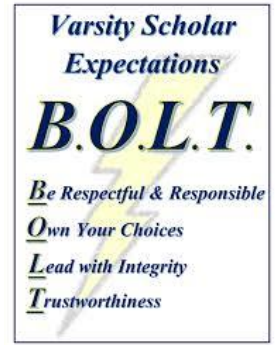


# Newsletter

Dr. Mederios - Principal  
Mr. Plucker - Assistant Principal  
Ms. Booker - Assistant Principal  
Ms. Thompson - Assistant Principal



Term: Fall | Issue 6 | Date: February 2020

**Vision:** Varsity Lakes Middle School is a learning institute that is dedicated to the creation of academic excellence through rigorous, engaging instruction and integrated curriculum.

**Mission:** Varsity Lakes Middle School will provide a nurturing environment that ensures the continued development of the whole student. Through challenging learning experiences, all students will mature academically, socially, physically, emotionally, and creatively.



## Message from the Principal

Greetings Lightning family:

Happy New Year to everyone! As we begin the second semester, we would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support of our teachers and staff here at Varsity Lakes.

What an exciting time of year this is! This is when we see many students take giant leaps in their learning. Students who may have struggled with the transition to middle school really begin to find their niche, and those students that may have struggled with being “tuned into” learning are starting to take off. This is a true testament to all the work done at school and at home since the start of the school year.

Our students have come in this second semester ready to learn, and we have settled into the daily routines. Please remember that you play a vital role in your child’s success at school. You can help by asking your child about his/her day, having a positive attitude about learning, and encouraging your child to read every night. You would be amazed what 20 minutes of reading each night will do for your child’s reading and literacy skills. Thank you for all your support at home!

If you or someone you know would like to make a donation or charitable contribution to Varsity Lakes Middle School, please contact our bookkeeper, Shelby Vick, for more information. Also, be sure to visit our website at [vlm.leeschools.net](http://vlm.leeschools.net) for more information about all the opportunities that VLMS has to offer.

Kind Regards,

Matthew Mederios, Ed.D.

Principal

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# STEMTASTIC @ The Lee Education Center

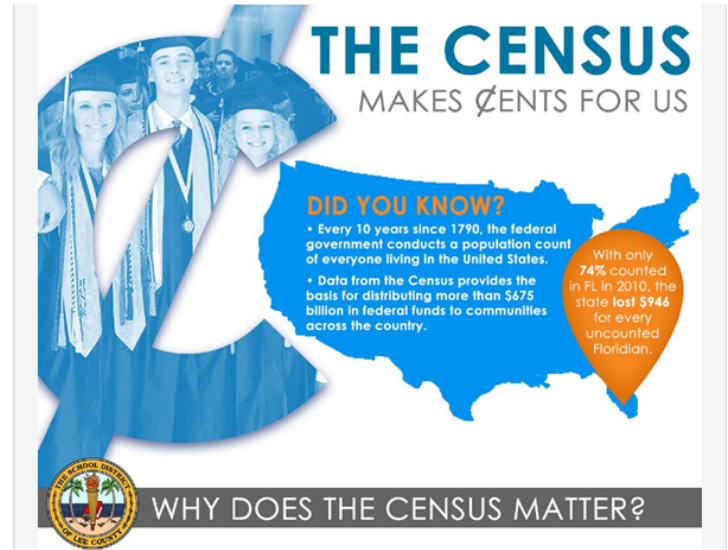


**STEMTASTIC!**  
DAY OF DISCOVERY

**February 8, 2020**

**10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

STEMtastic invites all children and their families to participate in this exciting day of discovery. This event is free to the public. There will be over 125 exhibits to explore and food available for purchase.



**THE CENSUS**  
MAKES CENTS FOR US

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Every 10 years since 1790, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone living in the United States.
- Data from the Census provides the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds to communities across the country.

With only **74%** counted in FL in 2010, the state lost **\$946** for every uncounted Floridian.

**WHY DOES THE CENSUS MATTER?**

## SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHERS

*Congratulations, Mrs. Ruth Albright & Ms. Weicht for being named a Lee County Golden Apple Teacher of Distinction!*

*Thank you for your commitment to excellence!*



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CHILD



(239) 533-7275  
www.leeparks.org

## movies in the park

- Saturday 18** **The Secret Life of Pets 2 - Jan. 18 at 6:30 p.m.**  
Estero Park - 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero
- Friday 31** **The Lego Movie - Jan. 31 at 7 p.m.**  
Wa-Ke Hatchee Park - 16760 Bass Rd., Fort Myers

## health and wellness fairs

- Saturday 25** **Estero Health and Wellness Fair - Jan. 25 at 9 a.m.**  
Estero Park - 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero

## new classes starting

**Basic Archery Class - Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m.**  
**from Jan. 22-March 11**

Veterans Park - 55 Homestead Rd., Lehigh Acres

Lee County Library System

LOVE YOUR REBELLION'S

**PUNK BRUNCH**

MUSIC! FOOD!

SPONSORED BY

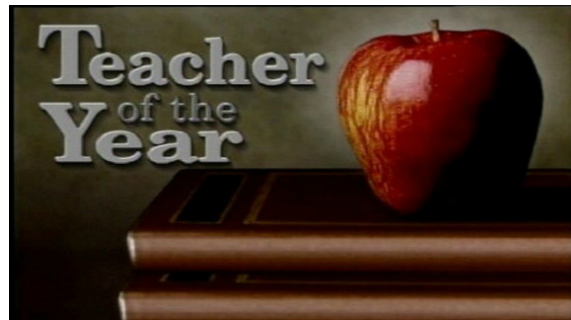
Joel's Record Exchange

**SATURDAY,**  
**FEB. 1ST 2020 • 12PM - 3PM**  
**@FORT MYERS REGIONAL LIBRARY**



# SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHERS

*Congratulations, Mrs. M. Shaw for being named the Lehigh Acres Chamber Teacher of the Year!!!  
Thank you for your commitment to excellence!!*



## ANNOUNCEMENT

UPLIFTING STUDENTS • BUILDING CHARACTER • DEFINING LEADERSHIP

Join Us for Learning for Life's

**10th Annual**

**Got Talent Show**

*Saturday, March 7, 2020*

**South Fort Myers High School**

1<sup>st</sup> Application Deadline  
December 30, 2019  
\$5 per performer  
(discount for large groups)  
(entry fees will increase after deadline)

14020 Plantation Road  
Fort Myers  
2:30-5:30pm  
*Open to the Public*

Find us on  
Facebook  
*Learning for Life*  
(SW Florida)

To download the application and find more information visit:  
[www.learningforlifeswfl.org](http://www.learningforlifeswfl.org)

VIP Seating	General Seating
\$12 Advanced Purchase	\$7 Advanced Purchase
\$15 at the Door	\$10 at the Door
Children 2 and Under - Free (on a lap)	Children 5 and Under - Free

All tickets go on sale February 1, 2020

The school is neither endorsing nor sponsoring this event, product or service nor endorsing the views of the sponsoring organization.

# ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PTO

Dear Varsity Lakes family,

Hi! I am Jennifer Grida, and I am happy to be a part of the Varsity Lakes Middle School PTO organization. Danielle Fricke, and I have partnered up to make VLMS PTO the best it can be this school year. We are in need of other wonderful volunteers like you! Please email [jgrida211@gmail](mailto:jgrida211@gmail.com) if you are willing and able to help out at any events this school year.

The VLMS PTO is in the process of planning school spirit nights, snow cone fundraisers, and many other fun events. It is the PTO's way to spoil the teachers and staff that help to make our child's school a great one!

Please be on the lookout for our next meeting, where we will formally introduce ourselves and all get to know one another.

Thanks,

Jennifer & Danielle

## CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT

Spanish Club meets every Monday @ 4:15 A.M. in Portable 9. Please see Mr. Solo in Portable 9 for details.



# IMPORTANT NEWS

DO NOT MISS OUT ON THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

## CLASSES for ADULTS 2020

AFFORDABLE. ENGAGING. FUN. LIFELONG LEARNING.

 Arts Series	<b>ACRYLIC PAINTING</b>	<b>DRAWING</b>	<b>FAMILY ART</b> THAT IS ART DONE WITH YOUR LOVED ONES CREATE A "MONET" AND OTHER DELIGHTFUL ART TOGETHER!	<b>HAND BUILDING WITH CLAY</b>	<b>WATERCOLOR PAINTING</b>	<b>WATERCOLOR &amp; THE ART OF JAPANESE BRUSH PAINTING</b>
 Health Series	<b>BLS/CPR</b> BASIC LIFE SUPPORT FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS INCLUDES 2-YEAR CPR CERTIFICATE FOR ADULTS & INFANTS	<b>FITNESS EVOLUTION</b> PERSONALIZED EXERCISE & NUTRITION PLANS IN A GROUP SETTING	<b>FITNESS EVOLUTION REFRESHER</b> PERSONALIZED EXERCISE & NUTRITION PLANS IN A GROUP SETTING	<b>GET FIT GET FIRM</b>	<b>MEDITATION</b> MINDFULNESS STRETCHING	<b>Various Locations Throughout Lee County</b>

### Details & Registration:

## WWW.LEESCHOOLS.NET/LLC

 Language Series	<b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE</b>	<b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FOR FAMILIES</b>	<b>CONVERSATIONAL CREOLE</b>	<b>CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH</b>	<b>ITALIAN</b> BEGINNER INTERMEDIATE ADVANCED	<b>ITALIAN CONVERSATION</b>
<b>CONVERSATIONAL MANDARIN CHINESE</b>	<b>SPANISH</b> VARIOUS	<b>CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH</b>	 Special Interest	<b>AVIATION FOR THE BEGINNER &amp; BEYOND</b>	<b>CITIZENSHIP CLASSES</b>	<b>COMMUNITY BAND</b>

## 2019-2020 SAC Meeting Dates

### VLMS Media Center:

August 26th @ 6:00 P.M.  
September 23rd @ 8:30 A.M.  
October 28th @ 6:00 P.M.  
November 18th @ 8:30 A.M.  
January 27th @ 6:00 P.M.

### VLMS Media Center:

February 24th @ 8:30 A.M.  
March 30th @ 6:00 P.M.  
April 27th @ 8:30 A.M.

### VLMS Media Center:

Annual Title I Meeting, August 26, 2019 @ 6:30 P.M.

## 8TH GRADE EVENTS

*May 16, 2020*

*8th Grade Field Trip*

*Busch Gardens, Tampa, FL*

*Please see Mrs. Ruth Albright for details.*



*May 22, 2020*

*8th Grade Dance*

*7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.*

*Pelican Preserve*

*Fort Myers, FL*

*Please see Mrs. Ruth Albright for detail*





# VLMS OPEN HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS





# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Lightning Families:

It is our goal to ensure that every student has a safe, rigorous learning environment free from unnecessary disruptions that detract from instructional time. This past school year, our administrative team noticed an increase in the amount of instructional time lost due to student violations of the Code of Student Conduct as it relates to electronic devices.

This communication is an effort to ensure that our students understand the rules regarding electronic device possession and usage. For the 2019-2020 school year, we will strictly enforce the Student Code of Conduct regarding cell phones and personal electronic devices (see below). Working in partnership with you, we can effectively reduce major disciplinary infractions, as well as disruptions to the learning environment, and improve student safety on campus.

## 30. Electronics/Telecommunication Devices (ETD)

*Students may possess cell phones and other personal electronic devices while on school grounds during regular school hours, however they must be turned off at all times unless utilized for an approved activity.*

Any display or use of cell phones and/or personal electronic devices, including headphones and/or ear pods, without permission while the student is on campus will result in disciplinary consequences. The expectation is that once students arrive on campus at Varsity Lakes Middle, their cell phone, headphones, ear pods, and other electronic devices are turned off and stored. We ask that you please speak with your child about this policy and expectations for the upcoming school year at Varsity Lakes Middle.

We understand that there may be occasions when you need to contact your child during the school day. However, we ask that you please refrain from contacting your child via their cell phone. Rather, we ask that you call the school directly at (239)694-3464. Our front desk receptionist will take a message and immediately deliver the message to your child.

Your cooperation and partnership to create a safer and more secure learning environment free from disruptions and distractions at Varsity Lakes Middle for the 2019-2020 school year is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding this policy, do not hesitate to contact us.

### CELL PHONE/HEADPHONE/EAR PODS/ELECTRONIC DEVICE EXPECTATIONS

Cell phones, headphones, ear pods, and other electronic devices (personal electronic devices) are to be **turned off and stored at all times while on the campus of VLMS**. Cell phones, headphones, ear pods, and other electronic devices (personal electronic devices) may not be used while on campus without permission from a teacher.

**Display or use of personal electronic devices without permission will result in the following consequences:**

1st Offense = Device is confiscated. The student will receive a BOLT card citation in Castle and the parent will be contacted. The student may pick up the device at the end of the school day.

2nd Offense = Device is confiscated. The student will receive a discipline referral in Castle, and an after school detention will be assigned. The student may pick up the device at the end of the school day.

3rd Offense = Device is confiscated. The student will receive a discipline referral, and one day of Internal Suspension

and/or Saturday detention will be assigned. **The parent must pick up the device in the front office at the school.**

Continued Offenses will result in progressive discipline consequences.

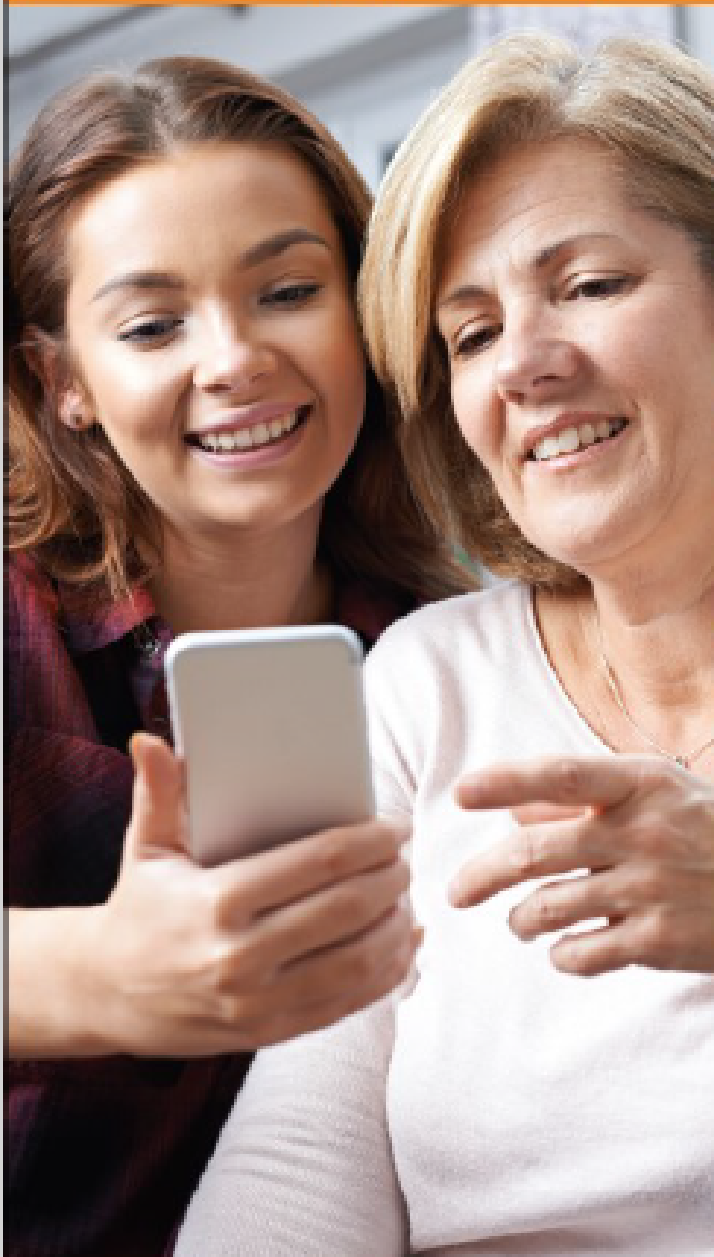
# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

PERSONAL | PASSIONATE | PROGRESSIVE

## STAY CONNECTED THROUGH FOCUS PARENT PORTAL



Lee County's **FOCUS Parent Portal** provides parents/guardians a real-time view of their child's assignment grades, attendance information, current grade averages in all classes, as well as progress monitoring results.



### HOW TO REGISTER

- ▶ <https://lee.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/>
- ▶ If you are creating an account for the first time, click **CREATE ACCOUNT** at the bottom of the page.
- ▶ Enter the information in all the required fields.
- ▶ You can register with the last four digits of your child's Social Security Number on file with the District to get immediate access to your child's information. **If you do not have or do not wish to provide a Social Security Number leave this section blank.**
- ▶ Once all required information has been entered click "Add a Student" button.
- ▶ To add another child, click "I would like to Add Another Child." Enter all the information required and click **Add Student**. (Note that this step can be completed as many times as necessary, or later, if needed).
- ▶ Otherwise, click "I am Finished Adding Students Create My Account."
- ▶ On the next screen, your child's name will display.
- ▶ If you have provided a Social Security Number, a confirmation message will appear with the username. **Please write the username down for future reference.** Along with the confirmation will be a link to the Parent Portal login screen. **Click the link to log in to the Parent Portal.**
- ▶ If you did not provide the last four digits of your child's Social Security Number, your child's school will receive the request to link the parent account to your child's account. **Once the school has verified the information, you will receive an email in 1-2 business days stating that access has been granted with a link to the Parent Portal login screen.**

*44Note in the future you will need to use the username provided, and the password you create to access your portal again.*

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SCHOOL MESSENGER COMMUNICATE:

The School District of Lee County uses School Messenger Communicate to share important messages about your child's education. The system allows us to call, text and email you. To receive messages from your child's school, you need to create a free account. Just go to [www.leeschools.net/parent\\_portal](http://www.leeschools.net/parent_portal) to sign up. In order to receive text messages you must opt in by texting YES, OPTIN or SUBSCRIBE to 67587. The District is not allowed to send you texts unless you opt in.

## NEW DISTRICT APP:

WE HAVE AN APP FOR THAT! The School District of Lee County mobile app provides quick, easy access to valuable information and tools. Search "The School District of Lee County" in the app store and look for an icon with the District Seal on a blue background. Once you've downloaded the app you can subscribe to your child's school, pull events directly from the school calendar into your calendar, check bus schedules, lunch menus and more!

## FORTIFY FLORIDA:

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. By accessing FortifyFL, students and parents can share tips and information, pictures and videos and optionally submit their contact information. Learn more at <https://getfortifyfl.com/>

## WHERE'S THE BUS:

The School District of Lee County has a secure app that can tell you how many minutes away your child's bus is from his or her stop. It is free and easy to sign up, just go to [www.leeschools.net/transportation](http://www.leeschools.net/transportation) and click Where's the Bus? We hope this tool helps make your mornings and afternoons run a bit more smoothly.

## LAUNCHPAD:

Access online learning tools with LAUNCHPAD. LAUNCHPAD provides easy access to applications that will help your child succeed in school, enable you to monitor their progress and enrich their learning experience. View your students' schedules, their grades, educational resources, school information, textbooks and library books, Accelerated Reader information, individual learning paths and more *all in one place* at [launchpad.leeschools.net](http://launchpad.leeschools.net).

## FOCUS:

Access your child's grades, attendance and assignment information through the FOCUS Parent Portal. Sign up for a free account at <https://lee.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/> to stay connected to your student's education!

## BUS STOP SAFETY:

Bus stop safety is everyone's responsibility! Check out <https://www.leeschools.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=676305&pageId=10746691> for safety videos broken down by grade level that you can watch with your child, tips on what they should do to be safe while walking and waiting at the bus stop, plus information on how to start a Walking School Bus in your neighborhood.

## PEACHJAR:

Our school uses a communication tool called "Peachjar" to send school-approved flyers to you electronically. We also post them on the school website (just click the Peachjar icon on our homepage to see them.) To ensure smooth delivery of this communication, we suggest you add [school@peachjar.com](mailto:school@peachjar.com) to your email contacts. When you receive your first digital flyer, be sure to click "always display images." This "green" initiative saves our school paper, reduces copy costs and removes a significant administrative burden from teachers, office staff, and volunteers!



## CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT

Good News Club

Meets: Monday @ 8:30 A.M. in Portable

Please see Mr. Solo in Portable 9 for details.





**THE CHESS CLUB MEETS  
EVERY THURSDAY @ 4:15 P.M.  
IN ROOM #3104.**



Fellowship of Christian Athletes  
Club dates: 2/20, 3/26, and 4/16/20.  
Please meet in the VLMS Gym @  
8:00 A.M. for games, food, and  
fellowship . All students and staff  
are welcome. You do not have to be  
an athlete to participate.



**FELLOWSHIP OF  
CHRISTIAN ATHLETES**

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CLINIC

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We would like to see your child in school every day, learning, healthy, and excited to participate in all of our school activities; however, in the event your child is ill (temperature above 100, vomiting, uncontrollably coughing, has a runny nose, or red draining eyes), please keep him/her home and seek medical advice. In addition, in the event of an emergency, please have your child's emergency card, with all contact numbers where you can be reached, dropped off in the clinic.

Please check with your child's doctor to make sure their immunizations are current as well as any medical information, or need for medication while at school. Please submit the proper documentation and permission forms to our clinic.

6th Graders remember to get the needed immunizations for 7th grade. You must have a TDAP given after August 2006, 3 Hepatitis vaccines, 2 MMR's and 2 Varicella.

The Lee County Health Department offers FREE immunizations (shots) to children under 18. They are located at 3920 Michigan Ave. Fort. Myers, Fl. 33916. It is by appointment only.

Remember, prevention is key to keeping your child healthy.

We are looking forward to a healthy and successful school year for all!

Thank you,

VLMS School Nurse

## PreZtige Meeting Dates

### PreZtige Step Team:

The PreZtige Step Team meets  
every Monday @ 4:15 P.M. in the  
Cafeteria.

