Dear Triton Families,

This is the largest group of Tritons we have had since I have been principal. We have over 1000 students, but walking the halls you would never know there are that many of you! Our students are doing an excellent job getting to class this year and coming to school. Did you know that missing just two days of school per month equals 108 hours per year? That is a lot of missed instructional time. We miss your children when they are not in school. We want to help you if you have barriers getting them to school, so please let us know.

I am very proud of our Mentor Time. As I researched and worked on it this summer I couldn’t find other schools in the country that were doing what we are doing. There may be some bumps as we figure it out but research indicates that children who have adult mentors are:

- Girls with a mentor are two and a half times more likely than girls without a mentor to be confident in their ability to be successful at school.

- Boys with a mentor are three times less likely than boys without a mentor to suffer peer pressure related anxiety, such as worrying about what other children think or say about them.

- Mentored boys are two times more likely to believe that school is fun and that doing well academically is important.

- Mentored boys are also two times less likely than non-mentored boys to develop negative conducts like bullying, fighting, lying, cheating, losing their temper or expressing anger.

Our teachers work extra hard to make Mariner Middle School the very best place it can be for our students. I am so very proud of the work that is done every day to teach our students not only academically but to also be good and caring citizens.

We have a lot of fun activities planned this year; Spirit Days, dances, Movie Night, Evening Under the Stars, Paint Party and a lot more fun!! Keep an eye out for more information on our website and look for our Tweets! I am so proud to be the principal of Mariner Middle School because of the wonderful students and staff and I look forward to an outstanding year.

Rachel Gould
7th Grade Civics

One of the important ideas in the Middle Years IB program is that what you learn in one class can and should help you in another. Subjects should not be taught in isolation. Students should understand systems in science may have the same characteristics of complexity and interdependence as they do in civics and understanding relationships in math can clarify chord progressions in band.

This past Spring, 7th graders participated in an interdisciplinary unit between math and civics. While they learned about political parties, elections, and voting rights in civics they also learned about ratios, proportions, compaction, and area in math.

The subjects came together in an exploration of how math is used in politics through the creation of voting districts, equal representation in elections, the impact of the electoral college, and gerrymandering. There were multiple guest speakers from both the city of Fort Myers and Lee County Supervisor of Elections staff. At the conclusion of the unit, students were able to utilize their learning and work directly with ARCGIS software in order to create and justify their own redistricting of the Lee County School Board to address current economic, racial, and/or social imbalances.

Some of our students have been invited to present their proposals to the Southwest Florida Geographic Information Systems Symposium as well as sit on a panel to answer questions about their conclusions and processes.

We are tremendously proud of their accomplishments.

Robotics Team is Seeking Sponsors

The Robotics Team is seeking sponsors to help with our robotics expenses. We have already entered the First Lego League Robotics Challenge and are working on the robot games, the robot design, and the “Into Orbit” project. However, each team can only consist of 10 students and there are over 20 students in the robotics club. We need $300 to purchase a second registration and kit for the 2018-2019 season allowing two teams to represent Mariner Middle at competitions. Sponsors will have their names printed on the team t-shirt as well as on posters, PowerPoint presentations, and social media communications. Please contact Coach Upton at 772-1848 or melissau@leeschools.net if interested in sponsorship.

The yearbook staff is putting together another amazing yearbook. This year’s book will have over 100 pages and a cover the students designed themselves. The students also come up with the theme, design all the pages, and take the pictures. This is truly a student book. The yearbook staff set a goal of every student being in two or more pictures in the yearbook. With over 1000 students, that’s a big goal! The books are on sale now for $20, but the price is going up soon. If you want to preorder a yearbook, you can go to Jostensyearbook.com or students can take $20 to Mrs. Starling in room 805. Only students who preorder a book will get one, and we usually sell out by January or February. Go Tritons!
Service Learning in Mentor Groups

“Simply put, service learning connects school-based curriculum with the inherent caring and concern young people have for their world.” Cathryn Berger Kaye - The Complete Guide to Service Learning

During our mentor classes this year we will be incorporating elements of service learning to help our students transfer their classroom based learning to the rest of their world. Students, with the guidance of their mentor teachers, will identify needs in our communities, plan a way to address those needs, follow through with their plan, and then present and evaluate their service. We are so excited for our Tritons to show off their skills, talents, and knowledge in service to others! We also hope these experiences better prepare them for the 8th grade community project. While these mentor based projects are not the same as the project the practical understandings student will achieve should serve them well. We look forward to updating everyone on their accomplishments throughout the year.

IB Self-Study and Evaluation Visit

As a school we engage in the same inquiry process we expect of our students: inquiry, action, reflection. We ask questions about our program to figure out what we are doing well and what needs improvement. For example, how can we better prepare our students for the 8th grade community project. We take action, in this case by implementing service learning through our 6th and 7th grade mentor classes. Reflecting on this change will likely cause us to make more changes to ensure our students continue to have a challenging educational experience and develop into lifelong learners.

Our most comprehensive reflection is occurring now. As an IB World School, Mariner Middle must undergo an evaluation every five years. Our five year evaluation began this summer with a reflection tool called the self-study. As the year progress we will take a look at how each part of our IB program is implemented and what we can do to make our community in and around the school better. Teachers are also sending their unit plans to the IB where groups of experts will evaluate them. In October of 2019 a team from IB will visit Mariner Middle and evaluate how we uphold the ideals of the program. We are very excited to show off our students, staff, community and campus. Please check our website for updates to this process and let us know if you have any questions.

Safety and Security Update

This school year for the safety and security of our students, staff, parents and spectators Mariner Middle has adopted the following policy for all after school events. This includes sporting events such as basketball, volleyball, cross country, soccer etc. as well as evening under the stars, band and drama performances and other after school productions.

Prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

- Backpacks
- Purses larger than a small clutch bag
- Cinch bags
- Coolers
- Camera bags

All items are subject to search prior to entering the campus.

Students that plan to attend events as spectators must go home prior to the event and cannot reenter the campus with their backpacks. Students should not be walking over to the public library to hang out between dismissal and the game/event here on campus. Thank you all for your understanding and compliance with this policy as the safety of all Tritons is our priority.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Eighth Grade students will be able to participate in two large-scale reward activities during this school year. The Busch Gardens trip will take place on Saturday, January 26, 2019; the Eighth Grade Dance will be held at school on the night of Thursday, May 30, 2019. For both of these events, students will earn their eligibility by maintaining specific grades, attendance, and demonstrating specific behaviors. Students received an information sheet on 9/5/18 that you should have seen since requirements for eligibility have already started. If they have misplaced that sheet, they can find it on their Google Classroom for 8th Grade News. Don’t forget we have eighth grade t-shirts for sale! They cost $10 and can be worn instead of a collared shirt. They are almost gone, so make sure to get yours ASAP! Any questions can be directed to any of the 8th Grade team leaders:

Mrs. McCreary and Mr. Gross
History Fair is a competitive club which meets during enrichments (maybe after school just before the competition). This club is open to students in all three grade levels. Students will choose a topic of interest that fits the theme provided by the “National History Day” organization (their website is listed below). This year’s theme is “Triumph and Tragedy in History.”

During our first session, we will spend time exploring the concept of this theme, selecting a topic, then beginning some research about our topics. We do not meet every cycle, so students can still enjoy other enrichments. The school competition will be in January, the County competition is in February, and maybe someone will represent our school at the State competition in Tallahassee in May. Please let Mrs. Pollaro know if you are interested in participating or would like more information. CindyAP@leeschools.net

This is the website for the national organization
http://nhd.org/contest-affiliates/annual-theme/

MMS Athletics is in full swing!! We have just start-ed basketball and cross country season. Visit our website for team schedules. Come to the games and support our student athletes!

Boys BB
Josh Lee
Justin Lewis
Maximus Gale
Compton Clelland
William Burke
Gio Agostini
Ronin Solis
Joziyah Coleman
Kelvin Jimenez
Chris Rosado
Hubert Ferro
McNathan Sainvil
Jaiden Jones

Girls BB
Thatiyan Holiday
Isabella Reiswig
Bailey Rogers
Lorelái Schipper
Mariah Merentis
Jada Kohlmeier
Emely Nunez
Abigail Fike
Nevaeh Zammit
Mikia James
D’yanis Jimenez
Bianca Morey
Julia Kazwell
Amani Byrd
Mattison Caron

Girls XC
Jacqueline Anguiano
Ellie Durant
Aimee Lacen
Leiranis Reyes-Garcia
Lillian Seneca
Anna Sherman
Sophia Valentine
Makaya Winters
Annabella Lancour
Violet Walsh
Makenzee Baker
Dominick Campos
Valentina Cardinale
Angelina Cardinale
Elexis Peterson
Analise Valentín
Briana Gardner
Demetria Henderson
Lilian Kobitus
Chloe Lainko
Bailey Spotz
Jaeona Bovee

Boys XC
Kenneth Archer
Ethan Cardona
Dodge Cummings
Luke Cummings
Santiago Gonzalez
Wyatt Long
Dakota Mendres
Joshua Munoz
David Ramirez
Nicholas Shayer
Andrew Shayer
Antonio Snyder
Ashton Terbush
Gavin Walkowiak
Conner Weeks
Bryan McBean
Jackson Rosado
Rheimound Santos
Hiram Verdecia
Blair Wiskur
Henry Word
Hector Zamot
Marcel Tovar
Aaron Dunseath
Omri Matir
Orelvis Miguel
Alex Parker
Drake Smith
Zach Clayton
Nay Tun
Ryan Pinero

Junior Youth in Government
Last year’s group had a fantastic time at the statewide model congress in Haines City. All of our student senators and representatives’ bills made it through first committee and one through second committee. All of our Tritons did exceptional work over the four days and our returning members are excited to go again this year. Their bills ranged from student free speech statutes to plastic bag bans and changing high school start times. Students brought home multiple awards including a statesman award by first time attendee Alexander Velazquez.

Do have an idea regarding something you would like changed in the state of Florida? If interested in joining, please stop by room 211 and speak to Mr. Kroll.
MMS Robotics Team Prepares for “Into Orbit” Challenge

Five members of Team Tritons, the MMS robotics team, attended a training on Saturday, August 25 to learn engineering design and begin work on their game plan for the “Into Orbit” robotics competition. Our team members attended a Hands-On Engineering Design Workshop with Andrew Milluzzi, Dr. Andy! Dr. Andy received his PhD from the University of Florida and is a FIRST Lego League Senior Mentor. He was an excellent facilitator and our students received hands-on learning about gears, attachments, and the drop on chassis design.

Every year, FIRST LEGO League releases a Challenge, which is based on a real-world scientific topic. Each Challenge has three parts: the Robot Game, the Project, and the Core Values. Teams of up to ten children, with at least two adult coaches, participate in the Challenge by programming an autonomous robot to score points on a themed playing field (Robot Game), developing a solution to a problem they have identified (Project), all guided by the FIRST Core Values. Teams may then attend an official tournament, hosted by our FIRST LEGO League Partners.

The theme of the 2018/2019 season is “Into Orbit.” Team Tritons will explore, challenge, and innovate in the vast expanse of space. The team meets at least once a week to build their challenge table and work on their robot and attachment designs. They are strategizing about the challenge by working on programs for the Robot Game, tackling the Project, and preparing their Core Values presentation. They will be competing at official tournaments hosted by our partners and held at Cypress Lake Middle School in December 2018 and January 2019. So far, they have blasted off to an excellent start.

TRITON PRIDE