Dear Parents and Guardians of Luther Jackson Middle School Students:

On behalf of the entire Luther Jackson Middle School staff, I would like to welcome all 7th and 8th grade students and parents to a new and exciting school year. We are looking forward to the start of school on Tuesday, September 4, 2012. As of today, we anticipate approximately 1160 students.

Over the summer, there have been several projects occurring to “remodel” the building. These included 14 new roof-top AC units; a new, computerized energy management system for better monitoring and control of room temperatures; a thorough cleaning of all classroom/office AC and heating units; installation of new cafeteria serving lines which allow us to serve lunch more efficiently; removal of carpet from nine classrooms and replacement with floor tile; and most exciting, replacement of lockers – no more 9-inch wide lockers! We will be working with the students to keep our lockers in “like new” shape. We will discourage kicking, kneeing and popping locks this year.

You may have noticed that the school entrance off Gallows Road was closed for much of the summer while VDOT works on the never-ending construction project. It has been reopened and the projected completion date for road work in front of the school is early winter. Once the construction is completed, we will turn our attention to revitalizing the front lawn landscaping. We will be looking for volunteers to assist.

This year we will not have a school-wide fundraiser in September. Instead, we are partnering with the LJMS PTA to ask for a one-time donation to support student supplies and activities, such as student planners, field trips, registration fees for competitions, and the 8th grade dance/celebration. We ask that each family join the PTA and make a small donation. Our goal is $12,000. The music department will continue to hold their fall fundraiser.

Luther Jackson Middle School’s theme — Great Expectations/Infinite Possibilities — expresses the feelings we share about your student. We know that with your support we can together instill high expectations for our students and help them achieve success. Included in this newsletter are announcements and articles of interest for those first days and weeks of school. Need help or have questions? Never hesitate to contact your student’s counselor, teachers, or assistant principal throughout the year. We will do everything we can to help students reach their goals for 2011-12.

Again, I want to welcome all of you to the Luther Jackson community. Go Tigers!

Louise Porter

Principal:
Louise Porter
7th Grade Assistant Principal:
Darwin Barker

Director of Student Services:
Linda Washco
8th Grade Assistant Principal:
Patrick Riley

Student Resource Officer:
Ilsa Blaney
After School Program Coordinator:
Christine Lyons

Main Office: 703-204-8100
Attendance: 703-204-8282
Jackson Web Site: http://www.fcps.edu/LutherJacksonMS/
School Hours: 7:50 am—2:40 pm daily
1. Tiger Time will be held Tuesday, August 28 for 8th Grade or Wednesday, August 29 for 7th Grade from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. This is for your convenience only – it is not a requirement! If you come, both parent and student must attend.

- **PICK UP YOUR CLASS SCHEDULE!**
- Pick up and fill out mandatory forms and get a head-start on the school year.
- Buy your student’s PE uniform.
- Put money on your student’s lunch account.
- Sign up for Parent View, which allows you access to your student’s Blackboard account, check homework assignments and get email updates of important information.
- Sign up for our PTA and meet new PTA Board members.
- **GET LOCKER ASSIGNMENTS** if all required forms are completed.

2. **Bus route information for both the August 31 orientation for new students only and regular school will be mailed no later than August 24.**

3. **Student Schedules will be available at Tiger Time or the August 31 orientation for new students (all 7th graders and new 8th graders). If students do not attend these events, they will receive their schedules on the first day of school. Please understand that we cannot honor requests for special pickup – we will be very busy with final preparations for September 4.**

- Schedules were made and staff hired based on students’ choices during the spring registration process. We will not be able to honor requests for schedule changes except for obvious errors (i.e. a missing class or wrong grade level class).
- Counselors are assigned by teams and are your first point of contact for any question or concerns you might have. The student schedules will identify your student’s counselor.

- The contact information for Student Services follows:
  - Office Number: 703-204-8122  Katie Griffith: 703-204-8145
  - Christy Close: 703-204-8136  Mohammad Zishhan: 703-204-9137
  - Brian Tickle: 703-204-8124

4. **New Student Orientation will be held on Friday, August 31st from 9:00 to 11:00 am.**

- An orientation bus schedule will be mailed by Friday, August 24.
- Please be sure to tell your student to bring their class schedule with them to orientation!
- This orientation is for all rising 7th grade students and 8th grade students who will be new to Luther Jackson. This event is for students only.
- Students will have the opportunity to walk through their schedules and meet their teachers.
- They will not have access to their lockers so they should bring only a pencil or pen with a few sheets of loose leaf paper.

5. **Each student will receive a Student Planner on the first day of school, September 4.**

- This planner is a place for students to write homework assignments and other reminders.
- You will also find the Student Handbook in the front of the planner.
- Please take time to review the handbook with your child. It contains important information about school procedures and policies.

6. **Summer Assignments for both Language Arts and Math can be found on our website at [http://www.fcps.edu/LutherJacksonMS/summer11.html](http://www.fcps.edu/LutherJacksonMS/summer11.html).**
7. *Parent News and Notes* is an important communication link between Luther Jackson Middle School and the families we serve.  
- Each edition of *Parent News and Notes* will contain information designed to keep parents and guardians informed about life at Luther Jackson.  
- Future editions of *Parent News and Notes* will be posted on the Luther Jackson website; we try to have it up by the first of the month. You’ll be notified in the weekly KIT message via email.

8. Parents are automatically enrolled in the “Keep in Touch” messaging system.  
- A weekly message, entitled “News You Can Use”, is sent to all parents and guardians by email every Wednesday during the school year by the “Keep in Touch” (“KIT”) messaging system.  
- Parents may view and update their child's emergency and contact information online through [weCare@School](http://weCare@School), a feature of [FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard)](http://FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard)) using a Parent View Account. Parents may also direct requests to update student contact information to the student information assistant at their child's school. You can change your KIT message choices, too.

9. The first day of school is Tuesday, September 4. It will be a regular, full day of school.  
- Our school hours are 7:50 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. every day.  
- Students should arrive at their bus stops early. Please be patient the first few weeks of school as Transportation Services makes adjustments to bus routes and pick-up times.  
- If parents were unable to stop by Tiger Time, students will receive the required forms for parents to fill out and will need to return those forms to their teacher as soon as possible. Lockers are not assigned to students until all required forms are returned.  
- Lunch lines will be very long the first week. You may wish to have your student pack a lunch from home.  
- Students will **not** have access to their lockers on the first day. They should bring a pen or pencil and paper only.

10. Luther Jackson’s Back-to-School Night will be held on Wednesday, September 19 beginning at 7:00 p.m.  
- This event will allow parents and guardians to meet their child’s teachers and receive a brief overview of the curriculum for the year.

11. As you shop for back-to-school clothes this month, parents and guardians are asked to keep the following FCPS dress code policies in mind.  
- All students are expected to dress appropriately for the K-12 educational environment. Any clothing that interferes with or disrupts the educational environment is unacceptable.  
- Clothing with language or images that are vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene or clothing that promotes illegal or violent conduct is prohibited.  
- Clothing should fit, be neat and clean, and conform to standards of safety, good taste, and decency. Clothing that exposes cleavage, private parts, the midriff, or undergarments, or that is otherwise sexually provocative, is prohibited.  
- Additional information related to appropriate dress for school can be found in the [Student Responsibilities and Rights](http://Student Responsibilities and Rights) booklet available through the FCPS website at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu).

12. **BYOD – Bring Your Own Devices**  
- We will allow students to bring certain electronic devices and use them in class for instructional purposes with the permission of the teacher.
• However, all such devices MUST be registered with the School Technology Specialist, Linda Perry. Instructional information about the process will be included in student packets distributed at Tiger Time or the first day of school.

• For the first week of school, students may bring cell phones ONLY. These are to be turned off and stored out of sight (backpack, purse) during the regular school day.

13. Our PTA is planning many events for this school year, and they need your help to make it a successful year for our students.

• Volunteers are needed throughout the year, and the first event we need help with is in a few weeks! The “first day of school” envelopes for all 1160+ students need stuffing! If you can give us a few hours of your time, we’d appreciate it. Your rising 8th graders can earn community service, too. Please go to our website and use the signup sheet to let us know you can come: http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C49A9AB292-201213

• You can also peruse our PTA website to keep in touch with upcoming events at https://sites.google.com/site/lutherjacksonpta/

14. The National PTA Reflections Program is one of the largest student arts recognition programs in the country. Each year, hundreds of thousands of students participate throughout the country.

• The theme for Reflections 2012-13 is “The Magic of a Moment”. Students are encouraged to submit original works of art in any of the six following categories:
  - Dance Choreography
  - Film Production
  - Literature
  - Musical Composition
  - Photography
  - Visual Arts (drawing, painting, print making, or collage)

• We’ll be letting you know more about the 2012-13 Reflections Contest in September.

15. For rising 9th Graders and Parents at Oakton High School ONLY:

• At the end of May, the Oakton community chose Outliers and The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth via online voting as our school-wide summer reading assignments. After discussion with a number of parents and faculty members about the language and behaviors represented in The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth, Oakton High School administration would like to amend the summer reading assignment. While rising seniors may choose whichever either option they prefer, rising freshmen, sophomores, and juniors should read Outliers. Parents, unless you have already permitted your underclass students to read The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth, please direct them to read Outliers. For more details, please visit the Oakton High School website: http://www.fcps.edu/OaktonHS/.

Upcoming Events to Note on the Calendar:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>Tiger Time for 8th Graders, 3:00 – 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Back-to-School Night, 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Monday, October 8</td>
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<td>Monday, November 5</td>
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