Dear Parents and Guardians of Luther Jackson Middle School Students,

I am excited to begin this school year as the new principal of Luther Jackson Middle School. I am honored to join this dynamic school community, and I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months. I can't wait for the hallways and classrooms to be filled with the energy of a new school year. On behalf of the entire staff, I would like to welcome all 7th and 8th grade students and parents to Luther Jackson. We are looking forward to the start of school on Tuesday, September 2, 2014. I encourage you to visit the school website, where you can also find other helpful information.

This year, we will welcome about 1,300 students to Luther Jackson. The vibrant culture of the school will be clearly evident through the wonderful diversity of the student body and rich school programs. We will continue to focus on implementing a sound instructional program, including an emphasis on literacy and critical thinking. We strive to ensure a positive school climate where students thrive and enjoy learning at Luther Jackson, and we will work hard to make sure all students are successful.

Over the summer, there have been several projects occurring to “remodel” the building. These include updating of the student bathrooms, a thorough cleaning of all classrooms, new flooring in several classrooms, replacement of PE lockers, gym painting and floor refinishing, and the construction of a new science classroom. I want to thank our custodial and facilities staff for working hard to prepare the building for our students, staff, and community.

Similar to last 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. We hope to surpass last year’s goal is $12,000. Outside of the PTA donations, the music department will continue to hold their fall fundraiser.

Again, I look forward to meeting members of the community, so please do not hesitate to say hello when you see me at school events. A strong connection between the school and family is critical to student success, and we are committed to that connection. Included in this newsletter are announcements and articles of interest for those first days and weeks of school. If you have questions, please contact your student’s counselor, teachers, or administrative staff throughout the year. Welcome to the 2014/2015 school year!
1. Tiger Time will be held Tuesday, August 26, 2014 (for students whose last name begins with A-L) from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. or Wednesday, August 27, 2014 (for students whose last name begins with M-Z) from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. This is for your convenience only, and you may attend either evening! This is not a required event, but we welcome you to attend. If you come, both parent and student must attend. Here is what you can do at Tiger Time:
   - PICK UP YOUR CLASS SCHEDULE!
   - Pick up, 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. Most LJMS students are assigned to ride a bus to and from school. Bus route information will be mailed in August.

3. Orientation for new students (all 7th graders and new 8th graders) will be held on August 29th from 9:00-11:00. Students can get their schedules at this event or at Tiger Time. If students do not attend these events, they will receive their schedules on the first day of school.
   - An orientation bus schedule will be mailed soon.
   - Please be sure to tell your student to bring his/her class schedule to orientation if they have already received it.
   - 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.

4. Schedules were created 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 (e.g. a missing class or wrong grade level class).

5. 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 school counselor.

6. The contact information for Student Services is follows:
   - Office Number: 703-204-8122
   - Shannon White: 703-204-8145
   - Tanya Shuford: 703-204-8147
   - Mohammad Zishhan: 703-204-8137
   - Brian Tickle: 703-204-8124
   - Tami Marcheski: 703-204-8136

7. Each student will receive a Student Planner on the first day of school, September 2nd.
   - 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.
8. Summer Assignments for both Language Arts and Math can be found on our website at http://www.fcps.edu/LutherJacksonMS/summer14.html

9. Parents are automatically enrolled in the “Keep in Touch” messaging system.
   - Regular messages will be sent to all parents and guardians by email during the school year by the “Keep in Touch” (“KIT”) messaging system.
   - Parents may view and update their children’s emergency and contact information online through weCare@School, a feature of 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 children’s school. You can change your KIT message choices, too.

10. The first day of school is Tuesday, September 2nd. 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 adjusts 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 may be 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.

11. Luther Jackson's Back-to-School Night will be held on Wednesday, September 10 for 7th Graders and Tuesday, September 16th for 8th Graders beginning at 7:00 p.m.
    - This event will allow parents and guardians to meet their children's teachers and receive a brief overview of the curriculum for the year.

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. Instructional information about the process will be included in student packets distributed at Tiger Time on the first day of school.

13. School supply lists may be found on our website: http://www.fcps.edu/LutherJacksonMS/supply_lists.html

Upcoming Events to Note on the Calendar:

- **Tuesday, August 26**: Tiger Time for students with last name beginning A-L, 3:00 – 7:00 pm
- **Wednesday, August 27**: Tiger Time for students with last name beginning M-Z, 3:00 – 7:00 pm
- **Friday, August 29**: New Student Orientation – 9:00 – 11:00 am
- **Tuesday, September 2**: First Day of the 2014-15 School Year
- **Wednesday, September 10**: 7th Grade Back-to-School Night, 7:00 pm
- **Tuesday, September 16**: 8th Grade Back-to-School Night, 7:00 pm
- **Monday, October 6**: Student Pictures Taken
- **Monday, October 13**: Columbus Day Holiday