

Friday, March 17, 2023

Dear LMS Families,

Happy St. Patrick's Day! It was a busy week at LMS - we started the week with a staff PD day, where our educators spent the day immersed in collaborative activities centered around student learning. We kicked off our **March Madness Men's NCAA Bracket Challenge** thanks to Ms. Cobb and our CLC kids! PRIDE classes were also busy this week decorating classroom doors with their chosen team's colors - a huge thank you to Ms. Prominski for organizing the competition! Next week, we will send **3rd quarter progress reports** on Thursday and send our 8th graders to the high school for the career fair!



**March is reading month!** We are hosting a weekly reading challenge in the media center - students can pick up a reading log each week this month that can be traded at the end for a prize. All students who participate will be entered into a drawing at the end of the month for McDonald's Door Dash!

Just a reminder that we **do not allow** LMS students to use/carry their **cell phones**, for a variety of reasons, during the day. Cell phones must remain in their lockers during the day. Every student has been assigned a locker and is expected to use it. Please see our student handbook for more information. Students should leave all personal items (not intended for class use) at home or

store them in their locker during the day. Larger bags that can't be stored in lockers may be stored in the front office. Also, please encourage your students to **dress for the weather** - we see too many students without a coat, especially those who ride the bus, and would hate for a bus to break down and/or students need to evacuate the building.

**Parents, we continue to need your help** - we are seeing an uptick in **inappropriate social media use**. Specifically, anonymous social media accounts designed to target specific students. We plan to address this in our Grade Level Meetings later this month but are also asking parents to address this with their students at home. What seems to be "harmless fun" can very much affect our

students and school culture. **A continued reminder:** “At the middle level, most tweens–based on neurological research–are not ready to handle the temptations (impulsiveness, peer attention, and peer approval) and consequences (shame, rejection, guilt, or even fear) that come with using social media such as SnapChat, Tik Tok, etc. In addition, tweens often struggle with the permanence factor: once posted, it’s there forever. Therefore, our stance as veteran middle level educators and parents ourselves is that students should not use social media at this age level for the aforementioned reasons and beyond. However, that choice is up to each individual parent, and we wanted to send along a gentle reminder to please continue to monitor your child’s social media accounts if you allow them to engage in social media use.”

**Donations needed!** We are looking to refresh and update our board game closet! If you are looking to declutter and donate any **gently used board or card games**, we will take them

off of your hands! Our kids enjoy playing with them during lunch and when we can’t get outside during lunch. Please, drop any donations off at the office. Mrs. Simons is also looking for any **unwanted magazines** you might have lying around for her art classes! Magazines can also be dropped off in the front office.

**Have questions or concerns?** Oftentimes, questions or concerns stem from a miscommunication or lack of awareness of a situation, and they can be answered or resolved by speaking to the staff member most closely associated with the issue. Please start by contacting the staff member most directly connected to the situation. If not resolved by speaking to that staff member, it may be necessary to contact the building or district administration. All of our staff are reachable through email and by calling the LMS main office at 616-374-2400 or reaching staff via email.

**‘Tis the Season for illness!** We seem to be through the wave of student illness....for now, but we continue to ask that you please keep your child home if they are experiencing flu-like symptoms. Students with a fever or are vomiting/have diarrhea should stay home until they are 24-hours symptom free. Please encourage your children to wash their hands frequently and cover their cough with their elbow to help lessen the spread of germs. If your student will be absent from school, please call the attendance line by 7:30am - 616-374-2400.



**Hall passes** reset on Tuesday, January 17. We continue to encourage students to use their allotted 24 passes during the semester sparingly and in emergent situations. Students have 4 minutes between classes to go to their locker and use the restroom and are encouraged to communicate with their teacher if they are going to be late to class - communication is HUGE and valued amongst our staff and is a life lesson we are working to instill in our students, not to mention time management! Revising our hall pass procedure has greatly reduced "roaming" in the hallways during class time, coordinated trips to the restrooms, and vandalism in our bathrooms.

All of our teachers use **GoogleClassroom** as our **learning management system**; students who are absent are able to access learning targets, success criteria, and daily agendas and even complete some of their work posted to Classroom. Not all activities, assessment, etc. are posted there, and it's not meant to replace direct instruction, but it can serve as a stopgap when students are gone. Skyward is our gradebook; there, parents and students can keep track of grades and missing assignments. Please reach out to your student's teacher with any questions and ask your student to navigate through for you.

We have a 27-minute **PRIDE time** period built into each day where, depending on the day and grade level, students are able to read their choice novel for ELA class, work on homework, or receive assistance on work from their teachers. It's also a time for teachers to provide remediation and extension. Please encourage your student to use this time wisely and to its fullest extent.

We offer **"After Hours" homework help** in Ms. Cobb's classroom each week. Tutoring runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:15-3:30pm; a small snack will be provided. Transportation is NOT available, so students will need to coordinate their own transportation.

Our **Lost and Found** is quite the collection - please encourage your student to check out the table in the commons area if they have misplaced a personal item.

**Please see the following updates/reminders:**

-Breakfast and lunch are no longer free for all students - breakfast may be purchased for \$1.70 and lunch for \$2.85.

-If your child will not be in school, please call the office at 616-374-2400 and choose option 1 before 7:30am.

-Our regular school day is from 7:27am-2:15pm; doors open at 7:05am; the office closes at 3:00pm.

-Please follow our pick-up line procedure featured in the image attached; it is the safest, most efficient process for our students.

-Please be sure to log into Skyward Family Access to update your student(s) information, including address, parent/guardian phone number(s) and email address(es), emergency contacts, etc. Please go to [www.lakewoodps.org](http://www.lakewoodps.org) →Resources→Skyward Student/Family Access to login.

-If you need to contact any staff member at LMS, please visit [www.lakewoodps.org](http://www.lakewoodps.org); scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the Staff Directory icon. From there, you can filter down to Lakewood Middle School. Email can be faster than sending a Skyward message; please "go to the source" with your specific questions or concerns.

-Like us on Facebook! **Lakewood Middle School/Lakewood Public School**

-Covid protocols for 22-23 for students and staff:

- 5-day isolation from 1st symptom or positive test, whichever is first
- May return with mask after 5 days (symptom free; masked for 5 calendar days)
- If there is a positive in the home, other members of the household may continue to attend school as long as they are symptom free (mask encouraged but not required).
- No contact tracing

## **LMS Athletics Info. – From the Desk of Mr. Krueger!**

### **Track Meeting on Wednesday March 22nd at 7:15am in Coach Carter's room!**

Spring Sports offered at Lakewood Middle School start after spring break on April 11th. We offer boys and girls track and field for students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. All athletes must have a physical in FinalForms or in the middle school office before practicing.

Parents - We have two home meets this year on April 17th and May 3rd. We need 4-6 parents to help us host our track meets by volunteering your time to run a field event and/or help with running events. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact Coach Carter or myself at 616-374-2412 or [nickkrueger@lakewoodps.org](mailto:nickkrueger@lakewoodps.org)

FinalForms - [www.lakewood-mi.finalforms.com](http://www.lakewood-mi.finalforms.com)

Spring Coaches -

Girls Track - Christy Carter - [carterc@lakewoodps.org](mailto:carterc@lakewoodps.org)

Boys Track - Georgina Hill - [georginahill@lakewoodps.org](mailto:georginahill@lakewoodps.org)

All schedules are found on our school website - <https://www.lakewoodps.org/Domain/9>

### **Weather Rules -**

1. Decisions about games on weather days will be made as soon as we possibly can, but typically before 1pm. Decisions are made after discussions with transportation supervisors and athletic directors from both schools. If a game is canceled, athletes will be notified, a

SkyAlert will be emailed out to parents, and notices will be sent out via social media for Lakewood Middle School on Facebook and Twitter.

2. If school is canceled due to weather then all practices will be canceled for that day.

### **Middle School Sponsored Sports**

Fall (8/22 to 10/21) - Cross Country and Volleyball

Late Fall (10/17 to 12/14) - Boys (7th/8th Grade) Basketball

Winter (1/4 to 3/10) - Girls (7th/8th Grade) Basketball and Wrestling

Spring (4/10 to 6/2) - Track & Field

*\*Students in 6th grade may participate in Cross Country, Girls Basketball with 7th grade, Wrestling, and Track & Field.*

### **Attendance/Tardies/RTC/Social Probation**

Please remind students to be in class everyday and on time. Any time missed from class can be detrimental to the educational process. Attendance and tardies are tracked daily and students with multiple absences and tardies will be met with and plans discussed to improve behaviors as well as possible RTC referrals. Social probation is a tool that we can use to help motivate students by not allowing students to participate in the extracurricular activities offered here at Lakewood Middle School. Students can be placed on Social Probation for excessive tardies, RTC's, and poor choices.

### **Upcoming Events**

March 23 - LMS/LHS Choir Concert 6:00pm @LHS Performing Arts Center

March 24 - 8th grade to Career Fair @HS; Project ALERT 7th grade

**March 31-April 7 - Spring Break - No School for Staff or Students**

April 10-14 - 7th Grade Boaters Safety

April 12 - PSAT 8/9 for 8th graders

May 9 - LMS Spring Band Concert 6:30pm @LHS Performing Arts Center

May 11 - 8th Grade Chicago Trip

May 18 - LMS Choir Concert 6:00pm @LHS Performing Arts Center

**May 27 - Memorial Day - No School for Staff or Students**

May 31 - 7th Grade Lugnuts Field Trip

June 1 - 6th Grade Michigan's Adventure Field Trip

June 2 - Last day of school for Staff and Students; ½ Day of School - 10:40am dismissal

