

### Dear Martin Luther School Students and Families,

I love the great start to this exciting school year, transportation issues aside! It is a pleasure to serve you in my second year as principal! While we continue to operate amid a pandemic, I want to assure you that we are committed to the highest safety standards and will continue our high-value virtual program when students and staff are required to quarantine.

I am very proud and excited to welcome our first cohort of high school students. A huge shout out to the class of 2025! Our 9th-grade student body has the opportunity to blaze the path that many students will travel after. We have exciting work to do as we embark on this journey together. I know that we will face each challenge ahead with the confidence and ambition necessary to build an extraordinary program.

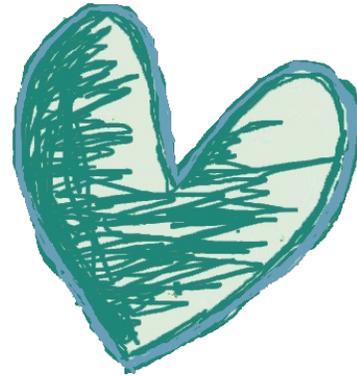
I remain committed to focusing on academic rigor to ensure that we provide meaningful instruction to our students. We are in year two of our targeted approach to close the academic gap in the area of Mathematics with our highly rated Illustrative Mathematics (IM) program. According to EdReports, an independent nonprofit that reviews K–12 instructional materials, Illustrative Mathematics meets all expectations across all three gateways for focus, coherence, and rigor. This program exposes students to grade-level math content while structuring lessons to meet them at their current academic levels. We work in partnership with the University of Delaware with regular professional development and teacher coaching.

Our staff continues to build on our social, emotional learning program (SEL), which teaches our students how to regulate their emotions while interacting appropriately with peers and adults.

We will be hosting another virtual back-to-school night for you, our families, and I look forward to seeing all of you then. I am excited for the future of Martin Luther School students and staff and look forward to another great year!

Respectfully,

Mr. Rafiq Williams



## Curriculum Corner

Welcome to the curriculum corner! This month's focus is our language arts classes. We started the

## Important Dates to Remember

- **October 4:** High School Parent Night, virtual; 3-4 PM OR 6-7 PM (see emailed invite for more information)
- **October 11:** No school, Indigenous Peoples' Day holiday
- **October 14:** Back to School Night, virtual; 6:00-7:30
- **November 22:** Virtual instruction/family conferences
- **November 23:** Virtual instruction/family conferences
- **November 24:** Virtual instruction and early dismissal
- **November 25-26:** No school, Thanksgiving holiday



### Mark your calendars!

Conferences are just around the corner. This year, we will be offering morning and afternoon conference sessions for families. All conferences will be held virtually using Google Meets or can be held over the phone. Students will participate in virtual instruction on these two days to allow for a more flexible range of conference scheduling. Please keep an eye out for more information to come.

### Baking is a fun family activity. Try this fall pumpkin recipe!



#### Pumpkin Muffins Recipe:

- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 tablespoon

pumpkin pie spice

Read

school year off by sharing our love of reading with you. This year, each language arts classroom has its own



classroom library. We strive to connect our students to books that will spark their love for reading, and that means having those books at the tips of their fingers. Students will experience a mix of independent choice, small group, and whole-class reading in our ELA classes. These options will provide the right amount of support and choice to guide our young readers on their path to reading success. We look forward to spending the year reading with you!

*Declan French*



### Welcome to WORC!

WORC stands for Work Orientation Readiness Center and

every week your child has the opportunity to come to the WORC room, participate in a lesson, and complete jobs for members of the school staff. Students get to clock in and out, learn a lesson about appropriate workplace behavior and spend part of the class applying the lesson to work situations. Some of the jobs we perform are laminating, cutting, and making school deliveries. We also do special projects for holidays and events. Currently, we are learning about building self-awareness by recognizing strengths and challenges and understanding how we learn best. You can help your child build these skills by:

- Helping them understand what they're good at (strengths).
- Trying not to focus too much on challenges they might have and instead focus on pointing out strengths.
- Ask your child how they learn best (reading, listening, doing) and try to set up the environment on virtual days to support their learning style.
- Knowing your strengths builds confidence and pride and understanding your learning style gives you the information you need to do your best in every learning situation.
- These skills will help your child on their road to success.

*Sue and Catherine*



### Safety Corner

Martin Luther School is committed to the highest standard of safety. As such, we are testing students and staff for COVID regularly. Please be sure to click on this link: [COVID Testing form](#) to review/fill out the form. **Click here if you require a Spanish version of the COVID testing form** If you have any questions please feel free to contact Lisa Hand, Supervisor of Safety and Administration at 610-825-4440 ext. 3406 or [lhand@martinlutherschool.org](mailto:lhand@martinlutherschool.org)



Lisa Hand

## Martin Luther High School is Officially Open!

### Welcome to the Class of 2025



We are excited to share the official ribbon cutting to signify the opening of our high school. Principal Rafiq Williams and Director Eva Morrison welcomed our 9th graders with music, banners, and snacks. Students and staff alike expressed joy at being able to learn together in their new space. Students received lockers, books, and most importantly, MLS swag to get their school year started. What a great start to our year!

*The Harrison 14 Team*



If you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact our offices at (610) 825-4440 or by email at [info@martinlutherschool.org](mailto:info@martinlutherschool.org)  
Follow us on social media!



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