As the end of school year 2005-06 approaches, the Guidance Department wishes to thank our parents who generously gave of their time and talents to assist with myriad events during the year. Some of these included health screening, field trip chaperones, SGA dances, etc. Special thanks to Mrs. Haviland for attending the activities fair at Oakton High School, and to Susan Bingham and Mary Ann Bush for representing the PTA at the Rising 7th Grade Orientation. Your attendance at Back to School Night, school concerts, team activities and dessert socials communicated to your children that school is important and that the home/school partnership is a strong one. We appreciate your efforts on behalf of all students.

Summer School

Every family in Fairfax County was mailed a booklet entitled, Summer School Programs, Encore '06. This booklet contains information about enrichment and remedial summer programs available. Parents whose children are in danger of not passing for the year or who are not meeting Promotion Benchmarks in English and/or math should contact their child’s counselor to discuss summer school registration.

Attendance at summer school is required for students who fail one or two core courses (English, math, science, social studies). Students who fail three or more core courses must repeat the grade. Students who are passing English and/or math with a D or D+, but not meeting Promotion Benchmarks are required to attend summer school in order to be promoted to the next grade.

Summer school dates are Monday, July 10 to Wednesday, August 9 from 8:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Students must enroll in two courses. **Please note:** The counselor, or special education teacher, or ESOL teacher must sign the registration form. You must have a report card as well to register. Otherwise, the registration will be returned to you. Mail in registration ends June 22; walk-in registration ends June 23.

**Summer Reading and Math Assignments**

Please be sure to check out the FCPS website [http://www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) for the suggested reading list posted in the Summer School information. Every student entering grades six through twelve is required to read one book over the summer.

The Guidance Department at Oakton High School has indicated that special reading and or written assignments for certain Honors/GT courses would be posted on their website sometime in June.

For students attending Falls Church High School next year, please check the FCHS website during the summer to determine if there are assignments that need to be completed before the start of school. Happy Summer to all and we will look forward to working with you during School Year 2006-07.

### The Clinic Wants you to Know....

Please be aware that the clinic is holding on to many, many pairs of eye glasses that your student may have misplaced. Please ask your child to stop by and see if they own a pair! All medications that we currently keep at school for your child must be picked up no later than Tuesday, June 20 at 11:00 a.m. That is the last day of school, and all students will be on their way home at 10:30 a.m. Fairfax County School Board Regulation 2102.9 requires that only parents and guardians may retrieve medications in the clinic. All medications will be disposed of after 11:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Prentice in the Clinic at 703-204-8110.

### Lost and Found

Items not picked up by June 30 will be donated to a local charity.

---

**Luther Jackson Middle School**

**The Guidance Department is Always at Your Service!**

The last day of School is Tuesday, June 20

The orientation for rising 7th graders and **new** 8th graders is on Friday, September 1.

You’ll hear from us before then!

Keep current with our news on our website—[http://www.fcps.edu/LutherJacksonMS/](http://www.fcps.edu/LutherJacksonMS/)

Have a wonderful summer!

---

**Last Day of School**

The last day of school for students will be Tuesday, June 20. It is a shortened day that enables students to attend each class and get their grades before **leaving at 10:30**. Students are expected to go home after they get off their buses and then follow arrangements made by parents. Because other schools will not have been released yet, students may not visit other schools this day.
Welcome Rising 7th Graders! We’re Looking Forward to Getting To Know You!

To our rising 7th Graders, new students and parents, we welcome you and look forward to getting to know you next year.

What a wonderful opportunity you have before you to meet new friends and explore different directions! Did you know that 10 different elementary schools “feed” into LJMS? We have over 35 after-school activities for your choosing: Yearbook to PSAT prep, Basketball to Cheerleading, Crafts to African Dance Troupe—it’s all here for you! It is proven that students who are involved in after-school activities do better in school. Ask your counselor for information. GET INVOLVED! We have late buses that run three afternoons a week. Students may stay after to enjoy a fun activity, take a test they may have missed in class, or work with a teacher and get a little extra help.

**You will receive a newsletter in late August** with dates to remember and information you will need. It will also include a list of supplies the student will need on the first day. It’s different in middle school — your child will have 7 different teachers with different needs, so the shopping list for the first day is very short—something to write with, and paper—for that first few days. Each teacher will let your child know what they require, but you can be sure the list is shorter than in elementary school! One thing you may wish to know before shopping for school supplies, however, is that backpacks with wheels do not fit in our lockers.

If at all possible, be sure to have your child attend the new student orientation (rising 7th grade and new students only) to be held on Friday, September 1 at 9:00 am. Special buses will pick up and deliver your child home that day. They will have an opportunity to go to all their classes, meet their teachers, find the rest rooms and cafeteria, and it will lessen the anxiety your middle-schooler will feel about starting a new chapter. No need for Mom or Dad to attend — we take good care of our students and have not lost one yet! As mentioned earlier, all of this information will be sent to your home in late August to ensure you and your student are aware of what they require, but you can be sure the list is shorter than in elementary school! One thing you may wish to know before shopping for school supplies, however, is that backpacks with wheels do not fit in our lockers.

If at all possible, be sure to have your child attend the new student orientation (rising 7th grade and new students only) to be held on Friday, September 1 at 9:00 am. Special buses will pick up and deliver your child home that day. They will have an opportunity to go to all their classes, meet their teachers, find the rest rooms and cafeteria, and it will lessen the anxiety your middle-schooler will feel about starting a new chapter. No need for Mom or Dad to attend — we take good care of our students and have not lost one yet! As mentioned earlier, all of this information will be sent to your home in late August to ensure you and your student are aware of what they need to know.

During the summer, our office hours are 8:00—3:00 p.m. Like all FCPS schools, we have a reduced staff in the summer but don’t hesitate to call our main number, 703-204-8100, if you need something or have a question. If by chance there is no answer, we’re probably on the other line, so please, please leave a voice mail. We will get back to you as soon as we can!

Our Guidance Department works closely with teachers and students. It’s a different system than in elementary school and you will find they are ready to help your child (or you) with issues that may arise. Your child will have an assigned counselor who works closely with the teachers on his/her team and who follows their progress during their two years with us. The Guidance Office is where you start if you have questions about classes or how your child is doing, etc.

FCPS does have a dress code and we at Luther Jackson Middle School work hard to ensure that it is followed. Help your child by making sure they are dressed for success — no tank tops, cleavage, underwear or tummies showing for the girls, and for the boys, no muscle shirts or t-shirts that are so large or long they hide your child. No bandanas of any kind can be worn or brought to school. In the first week of school your child will have a class on the Student’s Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R) that explains all of this in detail. They will sign it (and so will you) to confirm that you are aware of the FCPS rules and regulations on a variety of issues.

Early to bed and early to rise are key to success in middle school. Your child will be starting school an hour earlier than in elementary school and it can be a shock to the system to start the day so early. It can also be a shock to the parents at how hard it is to get the family moving an hour earlier! You may wish to start imposing an earlier bed-time on your child in late August to help you help your child get ready for middle school. Daily attendance is critical to mastering the new material your student will be learning. This is a big transition and we are all here to help!

Can’t wait to see you — Dr. Carol Robinson, Principal

---

**Team Day is Monday, June 19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explorers</td>
<td>8:45-10:15</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investors</td>
<td>9:00-11:00</td>
<td>Chorus Room (202)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolling Thunder</td>
<td>9:00-10:30</td>
<td>Multipurpose Room (508)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Smooth Operators** 8:00-11:30 Gym 1
**Andromeda** 8:00-9:00 Multipurpose Room (508)
**Pathfinders** 11:00—12:25 Multipurpose Room (508)
**Rising Stars** 1:00-2:40 Gym 1
**Trailblazers** 9:30-10:30 Library
**Globetrotters** 8:30-9:30 Band Room (201)

If you are able to join your child, be sure to stop by the desk in the front entrance and sign in for a Visitor’s Pass!
Summer Reading is a Requirement — and a Pleasure!

Your student, along with every other student in Fairfax County, has a summer reading assignment that is required by the School Board. When your children return to school in September, they may very well have to write a report on what they read. You can find out what books are suggested for your child by going on the FCPS website and looking over the list — http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/readlist/78.htm

What can you do to help your child this summer? Studies show that many students lose ground in reading over the summer months. By the time students reach middle school, they may have lost as much as two years of progress over the many summers they are out of school. A few common reasons include less access to books (school library visits end), less time spent reading (and more time spent watching TV, playing video games and on-line) and fewer opportunities to talk about books (no classroom discussions).

What can you do to help your child maintain the skills learned during the school year?

- Visit the public library regularly
- Turn off the TV and read for 30 minutes every night
- Talk about what you are reading at the dinner table or in the car.
- Subscribe to a magazine for your child
- Buy your child a book
- Encourage your child to read more than the minimum one book required by the School Board
- Encourage your child and a friend to read the same book and talk about it.
- Read the same book your child is reading and talk about it.
- Have your child write a letter to Grandma about the book(s) he/she reads.
- Have your child tape a book review and send it to Grandma.
- Listen to books on tape when you travel this summer.
- Have a contest to see who in the family can read the most over a certain period of time (week, month, etc.)
- Create a reading “nook” with comfortable seating and snacks for a reading time for your child.
- Read the newspaper daily with your child.
- Just read, read, read—anything, in any form at any time, in any place!

Summer Institutes Slots are Filling up Fast!

As you and your children know, we have a wonderful summer institute program here at LJMS. Forms have been sent home to all current and rising 7th and 8th grade students with information on what is happening, the dates, and which institutes are to be offered. A small sampling of our nine institutes, which start in July, include Leadership, Soccer, Survival-Middle School and the Kevin Grevey Basketball Institute. If you have not gotten your registration form to us, please do so as soon as possible. You can download it from our LJMS homepage at http://www.fcps.edu/LutherJacksonMS/ or contact Ms. Christine Lyons at Christine.Lyons@fcps.edu. We look forward to seeing your children this summer.

It’s Time to Search the House for Lost Books and Library Materials . . . .

Did you know that the average price of a text book is over $40? And that is the school price, not an inflated price for parents to pay!

Library losses affect all of us! Tell your student to go through their things one more time and see if they can unearth their lost items! All lost books and library materials must be paid for in order to receive your child’s final grades.

And don’t forget about the Lost and Found...tell your child to look for clothing items and lunch boxes in the cafeteria lost and found. Valuables, like keys and glasses, can be found in the office. All items are donated to charity at the end of June!

8th Grade Dance on Friday, June 16

“Rhapsody in Red” is this year’s theme for our departing 8th graders’ year-end dance. It’s a wonderful way for your children to remember LJMS with their friends. Ticket price is $2.00 per person. There will be pictures taken at the dance for a cost of $3.00. Tickets will only be sold during lunches — none are available at the door.

Keep in mind we do have a dress code for the dance.

Girls may wear:—long or short dresses; shoes with low heels, which must be worn all night (no bare feet!)

Girls MAY NOT wear dresses that show cleavage or undergarments.

Boys need to keep in mind:—no sneakers or jeans; no t-shirts; a shirt must have a collar. Ties and jackets are optional (remember, it gets hot in the gym).

Parents, this is not a prom! Don’t let your children rent a limo, buy or rent formal attire, or bring a date or guest. It is an event for ALL 8th grade students who attend LJMS. You MUST arrange to pick them up promptly at 9:00 pm. Your children may not leave LJMS property during or after the dance without their parents. Students must be in good standing academically and citizenship-wise. We hope to see your children there!
STOP UNDERAGE DRINKING

Join us for activities, speakers, prizes, and snacks to educate teens and parents about the hazards of underage drinking.

**Wednesday, June 14, 2006—6:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

At **James Lee Community Center**, 2855 Annandale Rd, Falls Church, VA 22042

Presented in partnership with the Falls Church Community Coalition and the Fairfax County Police Department.