

# Welcome to Langston Hughes Middle School!



## *Hughes News*

*September Back-to-School Issue*

*2009-2010 School Year*

First day of school

for the new year:

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

7:55 a.m.—2:50 p.m.

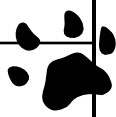


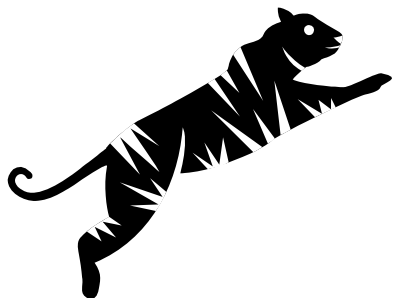
# September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
National Hispanic American Heritage Month Sept. 15—Oct. 15		1	2 Open House	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Holiday	8 First Day of School	9	10 PTA Meeting	11	12
13	14 Fall Book Fair	15 Fall Book Fair	16 Fall Book Fair	17 Back-to-School Night Fall Book Fair	18 Fall Book Fair	19 Rosh Hashanah
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Tentative Open House TJHST
27	28 Yom Kippur	29	30			

# October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Computer Month Head Start Awareness Month				1	2	3
					Interims go home	
4	5	6 Pyramid Workshop SLHS (Chorus)	7	8 PTA Meeting	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day Holiday	13	14 Life Touch Fall Picture Day	15 Life Touch Fall Picture Day	16 PTA hosts Skate Night Reflections Entries due	17
18	19 Teen Read Week FCPS Men's Chorus @ GMU (Chorus)	20 Teen Read Week	21 Teen Read Week	22 Teen Read Week	23 Teen Read Week Applications for TJHSST due	24
25	26	27	28	29 Halloween Concert @ SLHS (Orchestra)	30 End of Quarter	31





# Hughes News

A publication of  
Langston Hughes Middle School

## *Panther Pride    September 2009*

**Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year!**

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**\* Administrative Staff:**

- Aimee Monticchio.....Principal
- Michael Zook.....7th-Gd. Assistant Principal
- Sybil Mack.....8th-Gd. Assistant Principal
- Amelia Mitchell.....Dir. of Student Services
- Marianna Mannino.....Finance Technician
- Henrietta Pantzer.....Admin. Assistant
- Elizabeth Rennie-Cline....Clerical Assistant
- Sofia Rondon.....Clerical Assistant
- Staci Ruffa.....Clerical Assistant

**\* Guidance Staff:**

- Mark Blocker.....Counselor
- Monica Crossley.....Counselor
- Phyllis DeGraffenried.....Counselor
- Gloria Thrall.....Counselor
- Stephanie Hicks.....Clerical Assistant

**School Hours:**

**7:55 a.m.—2:50 p.m.**

- Students are not allowed to enter the building until **7:40 a.m.**
- **Breakfast** is available from **7:40 a.m.-7:50 a.m.**
- **Classes begin** at **8:00 a.m.** with the first few minutes designated for attendance and announcements.

**First Day of School**

We know you are anticipating your first day of school. Hopefully, new students will attend the Open House on Wednesday, September 2, 2009. The first day of school will be a **BLUE** day and all students should report to their **first period class**. If you do not have a schedule, you may pick up your schedule in the Media Center. Teachers and staff members will be available to help you find your classes.

**Visitation/Observation Policy**

**In order for a visitor to visit/observe a student's classroom the following guidelines must be adhered to:**

- A written request must be made by the parent of the student to their student's administrator 48 hours before the requested visitation day - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mr. Zook and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Ms. Mack. Please include in your written request, the date, time, name of person visiting/observing and the reason for the visit.
- Visits must be no longer than 60 minutes.

- There should not be any communication with the students or the teacher during your visit, as this may disrupt the class.
- If a conference is needed following the observation, it must be arranged through the student's counselor.
- You will be accompanied by your student's counselor during your visit.
- No more than two people at a time may visit a classroom

If you have any questions regarding this policy please don't hesitate to contact your student's administrator.

**Visiting LHMS**

**All outside doors are locked.** Our staff and students have been instructed not to open any locked doors for visitors and to direct all visitors to the main entrance doors marked **Door #1**.

Please press the doorbell located on the wall to the right of the right-hand set of double doors, and when asked, state the nature of your visit. When you hear the door release, please pull the door open and proceed to the **Main Office** to your left.

All visitors and volunteers must sign in in the front office upon entering the building.

**Please remember we ask for photo identification when you pick up your student from the clinic or the office for an appointment.**

If your child has forgotten items that he/she might need for his/her school day, please drop the item off at the main office; however, the students are directed to check in the front office if they are expecting something. Clerical staff will not interrupt the instructional day to personally deliver items to the classrooms. The same is true for telephone messages. Emergency calls or situations will be handled on an individual basis.



### Back-to-School Night

Back-to-School Night is scheduled for **Thursday, September 17, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.** Information on the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP) will be presented during an 'early bird' session at 6:00 p.m. in the LHMS Lecture Hall. The faculty and staff look forward to meeting you and introducing you to our wonderful school. During the evening, you will have a chance to meet your child's teachers and the administrators. You will learn about classroom and school policies as well as the school curriculum.

### Family Life Education

Beginning fall 2009, **Family Life Education (FLE) Opt-Out** forms and letters will not be distributed to schools. Parents will be able to access FLE parent letter, grade level forms, and program descriptions online at <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OMSI/fle/index.htm>.

If you do NOT wish to have your child participate in any or all of the FLE program, please obtain forms, complete the necessary documents, and return them to the main office. This program is taught by the health and physical education teachers at Langston Hughes. If you have questions concerning the FLE program, please call the LHMS Physical Education chairperson. Family Life Education materials will be available for review on Back-to-School Night, September 17th.

### LHMS Fund Raiser

We will be conducting a magazine and candy fund raiser **beginning September 18th and ending October 2nd.** Parents, please consider ordering your magazines and candy through this fund raiser. Langston Hughes earns a percentage on each order you place. The funds raised are used to purchase materials, such as supplementary curriculum materials, books, technology, and items that support our co-curricular activities program, which directly benefit our children. Parents, please see the flyer in your packet for more information.

### School Pictures

Student pictures will be taken on **Wednesday and Thursday, October 14 and 15, 2009.** Students should complete an order form that will be sent home in October. **Students should return the form with their money on picture day.** We are very fortunate to be in partnership with Lifetouch National School Studios. Lifetouch Studios has five background watercolors for the school portraits. They are amber, green, blue, purple and the standard gray. If you have any questions, please call the "parent help line" at **703-968-7545.**

### Bullying and Sexual Harassment

Fairfax County Public Schools and Langston Hughes Middle School are committed to ensuring a safe environment for all students and adults. Although bullying and sexual harassment are sometimes viewed by many as adult problems, these behaviors do occur with students of all ages. Included in this document is a flyer with more information. The staff of Hughes Middle School will work to make sure that all students feel safe and respected. Please read the flyer carefully, and return the **Parent Signature Page.**

### Interim Progress Reports:

October 2, December 11, 2009

March 5, and May 14, 2010

### Report Cards:

November 6, 2009

February 5, April 16, and June 30, 2010

# Panther Pride



**Langston Hughes Website:**

<http://www.fcps.edu/HughesMS>

**Media Center Website:**

<http://www.fcps.edu/HughesMS>

**Ms. Monticchio's email address:**

[Aimee.Monticchio@fcps.edu](mailto:Aimee.Monticchio@fcps.edu)

**ATTENDANCE LINE**

**703-715-3636**

## 2009-2010 Basic Supply List for 7th and 8th Graders

- (4 or 5) 3-ring binders
- (7 or 8) Folders
- (2) Glue Sticks
- (1) Pencil Pouch
- (2) High Lighters
- (2) #2 Pencils (Maintain through out the year)
- (2 ) Pens - Black, Blue, Red  
(Maintain throughout the year)

(6) Tab Dividers For Binder

(1) Plastic Ruler

Loose Leaf Paper For Each Section

Index Cards

(1) Composition Book for English

(1) set of Colored Pencils

(1) set of Markers

The following is for **Geometry only**:

A quad ruled notebook (a math notebook containing graph paper)

A wallet envelope – for holding math tests, quizzes, handouts and other materials

2 mechanical pencils

A spare eraser

Extra lead

TI-83 (or higher) graphing calculator and

4 AAA batteries

A compass and a protractor

(to be kept at home)

Inexpensive Calculator or, if taking advanced math to include Algebra 1 or Geometry, a TI-83 should be purchased.

**NOTE:** You may want to wait and see what your child's mathematics teacher requires.

Individual teachers may require additional materials.

Because of safety reasons, **please do not permit your student to bring laser pointers to school.**

## "Hughes After-School"

An after-school program for ALL students!

The "Hughes After-School Program" provides students with opportunities to complete homework assignments, have fun with their peers, and participate in recreational activities all in a safe structured environment at school.

"Hughes After-School" is staffed by teachers, community leaders, and volunteers. It is *FREE* to all who want to participate. All you have to do is register.

"Hughes After-School" runs daily until 6:00 p.m. On Mondays, Wednesday, and Thursday students have the option to ride the late bus home at 4:00 p.m. or stay until 6:00 p.m. for parent pick up. On Tuesdays and Fridays students must be picked up by parents.

Along with daily homework assistance and tutoring, students can look forward to participating in intramural sports, cooking, recycling, STEP team, art, dance, team building activities, health and wellness clinics, group games, and so much more. This program has something for everyone.

Parental involvement is recommended and much appreciated. Those who wish to volunteer, or who wish to be involved with planning and logistics, please contact Franklin Kyle at (703) 715-3784. or [Franklin.kyle@fcps.edu](mailto:Franklin.kyle@fcps.edu).

**Parents, please look for the registration form included in this packet.**

Franklin Kyle  
After-School Specialist

**The future belongs to those who believe  
in the beauty of their dreams.**

**~ Eleanor Roosevelt**

**El futuro pertenece a aquellos quienes  
creen en la belleza de sus sueños.**

**~ Eleanor Roosevelt**

## General Information

**Bus Schedules/Behavior:** Bus schedules for the regular school year are included in this packet. Riding a bus is a privilege which is available as long as a student behaves in a safe and appropriate manner. You and your child should discuss the importance of bus safety. Some students in special education programs (e.g., GT Center) will receive transportation information in the mail. Other special education students will be called by their bus drivers. Please be patient the first weeks of school while the Transportation Office adjusts bus routes and pick-up times to balance its bus runs.

**Bus Safety:** To ensure safe transportation to and from school, appropriate school behavior on the bus is essential. Students are to remain in their seats at all times until they depart from the vehicle. They may read a book or talk quietly to their friends and should not distract the drivers while they are operating the bus. If the bus driver submits a discipline referral on a student to an administrator, the parents will receive a warning letter outlining the infraction. If through the course of the school year the student receives another bus referral, loss of bus privileges will occur. The length of time of the bus removal will depend on the seriousness of the violation. Some incidents, such as throwing objects out of the bus window, fighting, and vandalism, warrant immediate loss of bus privileges. It is our hope that students will understand the importance of bus safety and how its neglect jeopardizes the safety of everyone.

**Late Buses:** Late buses will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays beginning tentatively, the week of **September 14th** for students staying after school to work with classroom teachers and to participate in after-school activities. Buses will depart from the school at approximately 3:45 p.m.

**Student Drop-off and Cross Area Guidelines:** Students who are driven to school should not arrive before 7:40 a.m. A student drop-off area has been designated on Ridge Heights Road for students whose parents drive them to school. **ALL STUDENTS MUST BE DROPPED OFF IN THIS AREA AND NOT ON SEAHAWK DRIVE, THE LHMS PARKING LOT, OR IN THE BUS LANE. Doors will open at 7:40 a.m.** Please be reminded that parents are **prohibited** from stopping or dropping off students on Seahawk Drive. This is a designated fire lane zone. Fairfax County Police will enforce the fire lane restrictions.

**“U” TURNS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON RIDGE HEIGHTS ROAD or SEAHAWK DRIVE.**

Students who **WALK ALONG RIDGE HEIGHTS ROAD TO SCHOOL MUST CROSS AT A DESIGNATED “CROSS WALK.”** A crossing guard at the corner of Seahawk Drive and Ridge Heights Road will assist students in crossing the street.

**Dismissal:** Students are released from school at 2:50 p.m. Parents who pick up students from school at afternoon dismissal must park in designated spaces.

**Attendance:** A parent or guardian is required to call the attendance line at **703-715-3636** prior to 9:00 a.m. to report a student's absence. The attendance line, **3636**, will take messages 24-hours of the day each day.

If a parent does not contact the school on the morning of the absence, a written excuse signed by the parent must be supplied to the homeroom teacher when the student returns to school.

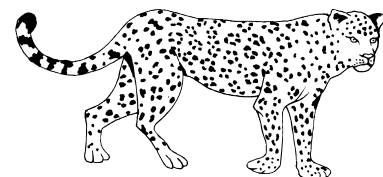
If a parent wishes to prearrange a student's absence from school, a request must be made in writing to the principal. At least two days notice is expected. It is the responsibility of students to arrange to make up missed tests and assignments after their return from an absence. Assignments are not provided in advance of absences unless the absences will be for three or more days.

**Attendance Policy:** Section 22.1-258 of the Code of Virginia has been amended to require the Fairfax County Public School System, as well as all other Virginia school districts, **to refer students to the school attendance officer when the students have accumulated five days of unexcused absences.** Consequently, after the 5th unexcused absence, the school must refer the student to the attendance officer for follow-up. Because there is a clear relationship between school attendance and students' academic success, Hughes Middle School will require a physician's excuse for **excessive** excused absences. After a student has accumulated more than **six excused absences** for the year, parents/guardians will receive a request for medical documentation for any subsequent absences.

**Absences:** Justifiable absences include those due to illness of the student, death in the family, medical or dental appointment, personal religious obligations, or other reasons acceptable to the principal.

**Tardies:** Students who are tardy to school should bring a note signed by a parent to the main office upon their arrival.

**Early Dismissals:** Students who must be excused from school before the end of the school day should bring a note signed by a parent to the main office upon their arrival in the morning. Parents must come into the main office to sign their child out for any early dismissal. If students return to school before the end of the day, they should report to the main office before they return to class.



## myLunchMoney.com



Parents, are you hearing “I’m out of lunch money” from your student? Whether you want to check the balance in the account or add funds, this website is very helpful. It is available 24/7. It’s easy to use, convenient, private, and secure.

**Lunch Tickets:** Monthly lunch tickets will be sold on Mondays before school at 7:40 a.m. in the cafeteria. Applications for free- and reduced-priced meals with return envelopes were sent directly to your home in mid-August. **The application MUST be sent to the Office of Food Services, General Services Annex, 6840 Industrial Road, Springfield, VA 22151, before September 8th.**

Students can bring lunch from home or purchase lunch in the cafeteria. The basic **lunch** for middle school students costs **\$2.75**; however, some items may be purchased a la carte. **Milk** costs **\$0.60**. **Breakfast** is also available in the cafeteria before school at a cost of **\$1.50**.

Students who would like to open a new meal account or add to an existing one may bring a check to the cafeteria on the first day of school. Checks should be made out to “Langston Hughes Middle School,” and the student’s name should appear on the check.

**Physical Education Uniforms** are required. The uniforms are available through the PE department. The cost is \$11.00.

**Textbooks** are issued to students during the first several days of school. Students are responsible for covering their books. Full replacement fines (sometimes in excess of \$60) are assessed for textbooks or library books that are lost or damaged beyond reasonable use. Lesser fines are levied for texts or library books that are damaged to the same extent.

**Insurance Options:** Accident, dental, and life insurance are available. Information about these options is included with this packet. Premium fees and requests for reimbursements are made directly through the insuring agency, not the school. The school **does not** provide medical payments for students who sustain injuries at school (e.g., in physical education).

**Conference with school staff:** Conferences with teachers are scheduled by the guidance staff. Conferences with administrators are scheduled by calling them directly. Do not hesitate to discuss concerns with staff members; a conference or phone call made early may avoid a more serious problem later. Questions about class procedures, activities, or a grade should be addressed with the individual teacher before you call a counselor or administrator.

**Telephone Contact:** All staff members have a telephone extension. You may leave a voice-mail message for your child’s teacher by dialing his/her extension. The voice-mail system is available 24-hours a day. A listing of staff voice-mail telephone numbers is included with this packet.

## DAB

**Daily Agenda Book (DAB):** To assist with organization, each student is given a copy of the Langston Hughes Middle School Daily Agenda Book known as the **DAB**. The **DAB** contains school calendars, general and specific school information (including expectations/consequences), and a hall pass that is to be used throughout the year. **The initial copy of the DAB is free to students. The replacement cost of each additional DAB is \$6.00.**

You and your child are asked to review the material in the **DAB**. **Parents are requested to sign the front page of the DAB. Students are reminded to put their name on the designated line on the front page inside the cover.**

## Guidance Department

The guidance program is a part of the comprehensive education provided to all students in FCPS. The counselor is part of the instructional support staff for the students on each team. The school counselors are available to students and parents to discuss issues related to academic success and choices for the future. School counselors provide the following services: personal, career and academic counseling; career awareness; course selection; crisis intervention; and consultation to parents and teachers.

Personal and/or social counseling is provided by the counselors when requested by the student or parent. The counselor may work with students individually or in groups. Permission from parents is required for any on-going structured individual or small-group counseling activity. At no time will a student be part of an on-going counseling group without the permission of a parent or guardian. A guidance and counseling **OPT-OUT** form is provided for parents. **ONLY RETURN the form if you DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD to participate in guidance activities.**

Counselors work with parents in a number of ways, and they are available to set up and facilitate a conference with teachers and/or administrators. When requested or indicated, counselors will assist parents in making referrals within the school system or to community agencies. In addition to helping parents with issues regarding their children, counselors will occasionally sponsor speakers and support groups for parents. The Guidance Department is looking forward to the 2009-2010 school year and the opportunity to work with you and your child.

**School Counselors:** The counselors for the 2009-2010 school year are assigned to students by teams. The counselor's name will appear on the student's schedule. The counselors are assigned to teams as follows:

- **Mark Blocker**.....703-715-3618  
**Team 71 (Grade 7): Comets**
- **Gloria Thrall**.....703-715-3655  
**Team 72 (Grade 7): Super Novas**  
**Team 73 (Grade 7): Gamma Rays**
- **Phyllis DeGraffenried**.....703-715-3644  
**Team 74 (Grade 7):**  
**Team 81 (Grade 8): Lasers**  
**Team 84 (Grade 8):**
- **Monica Crossley**.....703-715-3645  
**Team 82 (Grade 8): Stars**  
**Team 83 (Grade 8): Galaxy**

**Class Schedules:** As part of the middle school philosophy, all students will be assigned to a team that is comprised of an English, social studies, math, and science teacher. Each team is assigned an administrator and a counselor. Assigning students to teams enables teachers to take a large number of students and place them in manageable groups that interact on a daily basis in both an educational and social environment.

**Block Scheduling:** With the 2009-2010 school year, Langston Hughes will be following an alternate-day **BLUE/GREY** block schedule. This is a method of scheduling classes that creates the flexibility for teachers to provide differentiated learning opportunities for all students. On **BLUE** days, students will see their 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> period classes. On **GREY** days, students will see their 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> period classes. The 7<sup>th</sup>-period block incorporates both a 50-minute class and *Approaches to Learning*, where students spend time "learning how to learn" and developing an awareness of thought processes and their strategic use. Lunches will be during 5<sup>th</sup> period on blue days and 4<sup>th</sup> period on grey days. Teachers are grouped into core and elective teams. Core teams are comprised of the four core subject areas: English, math, social studies, and science.

**Schedule Conflicts:** We have attempted to honor course selection requests and to accommodate for the needs of all students. Schedule changes will only be made if schedules are incomplete or if there is a conflict of classes. If you have any questions concerning schedules, please call Langston Hughes at 703-715-3600.

## Movers/Changes of Address

Please keep the school informed of any changes in telephone numbers (work and home) or addresses in case we need to contact you during the school day because of an emergency. If you move, verification of your new residence is required.

## School Health Services

The goal of our clinic is to ensure that each student will enjoy a healthful and safe school year. Our school health aide (SHA) can be reached at 703-715-3610. The SHA is available to answer your questions and provide guidance. Please advise the school health aide of any special health concerns for your child. **Keep a sick child home;** it is difficult to concentrate on learning when one is ill. Generally, a parent will be called for any potentially serious illness at school or if the child remains in the clinic longer than fifteen minutes.

Please complete all parts of the **Emergency Care (EC)** and the **Health** forms, which are included in this packet. The EC form includes information that allows us to call you in an emergency.

If at any time during the school year parents will be away from home for an extended period, please advise the school of an alternate adult contact who will have the legal authority to make medical decisions in an emergency.

According to FCPS regulation 2102, over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription medication **must** be taken to and from school by a parent or guardian in a container properly labeled (name, type of medication, dosage schedule, and date). Medications must be accompanied by a FCPS Medication Authorization form signed by the physician and/or parent as noted on the form. Medications must be kept in the school clinic or other school-approved location. Students are **not** allowed to carry or keep medication on their person or in their lockers while they are in school without prior school approval; possession of such medications is a violation of FCPS policy and may result in serious disciplinary action. Medication authorization forms may be obtained by calling the school health aide at 703-715-3610 or main office clerical assistants at 703-715-3600. The forms are also available online at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu); click on Forms, and click on Epinephrine Authorization (SS/SE-64), Inhaler Authorization (SS/SE-65), or Medication Authorization (SS/SE-63) as needed. OTC medications may be given up to ten consecutive school days with the parent's or guardian's signature on the FCPS Medication authorization form before a physician's authorization is required. OTC medications that are pain relievers may be given as needed throughout the school year with only the parent's or guardian's signature on part 1 of the FCPS Medication Authorization form.

## **SEVENTH GRADER SURVIVAL GUIDE**

Welcome to Langston Hughes Middle School. You are probably experiencing mixed feelings of excitement and nervousness as you think about being a seventh grader. Beginnings aren't easy; you're not alone! Your fellow classmates from the different feeder elementary schools are sharing those same emotions. Our guarantee is that you will survive that first day and week of school, which will be the start of a great two years at Hughes. In this article, we hope to answer some of the questions most commonly asked by seventh graders.

*Q: Who are some of the people all students should get to know?*

A: Some people you can always seek help from include the following staff members:

- Ms. Monticchio, Principal
- Ms. Mack, Grade 8 Assistant Principal
- Mr. Zook, Grade 7 Assistant Principal
- Ms. Mitchell, Director of Student Services
- Mark Blocker  
Team 71 (Grade 7): Comets
- Gloria Thrall  
Team 72 (Grade 7): Super Novas  
Team 73 (Grade 7): Gamma Rays
- Phyllis DeGraffenried  
Team 74 (Grade 7):  
Team 81 (Grade 8): Lasers  
Team 84 (Grade 8):
- Monica Crossley  
Team 82 (Grade 8): Stars  
Team 83 (Grade 8): Galaxy
- Teachers
- Clerical Assistants
- Other adults who work at LHMS

*Q: If I'm a bus rider, how do I know where and when to catch the bus?*

A: Please see the list of bus stops and pick-up times enclosed in this packet. Be at your bus stop about fifteen minutes early at least until your driver establishes a pattern. When you arrive at school that first morning, be sure to remember your bus run number. You'll need to remember it to find your bus in the parking lot at dismissal.

*Q: If I'm a bus rider, how do I catch a bus at the end of the school day?*

A: This is important! That first morning when you arrive at school, be sure to write down your bus run number, which will be posted on the inside window of the bus next to the door. When you go to the parking lot at 2:50 p.m., you will need to know your bus run number to get on the right bus. Usually, you'll have just seven minutes to catch your bus, but during the first couple of days we will give you a little extra time. If you are having a problem finding your bus, ask one of the staff members in the bus loop for assistance. If you do miss your bus, do not panic! In some way, we will help you get home.

*Q: What should I bring with me the first day of school?*

A: Bring a pencil or pen and a notebook so you can write down information given by your teachers. They will tell you what additional supplies you need to purchase for their classes. Also, bring lunch or lunch money.

*Q: Once I arrive at school, where do I go that first morning?*

A: The first day of school will be a **BLUE** day and all students should report to their **first period class**. If you do not have a schedule, you may pick up your schedule in the Media Center. Teachers and staff members will be available to help you find your classes.

*Q: What if I get lost?*

A: Do not panic! Just ask any staff member for assistance. It will help if you can show them your schedule. If you are a little late to class during the first few days of school, your teacher will understand. Just do the best you can.

*Q: What happens if I lose my locker combination or I can't get my locker open?*

A: Any staff member can help you open your locker if you know your combination. If you forget or lose your combination, stop by the Guidance Office for assistance. If your locker is really broken, report it to the main office. **DO NOT GIVE ANYONE—NOT EVEN YOUR BEST FRIEND OR RELATIVE—YOUR LOCKER COMBINATION!** We cannot give you a new locker or change your combination.

*Q: When do I eat lunch?*

A: On the first day of school, you will be assigned a table where you will eat every day for the remainder of the quarter. During the first few days your teacher will explain which lunch section you will eat and will take you to the cafeteria. Sometimes lunch lines are a little slow the first few days. If that happens, we will see that you have extra time to finish eating.

*Q: How do I get involved in activities after school?*

A: Once school begins, listen for announcements in the morning and afternoon about clubs and activities. We will have a Club Fair in the fall. Club sponsors will showcase their programs. At this time you will be able to sign up for an after-school activity or club. Check it out!

*Q: Can I stay after school to catch a late bus?*

A: You may only remain after school if you are in a club or activity supervised by a teacher or are staying with a teacher for extra help or detention. You may not stay after school to just “hang around.”

*Q: May I bring a Walkman, IPOD, or other type of personal music device to school?*

A: NO! If you do, a staff member will confiscate it and turn it over to an assistant principal. Your parents will have to stop by the school to pick it up. We all enjoy our own personal music favorites, but we prefer that you reserve some part of your non-school time for listening to your favorite music.

*Q: Is there a dress code?*

A: Yes. Please refer to the Students Responsibilities and Rights handbook and the dress code section of this newsletter.

*Q: When can I use the restroom?*

A: Teachers issue restroom passes when it is necessary. There are also restroom passes available at lunch time.

*Q: Do I have to take a shower after physical education class?*

A: No, but it would be a good idea if you did. As you become a young adult, you will need to adjust your personal hygiene routines. This is a good place to start.

*Q: Do I need a pass to leave the classroom?*

A: Yes. Students will be required to carry a hall pass with them when they are released during class time to go to the office, restroom, the clinic, etc. The hall pass is actually part of the student’s Daily Agenda Book (DAB) which you will receive on the first day of school. Students will need to carry their DAB’s to all classes except physical education in order to have their hall pass with them. In PE, the teacher will issue a hall pass to students as needed.

*Q: With seven different classes, how do I keep organized?*

A: Your teachers will give you lots of good suggestions. You will be given one assignment notebook (DAB) free of charge at the beginning of the school year. If you lose your DAB, the replacement cost is \$6.00.

*Q: When will I find out about all the different school rules?*

A: Teachers will tell you about their classroom rules during the first week of school. The administrators will meet with your team to review and discuss the Students Responsibilities and Rights (SR&R) handbook which was distributed with this packet.

*Q: I’m on a team. What does that mean?*

A: Most students are a member of a core team. The core team consists of your English, math, science, and social studies teachers who work as a group to plan school and team activities and discuss student progress.

*Q: How do I find out about the Guidance Department?*

A: Counselors will be coming to one of your classes to explain the role of the Guidance Department. Your school counselor’s name is listed on your class schedule.

*Q: What should I do if I’m still worried or nervous after the first few days of school, or if things just aren’t going well?*

A: Stop by the Guidance Office to make an appointment to see your counselor. Your counselor is often the best problem-solver in the school!

*Q: What if my question wasn’t answered here?*

A: Once you come to Langston Hughes Middle School, you can talk to one of the people listed at the beginning of this newsletter. If necessary, you can have your parents call the school at 703-715-3600 with important questions.

## Thomas Jefferson SSAT Admissions Test Prep Course

Plans and scheduling for the Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology (TJ) admissions test prep class for the 2009-2010 school year have not been finalized yet. Please keep your eye out for further information and updates in future editions of the *Hughes News*.

The **TJ Student Handbook** (test prep handbook) will be sold this year through the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) bookstores. You are invited to check out the TJHSST website at <http://information.tjhsst.edu>.

## Fairfax County Community and Recreation Services

**Youth Sports Scholarship Program.** The Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services will continue to provide registration-free scholarships to help young people participate in sports programs in Fairfax County during the Fall 2007 season. Specifically, this scholarship program provides assistance to youth from low-income families who are not currently being served by existing scholarship or fee waiver programs. To be eligible for a sports scholarship, a child must

- Qualify for free or reduced school lunch or be eligible for TANF (aid to dependent children);
- Be school-aged; and
- Make a commitment to attend a minimum of 80% of scheduled practices and games.

If you believe that your child meets these criteria and you are interested in applying for a sports scholarship, please call 703-324-5649 or visit the website and print a form at:

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec). Click on Athletic Services.

**Teen Center:** The Pit Teen Center is located at the YMCA in Reston. The YMCA is located at 12196 Sunset Hill Road in Reston, Virginia. The Teen Center encourages all young people to participate in the many programs and activities it offers throughout the year.

**Stop Youth Gangs:** The Reston Community Focus Group on Youth Gangs provides a list of suggested resources for families interested in or concerned about youth violence and youth gangs. A one-page fact sheet on suggested web sites that offer information and resources pertaining to youth gangs and related topics can be obtained in the Hughes Guidance Department. Spanish speaking families in need of additional information can contact the Director of Barrios Unidos, at 703-845-0400. In addition, the Human Services Resource Guide on the World Wide Web also provides a computerized database of public, non-profit and some for profit human services available to Fairfax County residents. The Resource Guide is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to anyone with access to the Internet at [www.co.fairfax.va.us/rim](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/rim).

## Community Information FCPS invites you to 'Keep in Touch'

Do you want to know about school closings as soon as they're announced? Do you want to know when back-to-school information is available online, when a new edition of the Familygram parent newsletter is published, or what the School Board is discussing? FCPS has launched **Keep in Touch**, a service to allow parents and others interested in specific information about the school system to receive updates via e-mail. Participants set up individualized profiles and receive the most up-to-date information as soon as it is available. To sign up, visit the FCPS web site at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and choose the **Keep in Touch** link on the left-hand side, or, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/DOC/fcpsform.html>.

## *Hughes News*

### Notice for the 2009-10 school year:

Our school newspaper, "**Hughes News**" is no longer mailed home. The newsletter is posted on the Hughes website. A message is sent home to all registered parents through Fairfax County's "Keep in Touch," announcing when the **Hughes News** is posted. Parents are reminded to please register their families with "Keep in Touch" and to select LHMS as their school. Registered parents are then be able to receive important dates, deadlines, and the **Hughes News**. For those parents who do not have computer access and would still like a paper copy, please complete the information below, and we will continue to mail your copy home.

### HUGHES NEWS

I do not have computer access. Please send a paper copy of the **Hughes News** home to me each month.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to Ms. Pantzer in the Front Office.**

