



2024-2025 School Year

Dear Maritime Academy Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year at The Maritime Academy of Toledo! As we embark on this exciting journey together, I want to extend a warm welcome to all our returning and new families. We are thrilled to have you as part of our school community and are committed to making this year a successful and enriching experience for your child.

Attendance: A Foundation for Success

Regular attendance is crucial for your child's academic success and personal growth. We believe that being present every day helps students stay engaged, build strong study habits, and fully participate in the vibrant learning environment we offer.

- **Attendance Policy:** Our goal is to have all students attend school daily, arriving on time and prepared for the day ahead. If your child is absent, please notify the school as soon as possible and provide a valid reason for the absence. Consistent attendance is not only important for academic achievement but also for building a strong sense of responsibility and discipline. Teachers cannot maintain consistent procedures, in their classrooms, if students have inconsistent attendance.
- **Chronic Absenteeism:** We closely monitor attendance and will work with families to address any issues that may lead to chronic absenteeism. If your child accumulates an excessive number of absences, we will reach out to you to develop a plan to improve attendance.
- **Excessive Absences:** The State of Ohio considers 2 missed days of school a month to be excessive which equates to 18 missed days or 117 hours of lost instruction.

Please Note: In 2022, 74% of eighth graders (nationally) were not proficient in math due to the loss of instructional time during the pandemic. This directly correlates with an adolescent's inability to substitute in-person learning, with a trained teacher, for online learning. In addition, students who attend school regularly have significantly higher graduation rates followed by higher yearly income rates.

Uniforms: Fostering Unity and School Pride

Our school uniform is a symbol of our collective identity and commitment to excellence. It reflects the pride we take in being part of The Maritime Academy community. The last several years Maritime school leadership has not placed an emphasis on our students wearing their

uniforms properly because of other priorities. This is no longer applicable as students are expected to be in uniform every school day.

- **Uniform Requirements:** Students are required to wear their official Maritime Academy uniforms every day. This includes the designated T-Shirt, appropriate pants or skirts, and closed-toe shoes. Please refer to the uniform policy for detailed guidelines.
- **Uniform Compliance:** We will conduct daily uniform checks to ensure all students adhere to the dress code. Wearing the uniform correctly helps foster a sense of belonging and equality among our students.
- **Assistance Available:** If you need assistance in obtaining uniforms, please don't hesitate to contact the Helm. We are committed to ensuring every student has the necessary attire to fully participate in school life.

Communication: Staying Connected

Open and effective communication between school and home is vital to your child's success. We value your involvement and strive to keep you informed and engaged throughout the school year.

- **Regular Updates:** Please ensure that your contact information is up to date so that you receive important announcements, newsletters, and updates via email, phone, and our school website.
- **Parent-Teacher Communication:** We encourage regular communication between parents and teachers. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please feel free to reach out to their teacher or the school administration.
- **Parent Meetings and Events:** We will host regular parent meetings and school events where you can learn more about your child's education, connect with other families, and get involved in our school community.

Charting Your Course Cohort: Guiding Student Success

We are proud to begin our "Charting Your Course" cohort program for 9th and 10th grade students this year. This initiative is designed to support students as they navigate their educational journey, with a focus on academic excellence, personal development, and career exploration. (Please allow for some hick-ups in our inaugural year.)

- **Program Features:** The "Charting Your Course" cohort offers personalized learning plans, mentorship opportunities, and hands-on experiences to enhance learning. Students will have the chance to participate in projects, field trips, and internships that align with their interests and future aspirations.
- **Parent Involvement:** Your involvement in this program is key to your child's success. We encourage you to stay engaged with your child's progress, attend cohort meetings, and communicate regularly with cohort leaders.
- **Student Expectations:** Students in the cohort are expected to commit to their studies and actively participate in the program's activities. This program is designed to challenge and inspire them to reach new heights.

- **Teacher Collaboration:** All teachers and support personnel were hand-chosen to be a part of the Charting your Course Cohort. They all share a common 1st period planning to begin the process of integrating lessons and classroom procedures to be consistent across all subjects.

Looking Forward

As we set sail into the new school year, pun definitely intended, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for all that lies ahead. Together, we can create a supportive and dynamic learning environment where every student can thrive.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust in The Maritime Academy of Toledo. We are looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your child.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need assistance. Here's to a successful 2024-2025 school year!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Lusk', written in a cursive style.

Aaron Lusk
Superintendent
The Maritime Academy of Toledo
superintendent@maritimeacademy.us