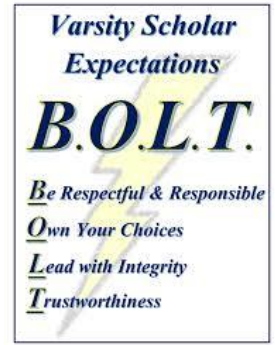


Newsletter

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



Term: Fall | Issue 4 | Date: October 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

Greetings Lightning Family:

I hope this message finds you well. It has been a very positive start to the school year. It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of first quarter. Our clubs and sports teams are in full gear now, and we would love to have your support at all of our events. Congratulations to both our boys and girls basketball teams on advancing to the semi-final round of playoffs. If you have the opportunity, please come out and show your support for our students who work extremely hard at balancing their academic life with their extracurricular life. We truly appreciate all of their hard work and dedication to the school, so let's show them our appreciation. If you have any questions regarding after school activities at VLMS, please contact our Athletic Director, Ms. Rosaneli Ledesma, at (239)694-3464.

We look forward to the continued success of our students, and we appreciate your support at home, in the school, and in our community. Go Lightning!

Matthew Mederios, Ed.D.
Principal

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT

2019-2020 Mathletes
Congratulations!



- ▶ Congratulations to our new math team representatives!
- ▶ Deborah Melendez has been elected as secretary.
- ▶ Christopher Aguilar has been elected as treasurer.
- ▶ Chloe Vong has been elected as vice president.
- ▶ Brycelyn Turner is our new 2019-2020 Mathletes President!
- ▶ Congratulations and thank you to everyone who tried out.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Have YOU downloaded the Focus Community App yet!?

The *Focus Community App* provides parents, students, teachers, and administrators a streamlined way to access the information they want, when and where they want it.

From student grades, assignments, and attendance, to school events, social media streams, and MORE.....the *Focus Community App* helps keep you informed!

The School District of Lee County's *Focus Community App* is available for download on both the [Google Play](#) and [Apple App](#) stores. Download it today!



Mark Your Calendar

Muffins with Mom



Varsity Lakes Middle School

You are invited to our monthly SAC Meeting



When: October 28, 2019

Where: Media Center

Time: 6:00pm



Students whose parents attend will get to wear Jeans the following Friday.

Congratulations to Ms. Rapp & Mr. Davis

Rockstar Faculty Member & Support Staff Member of the Month!



SAVE THE DATE

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A LEADER IN YOUR SCHOOL?

- ▶ LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE CLUB
- ▶ **WHEN: OCTOBER 24, 2019**
- ▶ WHERE: VLMS GYM
- ▶ **TIME: 8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.**
- ▶ WHO: EVERYONE IS WELCOME
- ▶ PLAY GAMES, ENJOY SNACKS, FELLOWSHIP, RESOURCES & TRAINING TO HELP YOU AND OTHERS GROW.



Soles for Souls



ACTS OF KINDNESS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Attention Students, Staff, & VLMS Families: Help us reach our goal of 600 pairs of shoes and donate old shoes you have laying around the house for our Soles 4 Souls donation drive. Please drop off the shoes outside of Ms. Cabrera's room #3107.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Barrero Math Team will meet every Monday, in room 3306 @ 4:15 P.M. between September 16th until the end of November 2019.

Hope to see you there!

Ms. Barrero, Algebra Honors
Varsity Lakes Middle School

Happy Birthday Team Members October



16th- Abby Rodriguez
16th - Mildred Gresh
18th - Cicely Hicks
22nd- Kristin Williams
27th- Sarah Phillips
30th - Katherine Charron

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 3/30 @ 6:00 P.M.
April 27th @ 8:30 A.M.

VLMS Media Center:

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

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.

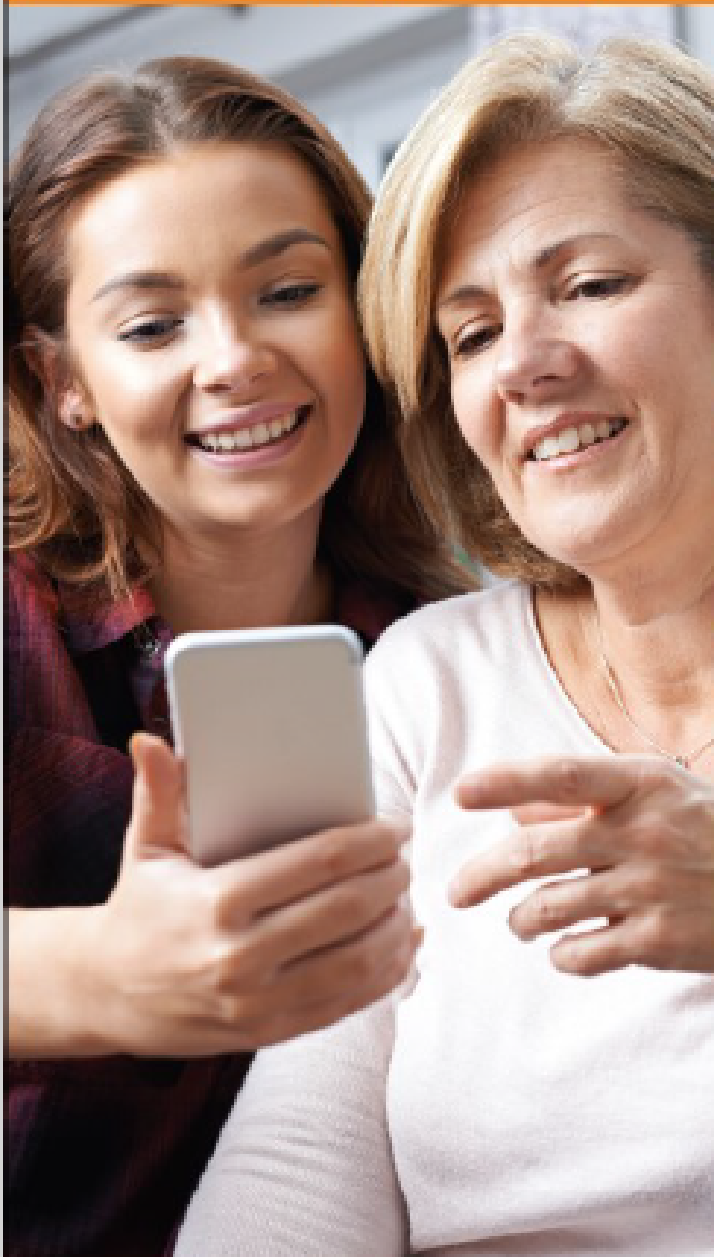
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

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 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 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.

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 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!



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



Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Club dates: 10/24, 11/21, 12/12, 1/23,
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. 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,

VLMS School Nurse

PreZtige Meeting Dates

PreZtige Step Team Practices:

OCTOBER

16th, 18th, 22nd, 24th, 28th, 30th

NOVEMBER

1st, 5th, 7th, 12th, 14th, 18th, 20th, 22nd

