



# Stone Hill Middle School

Leveraging the powers of community, relationships, and collaboration to achieve academic excellence for all

23415 Evergreen Ridge Dr.  
Ashburn, VA 20148

## SHMS Weekly Information

Good Evening Stone Hill Students, Parents, and Staff,

This is a reminder that there is no school on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of Labor Day. We hope that everyone has had an excellent long weekend! This past week we conducted our first round of safety drills that included both a fire drill and lockdown drill. The students did an outstanding job with both drills.

This past week students created their "Recipe for Success" in their Advisory class. Make sure to ask your child about their Recipe for Success!

Sign up for Lace Up for Learning (<http://laceupforlearning.com/>) and please designate Stone Hill Middle School. This is a family-oriented fundraising 5k event designed to encourage a healthy lifestyle and engage local communities in support of our schools. The race will take place on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Brambleton Town Center. We will be having an Advisory challenge that students will learn about this week!

### SHMS Upcoming Events:

- **Technology Student Association (TSA)** – You are invited to attend the TSA meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the SHMS Auditorium. TSA is a national organization of students engaged in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEAM). TSA chapters take the study of STEM beyond the classroom and give students the chance to pursue academic challenges among friends with similar goals and interests. Together, TSA chapter members work on competitive events, attend conferences on the state and national levels, and learn and apply leadership skills. If you have any questions, please reach out to our TSA Coordinator, Mr. Hart ([matthew.hart@lcps.org](mailto:matthew.hart@lcps.org)).
- **Science Olympiad** – Science Olympiad seeks to inspire a passion for science and technology in students around the nation through collaboration, teamwork, hands-on experiences, and creativity. These skills are tested through fun and rewarding tournaments that the team will compete in throughout the year. The team requires a strong commitment from both students and parents. For more info, please go to [www.virginiaso.org](http://www.virginiaso.org). If your child is interested in joining, we invite you to a parent informational meeting on Thursday, September 5. The meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the Stone Hill Media Center. Attendance is not required for your child to join but is strongly encouraged. We will discuss general information about Science Olympiad, time and monetary commitments, and the team selection process. Whether you can attend this meeting or not, if your child is interested in joining the team, please fill out this [Google Form](#). Please note that there are a limited number of spots on the team. Students will need to stay after school on **Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** to take a team selection test and will need to be picked up at 4:30 p.m. Please contact the club sponsor, Mr. Hein ([matthew.hein@lcps.org](mailto:matthew.hein@lcps.org)) with any questions.
- **Back to School Night** – Back to School Night will be held on **Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Spectrum will start at 5:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. This is a parent only event.
- **TJ Information Night** – Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the SHMS auditorium.



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- **Lace Up for Learning** – Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> sign up at (<http://laceupforlearning.com/>) and designate Stone Hill Middle School. There are also volunteer opportunities available!

## District Information:

- **Diverse Additions to Classroom Libraries**

This year Loudoun County Public Schools is celebrating its student population with an investment in diverse text collections for all K-12 English Language Arts classrooms. In describing the texts, the Division of Teaching and Learning, Elementary and Secondary Reading, noted that, "Classroom and school libraries reflect our values and contribute to developing student identities; therefore, our collections must reflect and honor our student population and those around them. Access to books in the home, school, and classroom has a strong correlation with reading proficiency. Students who read more also have stronger vocabulary, background knowledge, and empathy." Classroom libraries complement our robust school libraries. The addition of these texts to classroom libraries is a reflection of Loudoun County Public Schools' commitment to providing staff, students and parents with resources and opportunities for an equitable education.

As Superintendent Eric Williams said in the equity statement he issued on August 19, 2019:

*"LCPS is committed to providing a safe, empathetic, respectful and supportive learning environment in order to empower every student to make meaningful contributions to the world. When students and staff experience racial insults, slurs, and/or other hate speech, we lack the positive culture and climate that supports students' growth.*

*LCPS calls for all students, staff, families, and other members of our community to engage in the disruption and dismantling of white supremacy, systemic racism, and hateful language and actions based on race, religion, country of origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, and/or ability. LCPS rejects racist and other hateful behavior and language, recognizing that it encourages discrimination, hatred, oppression, and violence. Every individual is valued in Loudoun County Public Schools. Let's celebrate the diversity that helps define us as a school division."*

The diverse classroom libraries were created through the collaboration of LCPS teachers, librarians, administrators, and classroom book collection specialist teams trained to identify culturally responsive and diverse texts in accordance to [LCPS School Board Policy 5-7 Regulation, Selection and Review of Instructional Materials](#). Several criteria were considered including representation, authorship, relevance to students' lives, authentic voice, and developmental appropriateness. Information regarding the libraries can be found at this link – [Diverse Book Collections.](#)"

## Counseling Department Information:

- **September Parent Coffee:** "How to help your Child Succeed in Middle School!" This presentation is geared towards our 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents and any new parent to middle school! We will give an overview of middle school life and tips for a successful year! This will be held on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in the SHMS auditorium!
- **Academies of Loudoun and TJ Applications:** The window for the Academies of Loudoun application is now open and will remain open until October 18th. TJ applications will be available starting September 2nd. Stone Hill will be hosting an information session on September 9th at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Mrs. O'Brien with any questions about these applications.



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## PTO Information:

- The next PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the media center. We hope to see you there!
- Spirit Day/Night at Chin Chin Café on September 10<sup>th</sup> all day! Let them know you are supporting SHMS!
- The SHMS PTO is seeking parents willing to help with the school store. The hours are 8-8:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Ideally, we are looking for at least 3 parents to rotate duty one morning a week. No experience necessary! If you are interested, please email the PTO at [shmspto19@gmail.com](mailto:shmspto19@gmail.com).

## Week at a Glance:

Date	Event
Monday, September 2nd	No School – Labor Day!
Tuesday, September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	A-Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leadership Team Meeting</li></ul>
Wednesday, September 4 <sup>th</sup>	B-Day
Thursday, September 5 <sup>th</sup>	A-Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TSA Parent Informational Meeting at <b>4:00 p.m.</b> in the SHMS Auditorium</li><li>• Science Olympiad Parent Informational Meeting at <b>6:00 p.m.</b> in the SHMS Media Center</li></ul>
Friday, September 6 <sup>th</sup>	B-Day

Sincerely,

Kathryn Clark, Principal