



August 20, 2020

Dear Parent, Guardian, Staff Member:

Teachers and other staff returned this week, another sign that we are just a few days away from school starting Monday. Their positive and creative approach to getting started gave me great confidence that, as the Lakewood community, we can do this. We can do more than get through, we can learn together through what may be fits and starts, new ways to teach and new ways to learn that will contribute to greater student achievement well beyond this school year.

I think about the start of a school year for students transitioning from one building to another – elementary to middle school, middle to high school, high school to college, there’s a significant learning curve those first few days. Where are my classes, how do I get through the lunch line, is there really a pool on the roof or is that just what the upperclassmen say? It is why schools have orientation programs, special times to get their new students accustomed to their new surroundings.

This school year, orientation is necessary for every student regardless of grade, in-person, or remote. Though we have planned half-days of instruction for the first two weeks (8/24 – 9/3) to provide “orientation” to the new health and safety protocols for in-person students and work out account, log-in, and learning platform issues for remote learners, teachers want to, and will, begin instruction of the curriculum as soon as possible. As a reminder, the half-day and first week schedules are below:

	DOORS OPEN	START TIME	END TIME
LECC	8:47	8:57	12:12
LES	8:27	8:37	11:51
LMS	7:10	7:27	10:40
LHS	7:10	7:20	10:28

	Mon 8/24	Tue 8/25	Wed 8/26	Thu 8/27	Fri 8/28 onward
LECC	KinderStart	Kindergarten	KinderStart	Kindergarten	All Students
LES	Grades 1 & 3	Grades 2 & 4	Grades 1 & 3	Grades 2 & 4	All Students
LMS	Grades 5 & 7	Grades 6 & 8	Grades 5 & 7	Grades 6 & 8	All Students
LHS	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	All Students

I’m sure you have seen different news reports regarding schools and universities planning to return to school in one way and changing those plans either just before classes start or shortly thereafter. I would like to share two thoughts about that. First, we are “coming” Monday. We’ll be the first district in our ISD to hold classes. Let’s set the example that schools can reopen, reopen safely, and remain open. That leads me to my second thought. It’s going to take everyone making good decisions regarding their health and safety and the health and safety of others both in and out of school for us to continue in-person instruction.

Though not every teacher is currently assigned to teach remotely at this time, every teacher is preparing to teach remotely at some time if necessary. Let’s work together, continue to wear masks, wash our hands regularly, and not hold or attend large gatherings even though the traditional end of summer, Labor Day weekend, is on the horizon.

Thank you for your patience, cooperation, and commitment to staying safe,

Steven C. Skalka, Superintendent



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