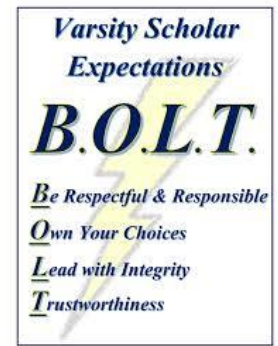


Newsletter

Dr. Mederios - Principal

Mr. Plucker - Assistant Principal

Ms. Booker - Assistant Principal



Term: Summer | Issue 1 | Date: July 2019

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

Dear Lightning Families,

Welcome back for the 2019-2020 school year. It was a busy summer at Varsity Lakes Middle School hosting summer school and preparing the building for the new year. The first day of school for students is scheduled for Monday, August 12th. Bell times for students at Varsity Lakes Middle School is 9:45 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. As the 19-20 school year kicks off, it's important to remember the tardy-to-school procedure. If you will be transporting your child to school in the morning, it is crucial that they arrive on time, or early, every day so as not to miss instructional time. Students arriving after 9:45am will report directly to the front office to sign in and receive a tardy pass to class. It is essential that students arrive to school on time and are prepared for instruction when the tardy bell rings at 9:45 A.M. We want to ensure that students are maximizing instructional time and not falling behind. The tardy policy will be followed according to the school district's Code of Conduct. We take very seriously our responsibility to prepare students for the challenges they will face in the global workforce. Therefore, I assure you that we will focus on producing collaborative problem-solvers that are independent, critical thinkers. Our goal is to ensure that every student maximizes their individual academic potential.

The building opens for students at 9:00 A.M. each school day. Please do not drop off your child prior to 9:00 A.M. because we cannot provide outside supervision. However, we do offer a morning care program for parents needing supervision for their child(ren) prior to 9:00 A.M. Our morning care program begins at 7:00 A.M., and it costs \$5.00 per day. For more information, please contact us.

We are excited to offer an opportunity for our incoming 6th grade students to get acquainted with Varsity lakes Middle School during our 6th grade orientation which is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31st from 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. All incoming 6th grade students are invited to attend, and parents are invited to stay for an informational meeting. Students will have the opportunity to learn about school expectations and procedures as well as purchase school apparel.

Our Back-to-School Open House will be held on Thursday, August 8th from 4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. This is an opportunity to visit classrooms, meet teachers, and learn more about the culture at VLMS. In addition, information regarding transportation and bus schedules will be provided, as well as the opportunity to purchase school and Physical Education apparel and locks for lockers. Student schedules will not be given out at the open house. You may access your child's schedule through the Focus student information system. Please either have a hard copy of your child's schedule with you at the open house, or bring an electronic device with you that will allow you to access the Focus system. If you would like to pick up a hard copy of your child's schedule prior to the open house, you may stop by the VLMS front office August 5th – August 7th from 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Message from the Principal

Please be sure to visit our school website at vlm.leeschools.net for important information regarding school activities, contact information, School Advisory Council (SAC) dates, and much more. A quarterly newsletter will be sent to Lightning families including updates of accomplishments and endeavors. A weekly School Messenger email will also be sent out to keep families informed regarding upcoming events. Please be sure that we have a current email address and phone number on file so that you can stay abreast of all the great things happening at VLMS. If you need to update your contact information, please be sure to stop in our front office to speak with one of our representatives.

The Focus student information and grading system is an excellent portal to utilize to stay informed regarding your child's grades, classwork assignments, and attendance record. Information on using the system will be available at our open house, in all newsletters, and on our website.

Please be sure that you are acquainted with the dress code policy for the 2019-2020 school year as well the cell phone and electronics use expectations for the upcoming school year. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to contact me, or one of our administrators, whenever an issue arises at the school. Your child and their well-being is our foremost concern, and we welcome parent contact to apprise us of all issues. We take any and all issues and/or concerns very seriously and work tirelessly to ensure that stakeholders are comfortable with the education that students at Varsity Lakes Middle School are receiving. More than anything, I want to ensure that we are doing what is in the best interest of our students. That can only occur when we are aware of any issues and/or concerns, so we can address them immediately.

We encourage students to get involved in extracurricular activities and immerse themselves fully in the classroom. The greatest thing you can do for yourself is get a quality education and maximize your potential. With hard work, a positive attitude, and perseverance, anything is possible.

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve as the principal at Varsity Lakes Middle School where we are building success one student at a time.

Matthew Mederios, Ed.D.

Principal

Key Dates

6th Grade Orientation:

July 31, 2019, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

First Day for Teachers: 8/5/19

First Day for Students: 8/12/19

Back-to-School Open House:

8/8/19, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

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.



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. Please turn in the copy of the immunization record to the school before the open house on August 8, 2019.

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,

Nurse Lori and Ms. Corinna

We are planning to hold an Open House for parents and students on Thursday, August 8th from 4:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. Parents and students will have the opportunity to purchase lockers and attire for Physical Education, get information regarding bus routes, and visit classrooms and meet teachers.

SCHEDULE DISTRIBUTION

Student schedules will be available for pickup on August 5, 2019 through August 7, 2019 in the front office between the hours of 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. In addition, student schedules may be accessed online, via Focus.

See you soon!

