

## REDLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/redlandms

August 7, 2023

Dear Redland MS Families,

On behalf of the staff of Redland Middle School, I would like to welcome you to the 2023 - 2024 school year at Redland Middle School where we are dedicated to ensuring success for all students through *excellence* in teaching and learning. As we prepare to return to instruction in August, we will focus on ensuring <u>ALL</u> our students receive the needed well-being support to be successful every day, that we are building strong personal relationships with students and families, and that we are providing rigorous first instruction in every class, every day. In addition, we will look to strengthen every student's leadership opportunity and skill through our work as a Core 2 school using the Leader in Me strategies and support.

Our theme again is to **Be EPIC**. We want all our staff, students, and community members to Be **E**ngaged, Be **P**urposeful, Be **I**nclusive and Be **C**aring. Let's #BeEPIC!

The Redland Middle School staff will also continue to ensure that we are teaching every student, every day through the delivery of our school mission and vision. Through our core values (Respect for Ourselves, Respect for Others, and Respect for our School), we will prepare our student Bulldogs to become contributing members of a global society. We will do so through a continued focus on academic growth and achievement, personal development, and social responsibility.

As we enter a new school year, I want to remind all students and families of our Personal Mobile Device Policy. Students are expected to demonstrate Redland Respect regarding the use of their personal mobile devices. This includes cell phones, wireless earbuds (air pods), and smart watches. **Redland MS** is not responsible for any lost or damaged personal mobile devices.

At 8:15am, all devices <u>MUST</u> be silenced and out of sight. We are encouraging all students to place their devices in their lockers for the day. Headphones (wired only) are permitted for use throughout the school day on Chromebooks for instructional purposes. Students should refrain from taking photographs or videos of other students at Redland MS. Additionally, for safety purposes, students should always remove headphones while in the hallways when traveling between classes.

Students are permitted to use their personal mobile devices:

- 1. School bus to and from school,
- 2. Between 7:45 am 8:15 am,
- 3. After the 3:00 pm dismissal bell.

Students <u>are not</u> permitted to use cell phones, wireless earbuds, and smart watches during the school day. A phone for student use is always available in the main office and health room.

On the website, you will find a great deal of information to review prior to the students returning to Redland on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. This information is available in the Back to School Resource tab. Additionally, I have highlighted some important dates and information below:

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade student orientation and any 7th/8th grade student NEW to Redland MS is Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:15 am 12:00 pm. Students will ride their normal bus routes to and from school.
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade ice cream social is Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and families will get to meet staff and see the school.
- School starts on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am. Upon arrival at school, all students will be greeted by our staff and PTA volunteers to ensure students feel welcome and supported. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will report to the front hallway, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will report to the P.E. hallway and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will report to the cafeteria.
- All students will be eligible to receive free breakfast every morning in their first period class starting at 8:05 am. Students who arrive late to school will have the opportunity to eat breakfast in the cafeteria until 8:30 am.
- The school year calendar, noting early release dates and days off, is on our website and MCPS' website for your reference.
- Once again, Redland MS will provide the first agenda book for each student this school year. The agenda books will be used to assist your child in developing routines and strategies that will allow him/her to be successful in school. Students are expected to use their agenda books to track their daily assignments, monitor long-term project progress, and to log all passes any time they leave class. The agenda book will allow parents to review their child's homework assignments and may serve as a communication resource with the teacher. Replacement books, for students who lose their books, will be available for \$5.00 from our financial assistant, Mrs. Fuentes.
- All students currently have or will receive a MCPS Chromebook to use at school and at home. We will also provide a carrying case which should always be used.
- Mark your calendars for Back-to-School Open House, Thursday, August 31st. More information will be available soon.

If you have any questions or you would like to meet with or speak to a member of the administrative team, please contact the main office (240-740-0900) to schedule an appointment, or send us an email. We value communicating with you and thank you in advance for your continued support of Redland Middle School.

In our efforts to go green, no paper copies of the summer information will be mailed.

If you have any questions, please contact our main office at 240-740-0900.

Sincerely,

<sup>(</sup>Matthew T. Niper

Principal