Leonardtown Middle School

24015 Point Lookout Road
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650
(301) 475-0230 Fax (301) 475-0237
Dr. Deborah Dennie, Principal
Mr. Donald Hollaway, Assistant Principal
Ms. Kaci Marschall, Assistant Principal
Mr. Robert Mattera, Assistant Principal

August 14, 2026

Dear Leonardtown Middle School Families,

Welcome back to school! This letter serves as your first informational communication for the 2026-2027 school year. The faculty and staff of Leonardtown Middle are recharged, excited, and ready for a successful school year of learning and growth.

Your child's final schedule for the 2026-2027 school year will be available on the Home Access Center (HAC) beginning **Friday, August 21st at approximately 5:00 p.m.** Schedules will also be available for students at Open House on Monday, August 24th. **No schedule changes will be made at this time since we are still addressing schedule conflicts.** Our team has worked diligently to use all available data sources, and county-established criteria to determine appropriate placement for students. Please understand that we **do not** have the flexibility to change student schedules based on preferences for a particular unified arts class, or teacher and, therefore, will generally be unable to accommodate such requests. Additionally, requests for consideration or reconsideration for accelerated classes will not be honored after September 12th. We encourage you to review your child's schedule on August 21st and contact us if you need assistance accessing HAC. In addition to schedules, HAC provides access to grades, attendance, and important information specific to your child.

Sixth-grade students will have an opportunity to walk through their schedules at a **6th Grade ONLY Open House on Monday, August 24th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** Earlier that day, we will host 7th graders from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 8th graders from 10:15-11:15 a.m. During Open House, families will have the opportunity to meet teachers and receive a brief overview of classroom expectations and procedures. Please be mindful of your allotted time as parking is limited and multiple activities will be taking place on campus. Note as well that Open House is not intended for individual parent-teacher conferences. You may certainly contact your child's grade-level counselor to schedule one at a later date.

During Open House, you will have the opportunity to join our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for a modest fee of $8.00. PTA membership is an excellent way to become involved in our school community. We extend a special thank you to our PTA for its ongoing support of our staff and students. Our school nurse will also be available if you need to speak with her or drop off medication. If your family is in need of school supplies, we encourage you to contact your child's counselor so that we can help to ensure a successful start to the school year.

As in previous years, **bus passes will only be issued in cases of emergencies**. Sleepovers, play dates, and rides to football practice are not considered emergencies and **will not** warrant a bus pass. We encourage families to establish a back-up transportation plan now in case alternative arrangements become necessary during the school year. Please remember to update your child's registration information as needed.

Our school supply list is posted on the LMS website. Students are welcome to use totes, or string bags for their supplies and books; however, these items must be able to fit beside or underneath a student desk. For the safety of all students, we encourage students to store backpacks in their lockers. Students will have opportunities to access their lockers throughout the day.

Our student drop-off procedures will remain the same as last year. Parents dropping off students should enter the parking lot from Medley's Neck Road, make an immediate left, and loop around to the curb by the cafeteria entrance where a staff member will supervise students as they walk into the building. **Please note that this parking lot is one-way only**. Parents who wish to park and walk in with their child may do so by entering the main entrance of the school. All visitors must sign in, present identification, and obtain a visitor's badge from the main office personnel.

Students may not walk through the parking lot without a parent and should not be dropped off before 6:55 a.m. as staff are not on duty prior to that time. These procedures are in place to ensure student supervision and safety. No cars are permitted in the bus loop once buses begin arriving. **For afternoon pick-up, families must contact the school by 1:00 p.m.** if a message needs to be relayed to a student regarding dismissal plans. Students who are to be picked up will report to the cafeteria prior to dismissal where staff members will supervise and verify parent identification before signing students out. We will not hold the buses to

retrieve students if these procedures are not followed. Cars are not permitted in the bus loop after 1:30 p.m., and families should not park in front of the main entrance to pick up your child. If you are using the north parking lot for student pick-up, please follow the designated traffic pattern and exit through the same entrance used for drop-off.

The SMCPS Student Handbook and Code of Conduct will once again be available via the SMCPS website. We will review the expectations carefully with the students, and we encourage families to do the same at home. The administrative team will follow all disciplinary policies and procedures as outlined in the handbook. Please also review the **SMCPS Dress Code** which is outlined in the handbook and on our website. Taking time to review these expectations before school begins will help avoid dress code concerns and support a positive start to the school year.

Please also note the St. Mary's County Public Schools **Cell Phone Policy**. Students may carry their cell phones, but phones must be turned off and kept out of sight throughout the instructional day, including during hallway transition, lunch, and recess. A phone specifically for student use is available in the main office. We ask that families review this policy carefully with students prior to the start of school, as violations will result in disciplinary consequences. This policy will be reviewed with all students during the first days of school and will be strictly enforced. Simply put, phones must be off and out of sight from the first bell to the last bell. We also ask that families refrain from texting or calling students during the school day as the consequence for violating the policy still apply regardless of who initiated the contact. Additionally, the school is not responsible for lost or stolen electronics if they choose to bring them to school.

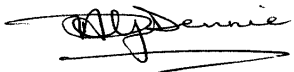
Attendance at school is mandatory. Absences due to family vacations, sporting events or training, oversleeping, or missing the bus are not excused or acceptable reasons for missing school. We ask every student and family to commit to being at school every day. When students are absent, they miss valuable learning opportunities that directly impact grades and achievement. It is essential that a parent or guardian report all absences. The easiest way to do this is through the LMS website by report the absence electronically. Failure to report an absence will result in an unexcused absence. Please note that teachers are not required to provide make-up work for unexcused absences, which can further impact student performance.

We strongly encourage students to either bring lunch to school or purchase one from our cafeteria. We prefer that parents do not routinely bring lunches to students during the school day. Our office is extremely busy and is simply not staffed to accommodate regular lunch deliveries. Additionally, birthday celebrations involving group pizza, balloons, cakes, or other items are not appropriate during the school day. These celebrations should take place outside of school hours. As a reminder, all visitors entering the building must have identification with them.

The administration, faculty and staff of Leonardtown Middle School are looking forward to a wonderful school year with you and your child. Please take time to view and bookmark our website at http://schools.smcps.org/lms/, as it is one of the best sources for school information and updates.

As always, this year is going to be GREAT!!!

Respectfully,



Dr. Deborah A. Dennie
Principal
LMS Jaguars