge will start in September and details will be available toward the end of August. To add to the excitement, students can stop by the library to enjoy some fun activities throughout the year.

Remember, it's always 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.

Wishing you a wonderful and successful school year filled with great stories!



**Mariner Nation News**  
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Charlotte County Public Schools  
1445 Education Way  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
Issue #3

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# Vape Detection Sensor Program

Vape detection sensors will be located in restrooms allowing students an environment free from harmful vape products. Vape sensors detect various products including but not limited to THC and Tobacco. Students found in possession of vape devices and/or tampering with vape sensors will be disciplined in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct and will be referred to local law enforcement.

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# Model Schools Conference 2024

## Murdock Middle School Teachers and Administrative Team Engage in Professional Development at Model Schools Conference 2024

I am pleased to share that the educators and administrative team of Murdock Middle School recently had the opportunity to attend the Model Schools Conference 2024. This conference, held in Orlando brought together educators, administrators, and thought leaders from across the country to collaborate, learn, and share innovative practices in education.

Throughout the conference, our dedicated team participated in a wide range of workshops, keynote sessions, and networking opportunities aimed at fostering professional growth and enhancing student success. They engaged in discussions on topics such as personalized learning, technology integration, AI in education, social-emotional learning, and equity and inclusion in schools.

Attending the Model Schools Conference provided our educators and administrators with valuable insights, strategies, and tools to further enhance teaching practices and leadership skills. We were able to exchange ideas with colleagues, gain new perspectives on education, and explore cutting-edge approaches to improving student outcomes.

We are excited about the fresh ideas and innovative practices that our team will bring back to Murdock Middle School. We are confident that the knowledge and inspiration gained from the Model Schools Conference will benefit our school community and contribute to our ongoing efforts to provide a high-quality education for all students.

We extend our gratitude to our District leaders for sponsoring and supporting our participation at this impactful event. I want to commend our teachers and assistant principals for taking their own time this summer to further their professional development.

Stay tuned for updates on how the insights and experiences gained at the Model Schools Conference will shape the future of education at Murdock Middle School. Together, we are empowered to make a difference in the lives of our students and build a brighter future for our school community.



## 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)



# Murdock Middle School Mariner Athletics



Mariners!

School is starting back up, which means MMS Sports are right around the corner! All boys and girls interested in trying out for our basketball team, make sure you have an up to date physical on file to be eligible to play. Physical and consent forms can be found on our school website under Our Programs- Athletics. All forms must be completely filled out for our athletes to be good to go.

Basketball tryouts start Monday, **August 19th -22nd** right after school from 4:15- 5:30 pm.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Coach Strauss. Go Mariners!

To the right is the Charlotte County Public Schools middle school athletic calendar. We offer five interscholastic sports: boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' soccer, co-ed wrestling, boys' and girls' track and field, and girls' volleyball. Students grades six through eight can try out and play for our middle school squads. Before trying out, students must earn and maintain a 2.0 GPA as well as have a school-approved physical (get one from one of our PE coaches), proof of insurance, and liability waiver signed. To play, athletes must meet the team behavioral expectations and comply with the Student Code of Conduct.

Despite being the "small" middle school in our District, we are three-time boys' basketball county champs, three-time girls' track county champs, and our girls' Volleyball Team went undefeated winning a championship. Murdock Middle School students have always excelled, grown, and given 100% to our sports programs over the years. We are sure the next group of Mariners will be sure to carry on this tradition. We encourage all students to try out and become a Mariner athlete! We also offer a variety of intramural sports that are played solely within the school against fellow classmates. A calendar of these intramural "seasons" will be coming out shortly. For Sports related questions, contact our Athletic Director, Coach Strauss, at [Chassity.Strauss@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:Chassity.Strauss@yourcharlotteschools.net).

## Middle School Athletics Schedule 2024-2025

### Basketball (Boys/Girls)

Games: 5:30pm/6:30pm

8/29 PGM @ PCM / MMS @ LAA (Boys/Girls)  
9/5 PCM @ MMS / LAA @ PGM (Girls/Boys)  
9/12 LAA @ PCM / MMS @ PGM (Boys/Girls)  
9/19 MMS @ PCM / PGM @ LAA (Girls/Boys)  
9/26 PCM @ PGM / LAA @ MMS (Boys/Girls)  
10/3 PCM @ LAA / PGM @ MMS (Girls/Boys)

10/5 Playoffs at PCHS at 10 am (Saturday)

### Volleyball

Games: 5:30 pm

10/24 PCM @ MMS / LAA @ PGM

10/30\* MMS @ LAM / PGM @ PCM

11/7 LAA @ PCM / PGM @ MUM

11/14 MMS @ PCM / PGM @ LAA

11/21 LAA @ MMS / PCM @ PGM

12/5 PCM @ LAA / MMS @ PGM

12/7 Playoffs at LBHS at 9am (Saturday)

\*Wednesday Game

### Track and Field

Meet Time: 9am start

2/8 (Saturday) @ Charlotte High School

6/27/2024

### Soccer (Boys/Girls)

Games: 5:30/6:30 pm @ Centennial Park

2/20 PCM @ PGM (F1/F2) / MMS @ LAA (F3/F4)  
2/27 PCM @ MMS (F1/F2) / LAA @ PGM (F3/F4)  
3/6 LAA @ PCM(F1/F2) / PGM @ MMS (F3/F4)  
3/13 PGM @ LAA(F1/F2) / MMS @ PCM (F3/F4)  
3/27 LAA @ MMS(F1/F2) / PGM @ PCM (F3/F4)  
4/3 MMS @ PGM(F1/F2) / PCM @ LAA (F3/F4)

4/5 Playoffs at Centennial Park at 10am (Saturday)

F1=Field 1 (Girls)

F2=Field 2 (Boys)

F3=Field 3 (Girls)

F4=Field 4 (Boys)

### Wrestling

Dual Matches

Match time: 5:30pm

4/17 PGM @ PCM LAA @ MMS

4/24 MMS @ PGM PCM @ LAA

5/1 PGM @ LAA MMS @ PCM

County Tournament

Time: 10am start

5/3 (Saturday) @ Charlotte High School



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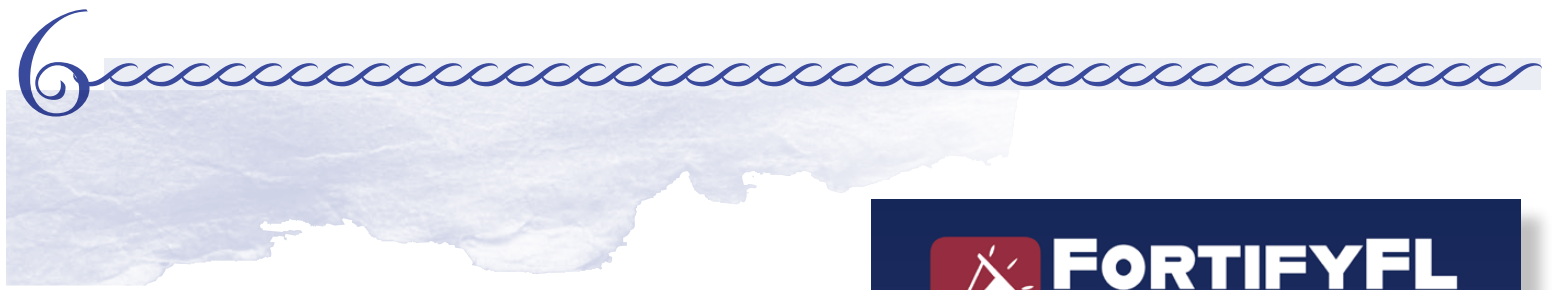
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# Anti-Bullying Policy

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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- State-Level Officials**  
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## Clubs

Here at Murdock, there are many various clubs for students to get involved in. They include, but are not limited to: Art Club, Robotics Club, Student Government Association (SGA), PBIS Kids Club, Open Door Club, and Recycling Club. We encourage all Mariners to find and join a school club!

## Dress Code

Murdock follows the district's policy on dress code. That policy states that clothing must have sleeves and cover from shoulder to shoulder and down to the middle of the thigh. Proper footwear shall be worn at all times, and there are no hats (or any other head-gear), hoods, or sunglasses allowed. Any clothing/jewelry with obscene, vulgar, or otherwise inappropriate symbols or material on them are not allowed either. For the full dress code policy, please visit the Code of Student Conduct by visiting it online at the following link: <https://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=25285&dataid=53826&FileName=COSC%20Book%202023.24%20-%20Updated%20September%202023.pdf>

## Physical Education

Don't miss out on purchasing our PE uniforms at Open House. Students are required to dress out each day for class. This particular uniform is not a requirement however, there is a PE dress code that does apply to all students. Sneakers must be worn and clothing must adhere to district dress code and be appropriate for physical activity.

- Shirts- \$10
- Shorts- \$12
- Shirt & Shorts- \$20



## District ID Badges

It is district policy that all students must wear an I.D. badge while on campus during school hours: "In order to maintain a high level of student safety, students are required to wear school issued identification badges during regular school hours. Student identification badges must be worn around the neck using a school-provided breakaway lanyard." The first I.D. badge and break-away lanyard is provided to the student free of charge. Students will be charged a fee for forgotten or lost I.D.'s or lanyards. Students may wear a break-away lanyard of their choice as long as it meets all dress code requirements. Please refer to the new updated Student Code of Conduct for any more information regarding student I.D. badges.

## School Hours

First period begins every morning at 9:10. The school day ends at 4:10. Any student arriving to campus after 9:10 MUST report to the front office to obtain a tardy pass. Tardy passes are required for both excused and unexcused tardiness.

## Arrivals

The parent drop off gate will open at 8:00AM and close at 9:30 each morning. There is no supervision on campus between 8:00-8:30 am. The pedestrian gates used by students walking or riding their bike to school will open at 8:30AM and close at 9:30. Students walking or riding should NOT arrive before 8:30 as the sidewalk gates will be locked. Campus gates open for students at 8:40. Upon entering campus students will report directly to either their grade level pod (D Pod for 6th grade, G Pod for 7th Grade and B Pod for 8th Grade) or the cafeteria for breakfast.

## Dismissal

Students are dismissed at 4:10. Any student riding a bus should go directly to the bus ramp. Walkers and bike riders exit campus using the sidewalk gate beside our marquee. Students going to parent pick up proceed directly to the front of the Administrative Building and **MUST** be picked up by 4:30.



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