

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome back to Montross Middle School! I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer and are feeling excited for the start of the new school year. Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, we are thrilled to have you as part of our school community.

This year promises to be filled with new opportunities for learning, growth, and discovery. Our dedicated teachers and staff have been working hard to prepare a safe, welcoming, and engaging environment where every student can thrive. We are committed to helping each of you reach your full potential—academically, socially, and emotionally.

Middle school is a special time—a time to explore new interests, build lasting friendships, and take on new challenges. We encourage all of you to get involved in the activities, clubs, and programs we offer. Remember, your voice matters here, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

To our 6th graders: welcome to your new school! We know this is a big transition, and we are here to help you feel comfortable and confident from day one.

To our 7th and 8th graders: we are so glad to have you back. You are the leaders of our school, and we look forward to seeing the amazing things you will do this year.

Let's make this school year one to remember—with kindness, curiosity, and a commitment to doing our best every day.

If you have any questions or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Warm regards,

Janet Garland, Principal
Montross Middle School

Mark your calendars for back to school open house day - see the schedule below.

School Supply lists are linked below -

[6th Grade](#)

[7th Grade](#)

[8th Grade](#)

[Related Arts](#)

Please review the student handbook with your child - linked below.

[Student Handbook](#)

To all rising 7th grade families:

If your student is scheduled to be a 7th grader during the 2025-2026 school year, please be sure that all shot records, specifically the tDap and meningococcal vaccinations are completed. This is a requirement per the Virginia Department of Health regarding school immunizations. Additionally, the HPV vaccination is suggested, but it is not required for school attendance.

Please be advised that no 7th-grade student may begin the 2025-2026 school without the school's receipt of up-to-date immunization records.

The Westmoreland County Health Department, as well as primary care physicians and some pharmacies such as CVS, may be able to provide the required immunizations.

Once immunizations are complete, please fax or hand-deliver a copy of your student's immunization record to Montross Middle School. The fax number here is 804-293-9737.

At MMS, parents/guardians will be issued car tags to be used when picking up their child from school (this will be used for afternoon car riders). ALL parents/guardians who pick up students from school MUST use the front of school entrance loop. Please make certain you request a car rider tag. If you ONLY pick up your student occasionally, PLEASE still request a car rider tag. **Also, you must request a new tag each year.**

If an emergency situation arrives and you need to pick up your child, YOU MUST CALL THE FRONT OFFICE at (804) 493-9818, and give them the name of your child and the name of the individual who will be picking them up. Their name will be added to the pick up list for that day and the individual who will be picking them up will get in the car line and have their ID ready to show staff.

Use the link below to request a car rider tag. Tags can be picked up at our Open House and at the front office.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_p216TZB445fgZgk5CLSmPylPvIm6GrIhrctzwDk8vquuQQ/viewform?usp=dialog

Meet our new MMS family members -

Saquita Laws - Special Education Teacher

My name is Saquita Laws and I am a wife, a mother of 3 boys, and a fur mom to Zeus. I hold a master's in business management. The last 3 years I have been educating returning citizens on how to become successful in our communities. 7 years prior, I played a huge part in assisting and maintaining public safety right here in the Northern Neck. I am a W&L Alumni and the secretary for the Westmoreland Youth Association. I recieved "most talkative" my senior year of high school and I have a very big personality that I love to share with others. My passion is to assist those who need it on a higher spectrum and to offer my services to those who need it. Our children are our future and starting at Montross Middle School I plan to aid each and every one of them in being successful and becoming the best version of themselves. I am very pleased to become a part of Montross Middle School's family and to bring anything I can to continue its excellent educational program. I plan to work hard, stay sharp, and be present for our kids and for my coworkers. Let's Go Eagles!!!

Nash Cosby, 8th Grade Science Teacher

My name is Nash Cosby, I am a graduate of James Madison University. During my time there, I got my bachelor's in Biology and a master's in teaching secondary education! I am so excited for the opportunity to be teaching 8th grade physical science at Montross Middle School! I can't wait to (safely) lead my students through LOTS of fun and engaging experiments as they learn about our world through hands-on experiences! My teaching philosophy is that I realize that students will all be at different levels of understanding at the start and throughout my class, so I will do my best to meet them where they are and help them progress their learning. After all, even if students are at different levels of understanding, they can all take steps forward no matter how large or small the step.

Genia Powell, 7th Grade English Teacher

My name is Genia Powell. I am an English Language teacher with over 30 years of experience, having taught at all grade levels. I also served as an AP for five years, demonstrating my dedication to educational leadership. I am the proud mother of three beautiful children—two sons and a daughter—and a loving Meme to my grandchildren. I believe in inspiring a love of language and learning in every classroom.

Jennifer Winkler, Art Teacher

Hi! My name is Jen Winkler and I will be the new art teacher for Montross Middle School. This will be my 20th year teaching and I can't wait to see the creativity bloom in the students as we explore and make different pieces of art. I have taught kindergarten, 1st grade, 3rd grade and most recently 4th grade (at Cople Elementary). I live in Tappahannock and am so excited to join the Montross Middle family!

My name is Arlette Williams. I hold a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and have vast experiences in teaching youth from Girl Scouts to Bible study and as a substitute teacher. I enjoy riding motorcycles, knitting, fishing, and listening to a variety of musical genres. I believe it is never too late to learn and achieve. My goal is to meet every young scholar where they are while encouraging excellence and nurturing possibilities.