

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

Nicole Sosik, Principal

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www.loiedermanarts.org

I want to thank you for your dedication to our community, and in particular to ensuring that every child has the chance to receive an excellent education. I know you have long been a supporter of the work of Montgomery County Public Schools and teachers like me.

A. Mario Loiederman Middle School, where I teach, is the Performing and Creative Arts magnet school of Montgomery County. We are an incredibly diverse school -77% of our students are black or Hispanic and 60% of our students receive free and reduced price meals, the educational measure of poverty. In addition, unlike traditional magnet schools, we offer our arts programs to all our students, regardless of whether they live in the neighborhood or are attracted by our magnet programs. We believe that for many low-income students, the arts can be a great way to keep them engaged and motivated, and offer non-traditional ways of learning basic curriculum.

I am deeply proud of the work we do here, but I need your help to make our program even stronger. Our theatre program serves over 200 students in grades 6 to 8, with offerings ranging from Beginning Theatre to a high-school credit course. The after school program serves as an opportunity to be part of a community experience. We perform two shows each year on a stage in the gymnasium that is shared with the dance and music programs. Last year, the spring musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" involved 70 students on all aspects of the production. (They even painted their own backdrop!)

Unfortunately, all of our technical equipment is out dated and malfunctioning. Our lighting board is broken (after having been fixed one year ago) and our microphones are unreliable. Last Spring, we had to borrow microphones for our Friday and Saturday night performance, because Thursday had so many problems. Please help our students succeed! We need to raise \$10,000 in order to buy new equipment for our shows! Please contact me at Robyn L Paley@mcpsmd.org to let me know if you will be able to help.

Sincerely,

Robyn Paley Theatre Director A. Mario Loiederman Middle School