

## McMURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Greg Allison, Principal*

August 14, 2024

Dear McMurray Students and Parents,

We are honored to welcome you to McMurray Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year. Our team is busy creating the foundation for an amazing school year, developing a close-knit learning community and increasing academic progress and school spirit this year! This year school begins on **Tuesday, September 3rd** with a full day of classes. Student schedules can be viewed on Skyward Student and Family Access later in August, and students will also receive a hard copy of their schedule on the first day of school. **Please continue reading for the student supply list and other important information.**

We invite all 6<sup>th</sup> graders and those students new to the district to an orientation on **Thursday, August 29th from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.** Students will meet their teachers, be welcomed by McMurray Student Mentors and receive a printed copy of their schedules at that time. We encourage parents to stay for their very own event that includes a special welcome from our administration, learn about our school partners, and share in a presentation to help parents navigate a positive transition to middle school and support students and their continued development.

For support from your school counselors, please contact Yvette Butler if your student's last name begins with letters A-K and contact Mallory Shull if your student's last name begins with letters L-Z. They will be working with these students as they progress through their middle school years. Counselors return to regular office hours beginning August 21st and are most easily reached by email. Please contact Yvette at [ybutler@vashonsd.org](mailto:ybutler@vashonsd.org) or Mallory at [mshull@vashonsd.org](mailto:mshull@vashonsd.org).

McMurray continues to focus our efforts on the Vashon Promise stating that, **"Every student is welcomed, known, and treasured, and graduates confident and competent to thrive in a future they imagine."**

**Additionally, we will be focused on these guiding principles as we enter the school year:**

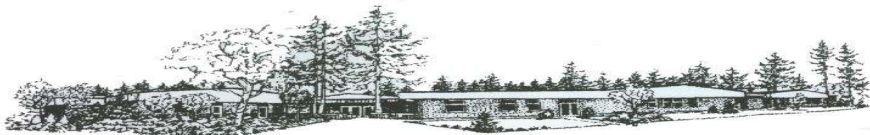
- We believe that learning is a joyful act that sparks each student's unique imagination.
- We believe that a sense of belonging and feeling valued increases trust and learning.
- We believe that equal outcomes for every student, without exception, is Vashon's collective responsibility.
- We believe that our students must have a voice and see themselves in their schooling.
- We believe that sustained connections with families and communities build thriving schools.

We look forward to an awesome school year, and we appreciate each of you as a member of our school community!

**What's new this year?**

### **"AWAY FOR THE DAY" POLICY FOR CELL PHONES/MOBILE DEVICES**

McMurray is shifting to this policy to enhance student learning, increase focus, improve mental health, and decrease negative interactions. If students choose to bring a cell phone/electronic device/earphones/smartwatch/tablet to school, they will be expected to stow these devices as directed prior to school starting between 8:10-8:25 AM. These devices will remain in a locked area until the end of 6th



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period, when students will be able to access these devices again. More information will be provided about the procedures for implementing this new policy as we begin the school year.

### **Calendar/Bell Schedule**

We will have a couple modifications to our prior schedule, including the beginning of the day. The bell schedule for 24-25 will soon be available on the McMurray website. The school calendar can be found at this site: [CALENDAR](#)

### **Late Arrival Friday**

McMurray classes will begin at 9:45 AM **every Friday**. This will give our staff essential time for professional development and collaboration, while providing more consistent weekly schedules for students.

### **Student Meals**

Breakfast for McMurray students is \$3.00 and lunch is \$4.50. For information on applying for free/reduced programs, please visit our [website](#). Families that qualify for free/reduced meals will need to complete the [Consent to Share Information form](#) **in addition to** the free/reduced meals application in order for fees such as sports, ASB, and electives to be waived.

### **Lockers**

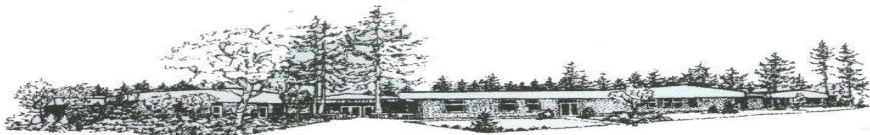
We will be issuing lockers again this year. Students will receive their locker information either at the new student orientation day or the first day of school!

Visitors and volunteers are welcome and I encourage you to become involved in our school in whatever way you can. Volunteers are needed September 3 and 4 and on September 10; please see more information on volunteering below. Visit our website for information updates at [www.vashonsd.org/mcmurray](http://www.vashonsd.org/mcmurray). I also encourage you to check out our [Vashon Schools Foundation/FACE website](#).

We will communicate with you this year primarily via Parent Square, so please make sure your profile is correct and we have your current email address in our system. Report cards will be posted on Skyward and will not be mailed. You may update your contact information via Skyward Family Access or by contacting the office at 206-463-9168 or via email to [kmurphy@vashonsd.org](mailto:kmurphy@vashonsd.org) or [tvickers@vashonsd.org](mailto:tvickers@vashonsd.org). Don't hesitate to connect with us if you have questions regarding the upcoming year, and please see the information following this letter for more specific information about the start of the 24-25 school year. I appreciate your involvement and look forward to partnering with you this year!

Sincerely,

Greg Allison, Principal



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**McMurray Office Hours:** Beginning on Wednesday, August 14th, daily from 9:00-3:00.

\*Please note that the McMurray office will be closed on Friday, August 30th and Monday, September 2nd.

**New Student Orientation:** Thursday, August 29th from 9:00-10:30 (see information above). (No transportation provided.)

**Student Picture Day:** Tuesday, September 10. Retakes will be done on Monday, October 14.

**Open House:** Wednesday, September 25th, 6:00 p.m.

**Sports at McMurray:** VISD is continuing to use [Final Forms](#) to register for sports. Registration for Fall sports (Cross Country and Volleyball) will open on Monday, August 19, and practices begin during the second week of school. Please visit the [McMurray Athletics web page](#) for additional information about McMurray sports, and note that a Sports Physical is **required** prior to participation (including practices).

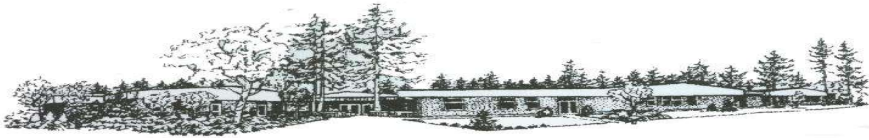
Anders Blomgren (ablomgren@vashonsd.org) is our District Athletic Director this year.

### SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR MCMURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

<b>All McMurray students will need the following items:</b>			
3-ring binder & dividers	Spiral notebook	Pencils	Ruler (metric/standard)
Scissors	Calculator	Erasers	Lock for gym basket
Colored pencils or fine-point markers	Blue or black pens	Lined writing paper	Pencil Pouch
Additional items may also be requested by individual teachers. Humanities and Science composition notebooks and student conference binder are supplied by the school.			
<b>McMurray students and staff often need following items. If you are able to contribute additional items from the list above or below, please drop them in the basket in the office marked "Donated School Supplies." Thank you!</b>			
Dry erase markers	Hand sanitizer	Sticky notes (all sizes)	
#2 Pencils	Clear tape	Boxed tissues/kleenex	

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Parent assistance is needed in the following areas:

<b>Task:</b> Assist students & office staff	September 3 and 4	8:00 to 8:40 am	2-3 per day	Terri Vickers 463-8699 <a href="mailto:tvickers@vashonsd.org">tvickers@vashonsd.org</a>
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Photo Day assistants	September 10	8:00 to 11:30 11:30 to 2:45	3 people 3 people	Terri Vickers 463-8699 <a href="mailto:tvickers@vashonsd.org">tvickers@vashonsd.org</a>
Classroom assistance, special projects	Various	TBD by Teacher	Varies	Please contact your student's teacher(s) directly or sign up with the Vashon PTO!