

Dear Families,

We are excited for everyone to be back on campus in just a few days! Below you will find some important information for the start of school.

**Sunday, August 26th:** Campus Beautification Day! Come help make our school shine for the beginning of the year! It is a fun way for families and teachers to reconnect before the school year is off and running.

**Thursday, August 30 and Friday, August 31st:** Many of you have scheduled Parent-Teacher Meetings with David Salgado and Mona Nixon for the mornings of Thursday and Friday.

**Friday, August 31st 12:15:** Junior High Orientation is open to Parents and Students to get an overview of the school year.

**Tuesday, September 4:** The First Day Back to School! 6th, 7th, and 8th graders will enjoy a hike to Old Rag. The children have a chance to bond with their teachers and each other while climbing to reach great views of the Shenandoah Valley.

**Wednesday, September 19th - Friday, September 21st:** Canoe and Camping Trip for all 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Students.

Other field trips this year will include a City Trip to New York City and a Spring Trip to Chincoteague, Virginia. Various excursions pop up throughout the year, including trips for art, music, and community service.

Every year we have some wonderful opportunities to take advantage of the many resources in our local community for our physical expression classes (what many think of as P.E.). Some of the activities are of no financial cost, like the use of local tennis courts and soccer fields. Others have required usage or facility fees, such as the swimming pool and martial arts classes. As always, it is a balance of using resources we have available and accepting input from the students about what they are interested in learning/practicing.

Last year some families were not prepared for any additional expenses as they arose, so this year we have decided to add a \$100 activity fee. This will allow our students more opportunities to work with managing budgets and setting priorities in light of limited resources.

Of course we understand that this is not an anticipated expense and we would like to be able to accommodate everyone's concerns. While all of our regular fees are due by September 15th, we are able to accept payment of this new fee on a delayed schedule or rolled into part of your payment plan, if you have one. Simply email Rose DiNinno at [rdinno@mlm-school.org](mailto:rdinno@mlm-school.org) to let us know how you would like to make the payment.

Our fee schedule will of course be modified to reflect this change in policy. This year will be an experiment to determine whether the field trip fees and activity fee should remain separate or if we pool the funds for the best use of resources.

Please be sure to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We will see you all soon!

Sincerely,  
Meg DeMato  
Mona Nixon  
David Salgado  
Kim Lynch