

A. Mario Loiederman Middle School for the Creative and Performing Arts Community and School Analysis

The A. Mario Loiederman Middle School for the Creative and Performing Arts (LMS) is a Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) school within the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) system. LMS is located at 12701 Goodhill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20906.

The boundaries of the consortium fall mostly in the zip code area 20906 and a small portion of 20853. Students who reside within the boundaries of the MSMC do not have a base middle school. Instead, students are assigned to one of three magnet middle schools, Argyle (Information Technology), A. Mario Loiederman (Creative and Performing Arts), or Parkland (Aerospace and Robotics), through a lottery school assignment process called the Choice process. Students and parents rank their preferred middle school choices as part of the Choice process.²

Other students throughout the county may apply for a spot in each magnet, there are 80 spots in each school for "out-of-consortium" magnet students, and families must provide transportation for students located out of the consortium busing area.

Zip Code 20906

The Zip Code area for 20906 in Montgomery County, MD is a suburb of Washington, DC and is a fairly urban location. It includes the unincorporated towns Aspen Hill and Wheaton. Unfortunately, the following data is from the 2000 US Census. 2010 Census Data is not yet available. An update will be needed as soon as this data is available. I predict that over the past ten years the minority population has grown, and the socio-economic levels have decreased.

- Total Population: 61,097
- 18 years of age and older: 77.8%
- 65 years of age and older: 18.4%
- Cultural Backgrounds
 - Asian 11.7%
 - Black or African American 12.3%
 - Hispanic 12.5%
 - White 52.1%
 - Other 8.8%
 - Multiple Races 4.5%
- Education
 - High school graduate or higher 84.2%
 - Bachelor's degree or higher 36.9%
- Speak a language other than English at home 39.8%
- Median family income in 1999 dollars \$63,384
- Families living below poverty level 5.1%⁴

- Major employers:
 - Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville: 19,275
 - National Institutes of Health, Bethesda: 18,627
 - Montgomery County government, Rockville: 9,642
 - Adventist Healthcare, Rockville: 8,109
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: Silver Spring, 5,333
 - The remaining list includes many federal government employers⁵
- Access to Public Library Service
 - 20 Libraries in the Montgomery County Public Library System
 - 2 MCPL Libraries located less than 2.5 miles from the school
- Access to Cultural Institutions
 - Located in the metropolitan Washington, DC suburbs
 - Multiple Ride-On and Metro Bus Routes/Stops surround the school neighborhood
 - Glenmont Metro Station is 1.3 miles from the school
 - National Mall, Washington DC is 13.5 miles from the school
- Local Newspapers: The Washington Post & The Washington Times
- Television: All four major networks have affiliates in Washington, DC. Comcast Xfinity Cable, Verizon FIOS, and DirecTV Satellite offer both television and internet service
- Public Housing:
 - Government-subsidized housing complex less than a mile from the school
 - Many local apartment complexes accept public housing vouchers

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

- 144,064 students
- Largest school system in Maryland
- 16th largest school system in the United States
- Students from 164 countries speaking 184 languages
- 200 schools³

Loiederman Middle School

- Cultural Backgrounds
 - Asian 7.1%
 - Black or African American 26.1%
 - Hispanic 48.2%
 - White 15.6%
 - Multiple Races 3.0%¹
- Students now or have in the past received FARMS: 71.2%¹
- Languages spoken and read: English, Spanish, French (in multiple African dialects), Chinese, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Hindi and Korean.
- Changes in Demographics in last 5 years: Only minor differences in population change over the past five years. +/- less than 2% in each subgroup.
- Mobility Rate (Entrants + Withdrawals)** 10.1%¹
- Homes with Computer Access:
 - 41% of Parents have active Edline (online student progress reporting) accounts
 - 52% estimate based on a survey given to half of the eighth grade class on the first day of school

- Number of Teachers: 55.6¹
- Number of Students: 763¹
- Special School Programs
 - ASK time – 25 minutes daily of “study-hall” like setting where students have the opportunity to get extra-help through appointments with teachers.
 - Linkages to Learning – a community organization that assists lower-income families connect to community services, like health clinics, mental health services, food banks, and housing assistance
 - Magnet School for Creative & Performing Arts
 - Learning and Academic Disabilities Center
 - Multidisciplinary Educational Training and Support (METS) – for students with interrupted education, usually from spending months and years outside the United States
 - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
 - Community Circles – a relationship building and restorative justice technique¹
- There is not a school-wide Mission Statement. The vision statement is:
 - A. Mario Loiederman Middle School, a school for the creative and performing arts, is a learning community committed to having all students read, write, reason, communicate, create and perform at high levels.

Loiederman Middle School Test Data

- Academic Achievement Scores:

		MATH						
AMO TARGETS	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Change	
All Students	56	64.9	72.9	67.7	64.6	63.5	-1.1	
African American	50.3	59	66.2	61.1	57.4	49.5	-7.9	
Asian	71.1	80.6	82.4	84.5	78.5	82.4	3.9	
Hispanic	48.8	54.6	65.4	62.1	57.6	60.6	3	
Multi						77.3	n/a	
White	71.6	86.3	89.6	81.6	87.2	85.3	-1.9	
FARMS	50.3	58.9	65	57.5	52.9	52.3	-0.6	
LEP	35.5	46.2	51	50.9	40.2	46.5	6.3	
Special Education	34.7	43.6	50.5	37.4	26	39.8	13.8	
		READING						
AMO TARGETS	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Change	
All Students	61.1	70.5	80.9	78.6	82.7	82.0	-0.7	
African American	57.4	70.8	82.1	77.3	84.8	78.2	-6.6	
Asian	69.9	79.1	80.6	87.3	93.8	86.3	-7.5	
Hispanic	53	59.9	72	73.1	75.6	79.6	4.0	
Multi						90.9	n/a	
White	80.6	87.6	94.8	88.6	92.6	92.7	0.1	
FARMS	54.3	59.7	70.4	68.6	74.1	74.0	-0.1	
LEP	30.1	41.8	51.6	56.5	60.7	60.6	-0.1	
Special Education	30.7	32.1	63.7	54.5	66.7	62.2	-4.5	

- Trends in Test Scores:
 Test scores have increased since 2006 for all sub-groups, but there has been fluctuation from year to year, and the rise in scores has not kept pace with the Annual Measureable Objective targets set by the state.

- Subject Areas where students are doing poorly: Math and Reading

Loiederman Middle School Media Center⁶

- Access: Students visit the Media Center
 - As a class where the teacher books a slot
 - By making an appointment for ASK, Lunch, or after-school
 - Before school from 7:30-7:55am, no appointment necessary
- Primary Users
 - World Studies and Science for Project-based research
 - English and Reading for circulation
 - Math uses computer space, but not the floor
 - All members of staff including student teachers and building services
 - Staff Meetings
- Recreational information needs
 - Graphic Novels
 - Sports: Skateboarding, Football, Soccer, Basketball
 - Fiction on cliques, drama, and social life
 - Problem-solving books
- Personal information needs
 - Peer pressure
 - Family
 - Divorce
 - Death
 - Alcoholism
 - Changes due to puberty
 - Hairstyles
- Parent involvement
 - Hispanic Parent Meetings
 - Parent Teacher Association Meetings
 - One volunteer parent-helper
- Current Collection
 - Over 20,000 pieces
 - Sized more inline with an MCPS high school
 - Art prints
 - Sheet Music
 - DVDs/CDs/Tape (both music and video)
 - Geo Kits
 - E-books – including reference materials
 - Play-aways
 - Maps
 - Books translated or written in English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Hindi and Korean
- Daily circulation report is not run
 - For the first 20 days of school, circulation averaged 80 books per day
 - Busiest months are September, December, January, and April
- The collection is in excellent condition at 7 years old

- The normal middle school collection in MCPS is 13,000 pieces, this exceeds that standard
- No non-fiction book was published more than 15 years ago (1996)
- Collection Goals
 - Update Biographies to current newsmakers
 - Update Sports to current players/teams
 - Update the 900's
 - Find more books authored by minorities
- Current yearly budget: \$9500 (approximately \$12.50 per student)

Reflection

This magnet school was opened, through a grant, in the fall of 2005. The librarian was given \$760,000 of that grant to create and open the media center. The obvious benefit to this young age of the school is that the collection is fairly current and materials are still appealing. I suspect the purpose of locating the magnet in a portion of Montgomery County that has a higher diversity and higher poverty rate was to make the school more balanced, but the librarian did a good job of addressing the diversity she knew she would encounter. I was especially impressed with her attempt to buy multiple copies of picture books and fiction in translations. This librarian places a high priority on including diversity in her collection. The biggest roadblocks were the availability of published materials written by authors of minority. Diversity in the center goes beyond race and ethnicity and is very inclusive to multiple learning styles and formats. This stays true to the uniqueness of the creative and performing arts magnet school by including large offerings in music and visual artwork. Additionally, when sitting in front of different non-fiction subjects, it is immediately apparent that there are books on multiple reading levels on most topics, allowing all learners to access information. Through an informal email survey of the staff, I could not find one teacher that had not had his or her curriculum needs met either directly in the media center or by the librarian borrowing materials from another school within one-weeks' time (if not sooner).

The challenges will begin to appear now that the grant has ended and the school is solely financed as a part of the school system. The librarian's annual budget has shrunk from \$12,000/year to \$9,500/year. While the librarian has collection goals and priorities, the budget will begin to limit the currency of the collection. Some of the computer and space books on the shelf were published in 1999. I found specific examples of Pluto as a planet and the space shuttle program continuing indefinitely. Students have noted that some of the sports books match up to teams that have changed rosters and even cities. As a middle school student, biographies of popular icons can only be current for the past five years or so. I'm not sure what the solution is. It seems that to be effective in weeding; a librarian must also stay current with news events. Beyond the publication date, it would be impossible to be an expert in all "facts" in all fields that have undergone changes. The benefits of databases and electronic reference books become immediately apparent. I was overwhelmed in trying to imagine what I would choose to weed out and by what process I could begin. The newness and size of the collection from the grant has the downside of making the weeding task overwhelming in that there is no budget to keep up the spectacular currency and variety that existed.

Recommended changes for this media center would be a thorough weeding of books published before 2001 in the history, science, computers, space, sports, and biography. I would make more use of circulation reports and data to inform my decisions. The curriculum has been changed since the opening of the school; I would seek input from teachers on these changes when they occur.

¹ *A. Mario Loiederman Middle School at a Glance 2010-2011*. MCPS. 2011. Web. 11 Sep. 2011. <<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/regulatoryaccountability/glance/currentyear/schools/03787.pdf>>

² *School Overview A. Mario Loiederman Middle School*. MCPS. 2011. Web. 11 Sep. 2011. <<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schoolodex/schooloverview.aspx?s=03787>>

³ *Montgomery County Middle Schools At A Glance 2010-2011*. MCPS. 2011. Web. 11 Sep. 2011. <<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/about/MCPS-At-A-Glance.pdf>>

⁴ *Fact Sheet: Zip Code Tabulation Area 20906*. US Census Bureau. Web. 23 Sep. 2011. <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFFacts?_zip=20906>

⁵ Dun & Bradstreet, Gazette staff. *Montgomery County's top employers*. Gazette.net. September 7, 2007. Web. 23 Sep. 2011. <http://ww2.gazette.net/stories/090707/montnew112455_32421.shtml>

⁶ Burk, Tammie. Personal interview. 19 Sep. 2011