

Friday, January 27, 2023

Dear LMS Families,



Welcome to the weekend! A snow day on a Thursday makes Friday feel like Monday but then comes the welcome recollection that it's not! February is right around the corner,

which also brings on the **"third quarter slide."** Traditionally, we see student academic performance drop in the months leading up to spring break, with the weather playing a huge role. The lack of sunshine and ability to get outdoors can put even the most optimistic person in a slump. To mix things up a bit, our CLC (Community Leadership Class) will be organizing a spirit week during Winter Fest and selling "Candy Grams" for Valentine's Day during the week of February 6th, and we will host our "Honor Roll" luncheon in the coming weeks. We also have a few ideas currently being fleshed out for the month of March!

Mrs. Hickey and some of our high school students will be selling **Pure Vida** bracelets for \$8.00 a piece during middle school lunches next Friday, February 3rd. Proceeds will go to **support Project Graduation!**

Winter **NWEA testing** wrapped up this week. All students will be tested in math, ELA, and science. Our staff use that data to track student growth, to help guide curricular decisions, and to drive instruction. Individual student reports will be sent home the week of February 6th.

Just a **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."

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 will 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.

Please note 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. 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.

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. Please register using the following link - <https://forms.gle/wDTGjtTSqfZM1kaT7>.

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 →Resources→Skyward Student/Family Access to login.

-If you need to contact any staff member at LMS, please visit 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!

Wrestling kicked off their season on Friday night hosting the Lakewood Middle School Wrestling Invitational. 11 of our Lakewood wrestlers placed in the top 5 in their weight classes with 4 individual champions - Greyson Laberge at 110, Vincent Stamm at 120, Bryson Boucher at 130, Jacob Evertt at 167, and Slayden Luna at 285. The wrestling team then traveled to Comstock on Saturday for their team tournament where they finished 4-1. Great job grapplers!

Our tri-meet that was scheduled for Jan. 25th and canceled due to icy roads has been rescheduled for Thursday Feb. 16th at 5pm against Laingsburg and Bath.

Basketball traveled to Perry on Monday where both teams came away with positive wins. The 7th graders played with just 7 players and won 39-11 while the 8th graders battled a bigger team to win 42-33. Great first wins of the season for both groups!

Our game against Lansing Christian from Wednesday night has been rescheduled for Thursday Feb. 16th at Lansing Christian starting at 5pm. We have also moved our home game against Lansing Christian to Monday Feb. 27th starting at 4:30pm. No games on Monday Feb. 20th!

Athletes participating in Red Cedar/Club Basketball or MyWay/WAAM wrestling are welcome to participate in middle school teams, but note that we expect full participation in our school sponsored sports unless prearranged with their coaches and per MHSAA rules "Athletes may only participate in two 'events' of the same sport they are currently participating in through their school or risk being ruled ineligible each season."

Scheduling Update for Wrestling -

Thursday 2/2 - Tri-meet at Stockbridge is canceled

Thursday 2/16 - Tri-meet Home against Laingsburg and Bath - 5pm start

Thursday 2/23 - Tri-meet at Laingsburg is added 5pm start

Scheduling Update for Girls Basketball -

Thursday 2/16 - @ Lansing Christian - 5pm start

Monday 2/20 - No Game!

Thursday 2/27 - Home against Lansing Christian - 4:30pm start

Coaches for this years winter sports are listed below -

7th Grade Girls Basketball - Christy Carter

8th Grade Girls Basketball - Georgina Hill

Wrestling - Ryan King

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.

Red Cedar Basketball (as part of a community program, not affiliated with LMS)

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Van Neste at paulbvanneste@gmail.com or Jason Solgat at jason.solgat@wowinc.com.

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

February 1 - Cadet and Concert Band Concert 6:00pm @LHS Performing Arts Center

February 10-14 - No School - Mid-Winter Break

February 24 - Concert Band District Band Festival

March 7 - 8th grade field trip to LCC

March 13 - Staff PD - No School for Students

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

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

