

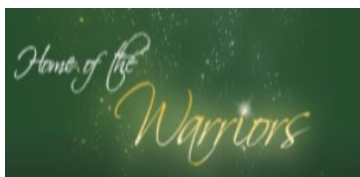
# Mardela Middle & High School

Principal: Liza Hastings  
Assistant Principals:  
Shawn Gardner  
Mike Campbell

Dean of Students: Sharon  
Cooper



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# Mardela Matters

August/September 2018  
Parent Newsletter

## Letter from the Principal

Dear Warrior Families:

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!

A lot has taken place to the physical look of our building this past year. Our cafeteria has received a fresh coat of paint; McCool's House of Hoops' floors have been refinished and repainted; our Family and Consumer Science classroom has received a complete renovation; our outside eating area has been expanded with patio pavers that were laid by our own PTA; and our track project continues to move forward—we have fencing around it! A feasibility study has been completed and submitted to the state. We anxiously await hearing from the state, as they will direct us as to which of the feasibility study options we should pursue in relation to the renovation of our existing building.

This year will bring a host of new and exciting opportunities and faces. We welcome Jessica Patton as our new 7th grade math teacher and Erin Johnson as our new 6th grade special education teacher. Both of these women join us with years of teaching experience and excited to become a Mardela Warrior! Gryffin Dorr, our comfort dog, will also join us throughout the year. Gryffin has been certified to come into schools and serve as an avenue to lift our spirits and complete our Mardela family.

Our teachers' instructional focus this year will be on intellectual engagement. In other words, teachers will be challenged to push our children to think critically, take academic risk, and apply their learning to the "real world." By making learning relevant to their lives and by teaching our children how to think rather than simply memorize and forget, we are teaching them how to be lifelong learners—a trait that is imperative to success.

**School begins for our SIXTH graders on September 4.** This day is designed just for our sixth graders so that they have an opportunity to meet their teachers, their new classmates, and learn to navigate the building before **everyone else joins us on September 5.** Our school day begins at **7:45 am.** Students may enter the building to eat

breakfast at 7:25 and those not eating may join at 7:35. Our school day ends each at **2:45 pm**. If your child is a car rider, please make plans to pick them up immediately after school, as there will not be supervision available after 3:00 pm. We appreciate you working with us to ensure that our children are safe.

I invite you to join us on **August 30 from 5:00-7:00 pm** for our Back to School Night. On this evening, students will be able to pick up their schedules once they turn in the completed forms that are attached in this correspondence. **Students and parents should report to the classroom listed on the address label that is affixed to the outside of this mailing to turn in forms and pick up their schedules.** After getting their schedules, students and parents may visit the various classrooms to meet their children's teachers and learn where each classroom is located. During this event, parents will also have the opportunity to join the PTA, purchase spirit wear, and order yearbooks for the 2018-2019 school year. Students and those adults who join our PTA will receive a free frozen treat. You may purchase food from "Stuffed Pup" and the moneys raised will benefit the Class of 2023. Finally, don't forget to bring your camera or phone, as you will have a fun photo opportunity as well!

Please visit our website, <http://mmhs.wcboe.org/>, to view our newsletters for the 2018-2019 school year. (It is found under the "News" tab). I also encourage you to familiarize yourself with our student handbook that can be found on our website as well (under "For Students"). Finally, I encourage you to follow our facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/wcboemmhs/>, and our Twitter page, @wcboemmhs, to see pictures and read stories that highlight our wonderful school family.

Thank you again for a great 2017-2018 school year and I look forward to an even better 2018-2019 year!

Serving you,

Liza Hastings, Principal and Class of 1992  
MMHS Alumnus

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

### Staff Changes

HELLO to our new staff at Mardela Middle & High School.

- \* Mrs. Jessica Patton, 7th Grade Math
- \* Ms. Erin Johnson, 6th Grade SPED
- \* Mr. Gryffin Dorr, All Grades Comfort Dog

### School Hours

Mardela students attend school from 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Students may enter the building at 7:35 a.m. Students who are not in their homeroom classroom and seated by 7:45 a.m. are considered late to school and will receive a tardy.

### Parking Permit

Per county policy, parking permits are \$10.00 per year. You must purchase a parking permit if you are going to drive your own car to school. This permit will work for all county schools. Previous years parking permits are not permitted, a new parking permit must be purchased each year.

### Participation Fee Information for 2018-2019

Participation fees for high school athletics and extracurricular activities will be tiered so that students qualifying for Free and Reduced Meals pay less than students who do not qualify. For varsity and junior varsity athletics, the fee is \$10 for Free, \$20 for Reduced, and \$40 for Paid. For extracurricular activities including high school cheerleading, marching band and band front, the fee will be \$5 for Free, \$10 for Reduced and \$20 for Paid.

### Checks to Our School

*The Bank of Hebron* requires that our school name be written out in full. Therefore, the payee must be written as *Mardela Middle & High School*. Also, please write your student's name in the memo section of the check. This is particularly helpful if your child has a different last name.

### School Newsletters

Newsletters for the remainder of the year will be posted on the school's website. You will receive a School Messenger message notifying you that it is available. If you do not have access to the Internet, copies will be available in the main office.

### Change of Address

If your address changes from the previous year or during the school year, you must provide a copy of a lease, deed, mortgage statement and copy of a current utility bill. **Until proof of residency is submitted, we cannot change the address in the student database.** If you have any questions, please call the Guidance Office.

### Student Insurance

Information about student health and accident insurance will be sent home the first week of school. Information can also be found at [www.studentinsurancekk.com](http://www.studentinsurancekk.com). Parents can enroll and pay directly online. The school will not be collecting any applications or payments.

### Student Personal Data & Emergency Record Form

It is mandatory for **all** students to have on file in the office a Student Personal Data & Emergency Record form. Please complete the form and bring with you on our Back to

School Night in order to receive your child's schedule. Make sure that you list anyone under "contacts" if you would like them to be able to pick your child up from school. If the person you have picking up your child is not on your contact list, they will not be allowed to see or take them out of school. If any of your information changes throughout the school year, please inform the office and a new student personal data form will need to be filled out.

### Publicity for Student Activities

Each school year provides many opportunities to publicize and celebrate the activities of students. Publicity may take many different forms, including photographs to hang in school, postings on school webpages, news releases, etc. We are proud of students' accomplishments and know that parents and guardians are too. Publicity can be an important part of students' positive school experience. Parents/guardians who would like their student to be included in publicity opportunities **DO NOT NEED TO TAKE ANY ACTION.**

**Any parent/guardian who does not wish to have their student appear in publicity must notify the school in writing by September 20, 2017, or within 14 days of the date of the student's enrollment in a Wicomico school during the school year.** The school will maintain a record of students who have been opted out of publicity.



## Lockers

Every student will be assigned a school lock to place on his/her locker. To avoid problems with securing possessions, students should use the locks correctly and should not share lockers. Locks are not provided for physical education classes. We encourage parents to purchase a lock for your student to secure their possessions during their physical education class.

Every student will be responsible for the contents of his/her assigned locker. **WE ASK YOU TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO LOCK THEIR LOCKERS!**

## Free or Reduced-Priced Meals (FARMS) Applications

Applications for Free or Reduced-Price Meals are available online by visiting [www.wcboe.org](http://www.wcboe.org) and clicking on the Menus & Meals tab, then on the Free or Reduced Price Meals Application tab. Forms will also be given to students the first week of school. Eligibility from last year will expire automatically on October 15, 2018; therefore, new applications should be submitted as soon as possible. If an application for this school year is not received and processed before October 15, students will be charged the full price for meals. Paper applications could take a week for processing; the quickest method is to submit your application online.

Meal prices for secondary students:  
Breakfast—\$1.40 (full price); \$0.30 (reduced price)

Lunch—\$2.90 (full price); \$.040 (reduced)

No change in a la carte prices.

## Parking & Dropping Off/Picking Up Students

Mardela Middle & High School has a traffic pattern for dropping off/picking up students to help alleviate congestion in the mornings and afternoons.

- ◇ Parents will turn into the first parking row off Delmar Road (student parking) on the left as they enter school property to drop off/pick up students in the morning and afternoon.
- ◇ We ask that parents pull forward as much as possible (closest to the cafeteria end) when dropping off their child in order to permit others to pull out of the main road.
- ◇ Staff only will enter and park in the 1st parking row. **Please do not drop off students in the staff parking row, unless directed to do so by a staff member.**
- ◇ **The lane in front of the school is for buses only.**

## Early Dismissals

Parents must come into the office to sign out their child. Students are not allowed to sign themselves out for early dismissal. Students are NOT to wait in the lobby or outside for a parent/guardian to pick them up. If a person other than the child's parent/guardian or name listed on the emergency contact list is to pick up your child, please send a note in with your child or e-mail or fax it to the office ASAP. **A phone call WILL NOT be accepted.** We are unable to call a student to the office to wait for a parent to pick him or her up. Please plan on an additional 10-15 minutes of time into your schedule when having to

pick your child up for an appointment. This allows the office to contact your child's class to request dismissal and allows your child to pack up his/her belongings and possibly go to his/her locker.

Also, please be prepared to present a picture ID when picking up your child or notify the person who will be picking up your child to bring a picture ID. Even though we are a small school, it is impossible to remember everyone all the time. Remember, this is for your child's PROTECTION.

## Attendance & Absences

If a student is absent, regardless of the length of time, he/she must account for his/her absence by bringing in a note explaining the reason for the absence. The note must be turned in **within 5 days of the student's return to school.** The written explanation does not constitute the basis for a lawful absence but can be used in the determination process. After three consecutive days of absence, the Home School Liaison will contact the parent/guardian. Upon the fourth day of an unlawful absence, the principal shall notify the parent/guardian by mail. Upon the sixth day of unlawful absence, the principal will notify the parent by mail and upon the student's return to school a conference will be held with the student. A written account of the conference will be sent to the parent/guardian, with a copy sent to the pupil personnel worker. Students who are continually absent, tardy, or dismissed early from school shall be referred for appropriate interventions.

When a student is absent from school, that student is not permitted to participate in any school related

activities that evening. If the student is absent on a Friday, he/she may not participate in any school-related activity scheduled for that weekend. This would include athletics, music, drama club, or student government events, class projects, etc. Any exception to this rule must be approved by the principal beforehand. In order for a family vacation or other non-emergency absence to be given consideration as a lawful/excused absence, a request must be submitted to the principal two weeks in advance using the "Advance Request for Absence" form. This form is available in the school office.

### Notes to the Office

Notes must be turned in first thing in the morning to the office. These include requests for early dismissal, notification of a person other than parent/guardian on the emergency form to pick up your child, etc..

Please make sure the notes have the following information:

- ◆ Current date
- ◆ Student's name (first AND last),
- ◆ Grade
- ◆ Parent/Guardian's first AND last name.
- ◆ Parent/Guardian's daytime phone number

### School Messenger

As many of our parents know, School Messenger is one of the communication tools the board of Education utilizes to contact parents. Calls may come from school or the central office. School Messenger is vital in notifying parents of delays and closings due to weather, upcoming events sponsored by the school

or Board, and student absences. In order for School Messenger to work to its full potential, it is important to notify the school of any changes in your home telephone number or email address.

If School Messenger calls to say your child was absent from school, yet you know your child was present, please contact the school immediately. By contacting us the next day, the office can verify your child's attendance and correct the error. If you wait until report card time we can make a correction locally but the state information will have already been sent, which cannot be changed.

### Homework Requests

Please contact the school if you would like to request make-up work from your child's teachers. Teachers have 48 hours to gather work. Any work provided is due upon the student's return to school

### Dismissal

Students are dismissed each day at 2:45 pm All students must leave school grounds promptly, except those students under DIRECT supervision of an adult staff member. Bus transportation information will be available on back to school night and on the school's webpage.

### School Health Issues

Welcome back to a new school year! This is a reminder that if your student needs to take any medication during school hours, the nurse needs the following:

- \* A doctor's order for the school year 2018-2019
- \* Parent's signature for consent

The parent or guardian **MUST** bring the medication with the proper forms to the nurse's office.

The same rules apply to over-the-counter medication such as Advil, cough medicine, Tylenol, Midol, etc. Students are only permitted to self-carry inhalers and epi-pens with written authorization of the doctor and nurse on the order form for the current school year.

Children entering 7th, 8th 9th, and 10th grades are required to have one (1) dose of TDAP (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis/whooping cough) and one (1) dose of Meningococcal vaccine. **Please check with your child's doctor and provide the needed physician documentation to the school nurse within the first 20 days of school. Failure to provide proper documentation will result in exclusion from school.**

### PTA Membership

The 2018-2019 MMHS PTA Membership form is available in this newsletter, in the front office and at back to school night. Your PTA membership is one important way to support our school.



## GUIDANCE INFORMATION

ATEX will **not** travel to Parkside High School on September 5. Instead, students will report to the cafeteria at 7:45 am for an information session. Cosmetology and Health Occupation students who travel to Parkside High School and JROTC students who travel to Wicomico High School for a first period class WILL travel by shuttle on September 5 at 7:20. Beginning September 6, all students who will be attending Parkside High and Wicomico High for first period will catch the shuttle bus at 7:20 am. Students who attend CTE periods 2-4 will report to the front of the building at 8:30 am and will ride Bus 131 to and from Parkside High School. Afternoon CTE students will report to the front of the building at 11:45 am and will ride Bus 19 to and from Parkside High School. Students should pay attention to the announcements in case the departure times or bus numbers change. (Shuttle bus number and information is available in this newsletter).

### Study Hall

Students with study hall for first or seventh period who wish to have late arrival or early release can request a permission form on the first day of school from the study hall teacher. The student should turn the completed form in to their grade-level administrator and must meet with that administrator approval for late arrival or early release.

### College Applications & Scholarships

Encourage your senior to start working on applications now, request teacher recommendations, request transcripts and continually check for new scholarships through Naviance. Students can access this from home and at school. There are some scholarships available to a variety of students, not just seniors. Mrs. Shiles will meet with seniors about college and scholarship application process soon into the school year. Each senior will receive a packet with resources to help through this journey, along with a timeline. The FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid, will come live in October. Juniors, this is the year to research and visit the institutions you are interested in attending.

Juniors and seniors are encouraged to sign up for college visits through Naviance. We tend to have a lot during September and October.

### NAVIANCE: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PROGRAM:

Access from home and at school:

- ◆ Click on Students and Families Sign in (top right side on screen)
- ◆ Enter School Zip—21837
- ◆ Select School Name—Mardela Middle & High School
- ◆ Student Log In—Username and password are identical to your school desktop log-in (not your Family Portal X2 log in)
- **Using Family Connection through Naviance**

Home—Test Prep is the College Board's online SAT Test Prep Program

After selecting your test date, Test Prep will give you weekly lessons, quizzes and tests to help prepare you for the test you are taking.

Links to:

Registering for the NCAA Clearinghouse

Signing up to take the SAT or ACT

Filling out your FAFSA

**X2VOL—this is how community service learning hours will be submitted—Paper copies will not longer be accepted county-wide**

- **My Colleges: List of Colleges I am Thinking About or Colleges I am Apply To:**

Gives you a schedule of your planned college visits

Can match you with a college that would fit you best

Lists scholarships that are available to you

- **Careers: Explore various careers and take questionnaires that match your personality to certain careers**

Do What You Are (Myers-Briggs personality type): provides important information about your personal characteristics that can help you pick a career that fits you

Career Cluster Finder: matches you to careers based on interest and personality type

Career Interest Profiler: 180 questions based on Holland's code; discover activities and careers to match your personality

Road Trip Nation (video library): watch videos of people who have picked a career based on their interests.

- **About Me**

Build a resume', make career plans, set goals and complete tasks

- **Planner**

Assign tasks and goals, create-to-do lists or access tasks and goals assigned by your counselor.

### University of MD System Requirements

Below are the mathematics requirements for students choosing to attend a University of Maryland System college or university starting the Fall of 2015 and beyond.

- ◇ Students must receive credit for at least four high school math courses.
- ◇ Students must complete Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2
- ◇ If a student completes Algebra 2 prior to their senior year, they must enroll in a "non-trivial" math course during their senior year. "non-trivial" math courses include all courses where algebra 2 is a pre-requisite. These include: Pre-Calculus, Calculus 1, Calculus 2, Honors Statistics, AP Statistics, or dual enrollment in a mathematics course at a local community college or university. This means that no matter what level math a student has gotten through by his/her junior year, a math MUST be taken during senior year to meet the application requirements for a University of Maryland college or university.

The SAT & ACT schedules are available online at [mmhs.wcboe.org](http://mmhs.wcboe.org)

Register for the SAT's at: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

Register for the ACT's at:

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)



## SPORTS/CLUBS

There is an admission charge to sporting events. The admission price for games at MMHS is \$5.00, for WCBOE students who show a current student ID the cost is \$2.00. Children 6 and under are free. The admission price for games at Wicomico County Stadium is \$5.00, children 6 and under are free with an adult. The admission charge may be different at other schools and for playoff, championship, and tournament games.

A schedule of upcoming sports can be found by selecting the "Sports" link on the Mardela Middle & High School webpage. If you would like to see this year's schedules for all of Mardela sports teams you can sign up through the Digital Sports website, [www.digitalsports.com](http://www.digitalsports.com). This is an Internet program that allows schools in a conference and parents to access schedules.

Here is how you sign up:

- ⇒ Open your internet browser and type [www.viewmyschedule.com](http://www.viewmyschedule.com)
- ⇒ The first time you visit you will be asked to register and create an account
- ⇒ Once you have registered, you will be able to:
- ⇒ View schedules—browse through the entire year is in there. You can print schedules out on your printer.
- ⇒ Sign me up emails—get changes in the schedule as they happen
- ⇒ Type in name and email and submit
- ⇒ You will never receive SPAM as a result of signing up: MMHS sports emails only! We

hope you will find this program as help as we do—STAY INFORMED, SIGN UP TODAY!

### GPA Requirements

A 2.0 GPA is required to participate in extracurricular activities. This means that in order to play sports; go to school dances; march for halftime; participate in FBLA, Lego League, or any other after-school club or activity, you must have a GPA of 2.0 or above.

### FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)

Students in Grades 6-12 can join the FBLA. Criteria for membership include: being academically eligible, enrolled in at least one class taught in the Business Department throughout the school year, able to attend meetings after school, and willing to do volunteer work out in the community. Some of the activities the FBLA participated in last year included: operating the concession stand to raise funds for the Athletic Booster Club, ringing the bell at the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, and cleaning the roads during the MD Adopt-A-Highway program.

If you are interested in joining, contact Coach Johnson at [djohnson@wcboe.org](mailto:djohnson@wcboe.org).

### Mardela Wrestling

Several wrestlers are taking advantage of the preseason training opportunities, including weightlifting and going to Team Delmarva.

Weight-lighting will be on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4:30 pm from the beginning of the school year through November 14. See Coach Johnson for a permission slip if interested.

The first day of wrestling practice will be on Wednesday, November 15, 2018.

Check the Mardela Wrestling site at <http://mmhswrestling.wicomico.wikispaces.net/> to get wrestling updates, current results and past accomplishments. Any questions/concerns can be directed to Coach Johnson at [djohnson@wcboe.org](mailto:djohnson@wcboe.org) or 410-543-8455.

### Yearbook

The 2018 edition yearbooks will be available for pick up at the Back to School Night on August 30 in room B1.

The 2018 edition will be another **ALL COLOR Yearbook** scheduled for a Fall 2019 delivery. The yearbooks are available for purchase online at Smart-Pay.com beginning in September or at the school with a check made payable to *Mardela Middle & High School*. The yearbook will be on sale for \$50 through Tuesday, December 20, 2018. After December 20, you can purchase any remaining yearbooks online at the regular price of \$65. There is a limited supply after December 20 so be sure to purchase your yearbook early.

Seniors will receive a brochure containing the following deadlines:

- ◆ **Casuals & Formals:** Due December 20, 2018 (free picture taking for the Yearbook is available by MMHS Yearbook staff).
- ◆ **Senior Pages/Ads:** Due April 18, 2019 (Full Page \$125 and Half Page \$75)
- ◆ **Senior Stats:** Due April 18, 2019

**Senior Parents:** It is best to submit the Senior Ad electronically to prevent it from losing any of its quality; the resolution in electronic format is a lot better. WORD, PowerPoint, and Publisher are great programs to use to create your ad electronically. If submitting the ad electronically, you can e-mail it to Mrs. Skeen or Coach Johnson or you can bring in a flash drive for us to upload the document. If you don't wish to do the ad electronically, you can place your pictures and message on a 1/2 sheet or full sheet of paper for us to scan and return to you.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Mrs. Skeen at [dskeen@wcboe.org](mailto:dskeen@wcboe.org) or Coach Johnson at [djohnson@wcboe.org](mailto:djohnson@wcboe.org) or by calling the school at 410-677-5142.

### **Unified Tennis**

Practice will begin on Monday, September 10, 2018. Practices will be on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:30. A more detailed schedule will be available after practices begin. Participants must have a physical form and a participation form on file before they will be allowed to practice. Physical forms are available at the school and online. Participation forms may be picked up from Coach Skeen in Room B-1 on the first day of school.

**There is a participation fee for most of the sports and band.**

Upcoming sports and clubs not listed will be announced.

**YOU MUST HAVE A PHYSICAL FORM TURNED IN TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICES OR SPORTING EVENTS.**





## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL DANCE CRITERIA

### Middle School Dance Criteria

- 2.0 GPA
- No OSS days served during the semester in which the dance occurs in addition to county requirements for exclusion based on cumulative OSS days
- No more than 2 unexcused absences from the time of the last dance (from the time of the first day of school with regard to the first dance of the school year)
- No guests allowed from outside the school



### High School Dance Criteria

- 2.0 GPA requirement per county policy
- No OSS days served during the semester in which the dance occurs in addition to county requirements for exclusion based on cumulative OSS days
- Guests must be under 21, must be in good standing with school of attendance/employer

# Mardela Middle & High

## Dress Code

### 2018-2019

Students, parents and staff are reminded of the importance of appropriate dress for school and its effect upon the learning environment.

- ALL attire must comply with the requirements for health and safety.
- Attire must not be immodest, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, indecent or offensive.
- Shorts, skirts, skorts, jumpers and dresses must be of adequate length.
- **Skirts, dresses and jumpers should be no shorter than 3” above the top of the knee while standing (width of a 3x5 index card)**
- **Skirts, dresses and jumpers should be no shorter than 3” above the top of the knee even when worn with leggings or tights.**
- **Skorts and shorts should be no shorter than 5” above the top of the knee even when worn with leggings or tights.**
- Undergarments MUST be covered by outer clothing and NOT VISIBLE TO OTHERS.
- Cover the entire back and shoulders (including tank-style tops, razor back style tops)
- The midriff must be covered at all times (even when raising arms)
- Female tops should not reveal cleavage.
- All bottoms should cover undergarments at all times, be of safe length and not drag on floor, should not be worn lower than the natural waistline. Buttons are to be buttoned, zippers zipped, snaps snapped, and straps secured as designed. Should NOT resemble bedroom attire.
- Leggings and tights are not appropriate bottoms.