

TRAILBLAZER NEWS

Locust Grove Middle School

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LGMS School Year Off to a Great Start!

WE DID IT! LGMS had a great opening and our year is off to a wonderful start. My many thanks to the parents, students and staff for the planning, support and caring that made it possible for us to begin the year of transition on such a positive note.

Our school plan is written, and this year our school will be focusing on four areas in order to help our students grow academically. Those areas of focus are Math,

Reading, communications, and behavior. We are fully staffed this year and our teachers are using student data to help develop instruction, enrichment and remediation. In Professional Learning Communities our teachers discuss and plan how to better serve your child. In regards to discipline, I am pleased to report that our discipline referrals have been reduced by fifty percent from this time period last year. Keep up the good work everyone!

I expect good things this year from our students and our staff. Please work with your child and teacher to help build a partnership in your child's education. If we work together, I know we can only have great results.

Martha Roby
Principal

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Special points of interest:

- Discipline referrals reduced by fifty percent
- Thanks to parents, students and staff for helping us start the year on a positive note.
- Professional Learning Communities help us better serve our students.

There's Always Time to Read!

Whether it is a foggy morning, a sunny afternoon or a cool, crisp night there is always time to read. Choose a relaxing drama, an edge of your seat adventure, or even a hair-raising scary story. Please set aside time each day for reading something you enjoy reading. If you have questions about choosing books, reading levels, or strategies to improve reading, please come see us.

Marguerite Maddox and Lynne Clements

Reading Specialist and Language Arts Resource

Phone Extension 2984

Locust Grove Athletics

Football—The Locust Grove Football team is in the middle of yet another fun and successful season. This year's Trailblazer football team has a talented mix of both 7th and 8th graders who are working hard to become a tough team to beat. The 8th graders are proving that they can lead this football team to more victories, while the 7th graders are stepping up and contributing more and more every day. Currently, The Trailblazers have won 2 of their first 4

games and they are looking forward for more success throughout the rest of the season. The Trailblazers will have upcoming home games against Floyd T. Binns Middle School (Oct. 8th), Fluvanna Middle School (Oct. 16th), and William and Monroe Middle School (Oct. 18th) in the upcoming weeks. The season finale will be against our cross-country rival, Prospect Heights Middle School on October 25th. That game will be held at Porterfield Park.

Girls Basketball—The girls basketball team is off to a great start! The girls are 7-2. All 13 players are extremely instrumental in the overall success of the team. The girls are learning about teamwork, sportsmanship, fundamental skills and how to have fun. Keep up the good work girls!

Eighth Grade on the Move

Here we are, completing the seventh full week of classes and students are moving forward in language arts, science, social studies and mathematics.

Language Arts: Language arts instruction includes literary analysis, grammar, composition and public speaking. Grammar and sentence writing skill will be emphasized in the coming weeks as students write and present persuasive essays.

Science: Science instruction has focused : on experimental design, matter and it's properties, atomic structure and the Periodic Table. In the coming weeks students will learn about the interaction of elements, chemical bonding, motion

and forces.

Social Studies: The social studies classes have taken on the state mandate to include economics. This is a new unit at the eighth grade level. Students are moving into the history of the 20th century, as well as learning about WW I, the Great Depression and WW II.

Pre Algebra: In the first unit students have learned the language of algebra: a study of the order of operations, verbal expressions and properties. The second unit, will discuss number values, comparing and order of integers, and multiplying and dividing integers within a matrix.

Algebra I: The first unit included the study of integers, matrices and central

measurement tendency. The second unit was the writing of verbal expressions.

Geometry: During the first unit, students have focused on the basic concepts (lines, points, planes, types of angles, etc.) in geometry. In the second unit students focused on parallel and perpendicular lines, and on the types of angles formed by parallel lines and the theorems that apply to them..

Fifth Grade Students Transition to LGMS

The fifth grade teachers are very proud of how smoothly their students have transitioned to the middle school! All the fifth graders are excited about being here at LGMS and have been able to enjoy several perks such as the "a la carte" line in the cafeteria, lunch in the courtyard, wonderful after-school programs at the library, and even trying out for wrestling! The faculty and staff at LGMS have welcomed the fifth grade students and teachers with open

arms and everyone feels very comfortable!

Other interesting things happening with fifth grade include: Fifth grader Mallory Davis recently represented Orange County at the annual Tri-County Track Meet in Madison. She won 2 first place medals in the 800 and the mile in her division. Way to go, Mallory!

Congratulations to former 5th graders Timmy Clements, Tanner Kelson, and Deven Petty who recently participated in the People to People Leadership Program. They were nominated to be Student Ambassadors by their 5th grade teachers last year.

Exploratory Classes at LGMS

Discovery—So far this year, Discovery 7th and 8th grade classes have both been on trips to the top of Old Rag Mountain in Shenandoah National Park and also on weekend camping and canoeing trips down the Rappahannock River. A great time was had by all and there were many learning experiences along the way. Discovery's annual rummage sale and silent auction will take place this Saturday, October 13 at the Fireman's Fairgrounds in Orange (intersection of Rt. 20 and Rt. 15) from 9AM until 3PM. **Physical Education**—The PE department has kept all of their classes working really hard. Every class day includes 25 minutes of fitness and then students are introduced into the skills and sports of the day.

Physical Education (continued) - Some of the sports taught by our PE teachers include: soccer, football, basketball, Frisbee, and kickball. **Keyboarding**—Keyboarding is offered to students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. In 6th grade students learn the proper hand and finger technique in order to type the letters of the alphabet and the numbers on the keypad. 7th grade keyboarding students are typing letters, envelopes, reports, and tables. Eighth grade students type resumes, letters of application, and follow-up letters. **Gifted & Talented** - Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students in Mrs. Foster's Exploratory classes have focused on Creative Problem Solving this grading period enabling them to develop innovative ideas, products, and solutions. Students have used ordinary materials to create the extraordinary. Di-

vergent thinking helped stimulate ideas and Convergent thinking allowed students to evaluate and judge the most useful of strategies or plans. Students have worked independently and in small groups for Team Challenges. In an improvisational type setting, simple prompts were provided as students sought to find funny solutions to hypothetical situations. **Art** - When visiting the school be sure to check out the beautiful landscape paintings in the hall outside the art room. They were done by the 8th grade art students. With the end of the nine weeks approaching all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade art students will be bringing their art work home. Show interest in their art. Ask how they did it.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

The year is off to a great start for the students in the AVID program. AVID is a program that gives our students in the "middle" the opportunity to be on a college preparatory path by teaching organization, study, and critical thinking skills. In addition to learning new strategies for organization, note-taking, and studying our 7th grade students are completing research projects about colleges of their choice, while our 8th grade students are researching career opportunities. Every Thursday the 7th grade students have been participating

in a reading buddies program with Locust Grove Elementary School by reading to first grade students. This has been an enormous success and the students are enjoying it tremendously. In November we look forward to welcoming tutors into the classrooms to further strengthen our student's academic skills.

Sixth Grade News

Sixth Grade is off to a great start. After some schedule changes and lots of patience the sixth grade math classes are moving right along. In Social Studies students are completing the unit on the American Revolution and in Science students are learning about the Solar System. The Language Arts classes are enjoying the book fair and are starting their oral presentations.

Eighth Grade Mountaineers

Team Mountaineers are currently pursuing education above and beyond the curriculum. In mathematics students are learning about the world of fractions. Science students are learning about the delicate balance of life through ecology habitat posters. Language Arts students are doing literary research. Lastly, in Social Studies Enrichment, students are exploring the digital world of mapping through GIS (Geospatial Information Systems).

Seventh Grade Pioneers

The year is off and running for Pioneer students, and Pioneer teachers agree universally: this is a *great* group of students. Many thanks to the parents and sixth grade teachers for raising such a delightful bunch. When we canvassed students at the beginning of the year, they shared personal interests ranging from fashion design to fishing lures. What's more, our students expressed a variety of lofty academic dreams in areas such as outer space and Greek Mythology. We knew then and there that we were in for a treat! Some highlights from the class-

room include: Paper Bag Speeches in Mr. Holmstrom's class, the Living Number Line in Mr. Peterson's class, and the Create-a-Creature Project in Mrs. Heckman's class, in which students designed a creature replete with its own adaptations and biological niche. Special congratulations are in order for Burke Hallam, Jake Bledsoe, and Rebecca Phipps. Each of these students has earned straight A's in *all* of their core classes. Keep up the good work, Pioneers!

LGMS DRESS CODE:

We at Locust Grove Middle Schools strive to maintain an environment that is conducive to learning. In order to achieve such an environment we need your help with making sure your son or daughter wears appropriate attire to school each day. The following guideline should be followed to ensure that your child is properly attired.

- Shorts or skirts must be longer than the fingertips while the student's arms are resting at the his/her side
- Undergarments are not to be visible
- Sleeveless shirts are prohibited
- Clothing that displays the stomach or chest is prohibited
- No clothing that is too tight on any portion of the body may be worn
- No headgear of any kind may be worn in the school building. This includes hats, bandanas, do-rags, head bands, and any other head covering. Exceptions are hair accessories that are needed to keep hair in place or are worn for religious or medical purposes.
- Clothing with explicit or suggestive language or that advertises alcohol and tobacco products are prohibited
- Pajamas and bedroom slippers are prohibited
- Pants must stay on the hips
- Pants that contain laces may be worn only if tightened to the point that skin does not show
- Large coats designed for outdoor-wear are to be kept in lockers and not worn in the school building.

Failure to adhere to the dress code could result in disciplinary actions. If you have questions, please contact a building administrator.

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