February 27, 2012

Louise Porter, Principal
Christy Close, Counselor
About Luther Jackson

- Opened in 1954 as first FCPS High School for Black students
- Became an intermediate school in 1963
- Today has tremendous diversity with 1150 students
- Receives students from approximately 14 elementary schools
- Sends students to Falls Church HS and Oakton HS primarily
LJMS Commitments

- Learning is our number one priority.
- High learning expectations for ALL students! ---
- Focus on the WHOLE student.
- Character education-respect, responsibility, readiness
- 21st Century Skills-Communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking
- School-wide collaboration.
Elementary to Middle School: A Big Transition

- One teacher to 7 teachers
- One classroom to 7 classrooms
- Desk to locker for storage of items
- Dependent to independent responsibility
- Choice of electives
- Dress out for Physical Education
Elementary to Middle School: A Big Transition

- Homework assigned on a regular basis 70 minutes per night (90 if enrolled in Honors courses)
- Modified Block Schedule
- Electronic progress reports sent every 2-3 weeks
- School starts at 7:50 a.m. and ends at 2:40 p.m.
- All students ride a bus
- After school activity period - 3 days a week
Middle School Structure

- Interdisciplinary Team – core group of teachers sharing the same group of students

- Team consists of English, Social Studies, and Science teacher, a counselor, and approx. 140 students

- Common planning period for teachers - team expectations, student progress, cross-curricular connections, parent conferences, team activities
Teaming Benefits

- Eases transition from elementary to middle school
- Allows for coordination of assignments, tests, projects
- Facilitates discussion and development of strategies to meet the needs of the students
- Counselors assigned by team – first point of contact for questions/concerns
School Counselor

- Primary goal is to promote the academic, personal and social growth of all students
- Counselors help build a foundation for success by assisting students with the development of self-awareness and respect, building positive relationships with others and promoting positive learning experiences
7th Grade Teams

- Seekers
- Superstars
- Survivors
- Phoenix
- Olympians
- LJ United – ESOL Level 1
Classes

- Students are enrolled in seven classes and a PAWS (Positive Activities with Students) class. Most classes will be for the entire year; some classes meet on a semester basis.

- The student’s schedule will determine which lunch shift is assigned.
Course Selection Process

- Students will visit Luther Jackson on **February 28, 29, and March 1** with their elementary schools (9:30–11:30). They will attend an orientation here in the auditorium with Mrs. Porter, other administrators, and counselors.
- They will have the opportunity to tour the building and visit elective classrooms.
- They will be given the course selection booklet and course selection sheets which require your signature.
- Course selection sheets are due back to the elementary school by **March 21, 2012**.
Course Selection Sheets

- Choose electives wisely – staff is hired and sections are built based on student choices

- Changes **will not** be made in the fall except for obvious errors or omissions

- Students should number their choices (1,2,3,4,5,6). Every effort is made to honor first choices.
Course Selection Sheet

- **Required Courses:**
  - _ 111000 English 7
  - _ 311100 Mathematics 7
  - _ 235500 U.S. History
  - _ 411500 Science 7
  - _ 712033/34 Health & PE

Information regarding honors classes will be presented during the academic session.
Year Long Electives

- Full Year Electives (36 weeks):
  - ___ 926010 Beginning Chorus
  - ___ 928510 Intermediate Chorus*
  - ___ 928910 Advanced Chorus*
  - ___ 923210 Beginning Band
  - ___ 923310 Intermediate Band*
  - ___ 923410 Advanced Band*
  - ___ 925010 Percussion Ensemble*
  - ___ 923710 Beginning Orchestra
  - ___ 923810 Intermediate Orchestra*
  - ___ 925011 String Ensemble*
  - ___ 923910 Advanced Orchestra*
  - ___ 982816 AVID*

* By Recommendation Only/Successful Audition or Prerequisite Required
Semester Electives

- 921132 Music Participation Lab
- 926032 Chorus
- 660932 Computer Solutions
- 616032 Digital Input Technologies*
- 110862 Creative Writing
- 826332 Family & Consumer Sciences 7
- 846432 Technology Exploration 7
- 910532 Art Foundations
- 910632 3D Art Exploration*
- 911532 Art Extensions*
- 139067 Theatre Arts Appreciation
- 570032 Introduction to Foreign Language
- 570060 Introduction to French
- 570061 Introduction to Spanish
Foreign Language in 8th grade

- French 1
- Japanese 1
- Spanish 1
- Spanish for Fluent Speakers 1
Extracurricular Program

- A wide variety of clubs, programs and activities are offered after school. Transportation is provided three days a week.

- Offerings reflect student interest

- The library is available for student use on all 3 late bus days
Communication with Parents

- **LJ Website**
  http://www.fcps.edu/LutherJacksonMS/.

- **Newsletters** – e-mailed home monthly, posted on website.

- **Blackboard site for every class**

- **News You Can Use** – weekly KIT message

- **Phone Call-Outs**
Summer Orientation Activities

- Surviving Middle School Summer Institute – In August, week to be determined
- Surviving Middle School Parent Edition
- Tiger Time – August 29. Opportunity to fill out all required forms, buy PE uniform, put money on lunch account and receive locker assignment
- Student Orientation – August 31, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Students are bused to LJ (pick up at nearest elementary school), meet teachers and walk through schedule
Student Schedules

- Student Schedules will be given to students when they arrive at the August 31 orientation.

- If they cannot attend, they will receive their schedule on September 4.
Questions?

- Louise Porter, Principal – 703-204-8100
- Linda Washco, Director of Student Services 703-204-8122