

Leicester High School

174 Paxton Street., Leicester, Massachusetts, 01524
508.892.7030

January Newsletter

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Important Dates:

UPCOMING School Events-
1/10/18 - 6pm Prom Fashion Show
1/11/18 - Early Dismissal- Parent Conferences
1/12/18-1/15/18 - Quebec Field Trip
1/16/18 - Mid-Terms 1 & 2
1/17/18 - Mid-Terms 3 & 4
1/18/18 - Mid-Terms 5 & 6
1/19/18 - Mid-Term 7
1/20/18 - AP ELA @ LHS
1/23-26/18 - Course Selections
1/26/18 - 7pm Winter Ball

Connect With Us:



Tracey Hippert -Principal
Hippertt@lpsma.net
follow on twitter @LHS_hippert

Dan Case Assistant- Principal
Cased@lpsma.net
follow on twitter @statsman59



Core Values designed by sophomore Emily Moughan

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on January 11, 2018.

We have scheduled an early release that day in order to accommodate options for parents/guardians to make appointments with teachers.

Parents will be able to choose time slots between 11:30 AM-1:50 PM or 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. If you plan to attend and would like to see a specific teacher(s), please click on the link below and fill out the google form. Click [HERE](#) for the form.

You will be prompted to select the names of the teacher(s) you wish to see. Please make sure to hit SUBMIT once completed. Your times and schedule will be sent home with your child the week of the conferences. If you have any questions please email Mr. Case - Cased@lpsma.net. Please respond by Monday January 8th, at 2:00 PM.

MID-TERM SCHEDULE

January 16th-January 19th

Each exam block will be 90 minutes in length. There will be a 30 minute advisory between each exam each day. Any dismissal must be with written permission the day prior to each exam.

7:15 - 7:20 Homeroom
7:23 - 8:53 **Exam**
8:53 - 9:23 Advisory
9:26 - 10:56 **Exam**
11:00 - 11:30 Lunch
11:30 - 1:45 **Exam Prep**

Tues 16	Wed 17	Thurs 18	Fri 19
1&2 periods	3&4 periods	5&6 periods	7 period

***Make-ups must be pre- approved by admin. All make-up exams must be completed by Jan 19th.**

Guidance Updates:

Course Selection 2018-2019:

The process of selecting courses for next school year will begin the week of Jan 24th. More information will be given closer to that week.

PSAT/NMSQT Testing Results

The Guidance Department would like to inform parents of all 10th and 11th grade students that the PSAT results will be distributed to each student in homeroom on, Friday, January 5, 2018. PSAT testing took place at Leicester High School on October 11, 2017. All 10th and 11th grade students should have signed up for a College Board account in order to view their scores online. For students who have not signed up for a College Board account go to <https://www.collegeboard.org/> to create an account. This account will also be used for students to register for the SAT at the end of their junior year. It is important that students **do not create** more than one account. This website will allow students to access their test results and utilize multiple tools to interpret and understand their results. The College Board provides an array of materials to support parents in preparing their student for college and career. The College Board also has many resources to aid students and families on how to improve their scores. If any student or parent has any questions or concerns, they should contact their student's guidance counselor.

High School Curriculum Corner:

What is the connection between curriculum, instruction, and assessment? What is assessment's place in this trio? In reality, curriculum includes instruction and assessment. If you look up the word curriculum you will get some narrow definitions which talk about the courses or subjects taught at a school, but curriculum

without instruction and assessment only tells us *what* students will learn. Instruction brings curriculum to life and assessment informs instructional decisions.

The role of assessment is more important than just reporting on a student's learning. What educators do with assessment results is vital. Assessment results give teachers information to help them plan. When results are good, we celebrate. Nothing feels better for an educator than to see student success. But when those results aren't so good, we look harder so we can adapt instruction, adjust course, and provide additional supports so all students continue to grow and progress. With the older students at the high school level assessment results also help students reflect on their learning, and we encourage students to become active partners in their learning. At Leicester High School teachers are connecting assessments to curriculum standards to ensure that instruction matches assessments and both are standards-based.

Message from Food Service:

It's never too late to apply for our Free & Reduced Breakfast & Lunch Program. We accept applications at anytime during the school year. The application can be sent home with your student or can be found on the Food Service [webpage](#). Income guidelines and FAQ can be found on our [webpage](#) as well.

If your family has already been approved for the Free & Reduced Breakfast & Lunch program, we invite your student to take advantage of Free or Reduced (\$.30) price breakfast. We have many families who have been approved and are not participating in the breakfast program (the most important meal of the day!) Breakfast is available at all schools, we have many grab and go options, as well as, fresh fruit which can be saved for a snack later. Any questions please email or call Mrs. Cascione at cascionel@lpsma.net or 508-892-7030 x1190

Message from School Nurse:

Guidelines For Keeping Sick Children Home From School

Each day many parents are faced with a decision: should they keep their sick children at home or send them off to school? Often the way a child looks and acts can make the decision an obvious one. The following guidelines should be considered when making the decision:

Fever. The child should remain at home with a fever greater than 100°. The child can return to school after he/she has been fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine such as Tylenol or Motrin).

Diarrhea/Vomiting. A child with diarrhea and /or vomiting should stay at home and return to school only after being symptom-free for 24 hours, unless otherwise specified by the school nurse or licensed health care provider.

Conjunctivitis. Following a diagnosis of conjunctivitis, the child may return to school 24 hours after the first dose of prescribed medication.

Rashes. Common infectious diseases with rashes are most contagious in the early stages. A child with a suspicious rash should return to school only after a healthcare provider has made a diagnosis and authorized the child's return to school.

Colds. Consider keeping your child at home if he/she is experiencing discomfort from cold symptoms, such as nasal congestion and cough. A continuous green discharge from the nose may be a sign of infection. Consider having the child seen by your healthcare provider.

A sick child cannot learn effectively and is unable to participate in classes in a meaningful way. Keeping a sick child home prevents the spread of illness in the school community and allows the child opportunity to rest and recover.

NURSE SUBSTITUTES NEEDED:

Are you a parent or community member who has time to work on call in our schools and is an RN or LPN? Leicester Public Schools needs you to become a substitute nurse. Choose your days to work. Training provided. It's a great way to give back to your community. Please go online to apply. [Nurse Application](#)

Message from Mr. Case:

Graduating High School On - time

As we approach the mid-year point in the school year, the importance of passing high school classes and the impact on the student of not graduating on-time is explored in the attached article. The article provides state by state data on graduation rates and expected long term employability and earning power.

<http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-the2016kidscountdatabook-2016.pdf#page=27>

Library Corner:

The book club will be reading Jeanette Walls' The Glass Castle during the month of January. We will discuss the book on February 5th during tutorial in the library. All are welcome.

Follow us on Twitter LHS Library @ LHS_LIB

National Honor Society News:

National Honor Society will be collecting jeans for our Sole Hope charity. Please donate any old pairs of jeans to the library (stretch jeans or jeans with holes in them will not be accepted). At the end of the month, NHS will cut pairs of shoes from the jeans and ship them to Africa. See [flyer](#) or contact NHS advisor/Librarian Mrs. Grimshaw for more details.

SENIOR CLASS:

It's already that time of year! Seniors will be ordering their caps and gowns on Tuesday, January 23, 2018. The cost of the cap, gown and tassel is \$19.00. Checks can be made payable directly to Balfour. Students will need to complete an order form on that day. Please contact Mrs. Warnken or Mrs. Mars with any questions.

The Winter Ball is scheduled for Friday, January 26, 2018 from 7:00pm-10:00pm in the Dining Commons. Cost is \$6.00 and tickets will be sold at the door. If a current LHS student is bringing a non-LHS student to the dance, a guest permission form must be completed and turned into Mrs. Warnken or Mrs. Mars by Wednesday, January 24th at 2pm. Click [HERE](#) for to print a form.

2017 Year In Review:

Leicester High School is an accredited institution committed to preparing our students for college, adulthood, and life.

There were 465 students enrolled at LHS in 2017. The Class of 2017 graduated 102 students of which 85% went on to higher education, 7% to Armed Services and 8% to the workforce.

As we value the success of each and every student, we continue to develop strategies to reduce an already low (1.6 %) dropout rate. (This does not reflect students who passed the HiSET, diploma equivalency exam. The final rate has not been adjusted, as of yet. We predict we will go from 1.6% to 1.2%.) Thirty-one (31) students were recognized, in 2017, as John and Abigail Adams Scholars. These students will receive four (4) years of free tuition from a Massachusetts college or university.

Attached is the 2017 Report Card.

<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/reportcard/rc.aspx?linkid=37&orgcode=01510505&fycode=2017&orgtypecode=6&>

LHS is a Level 2 Accountability Status for MCAS reporting. The high school's MCAS Composite Performance Index (CPI) level is above the state average in ELA, math, and science. On the English exam LHS exceeded the state average at 97.1, on the mathematics exam the students scored 88.6, and and 91.1 in science out of 100.

As our overall student growth in mathematics is below the state target, we are looking at the ways to improve the mathematics curriculum, instruction and assessments.

Leicester High School provides numerous opportunities for students to foster college and career readiness. In 2017, we administered 189 AP exams to LHS students, 96 of these AP exams were qualifying scores.

The community service graduation requirement, requiring 40 hours of service, contributes to the development of character as well as strengthening a sense of community. Additionally, extra-curricular activities, field trips, and social events add to students' experiences and learnings during their four years at Leicester High School. Our extra-curricular activities include: A Capella Group, The Arrow (the school newspaper), Book Club, Gender Sexuality Alliance, Environmental Club, History Club, Math Team, Art Club, Foreign Travel Club, Ski Club, International Club, Student Council, National Honor Society, Drama Club, Tri-M Music Society, Teens Act, Arabic group and the Yearbook group.

LHS also has:

- The Senior Internship Program
- Dual Enrollment Programs
- Virtual High School Online Programming
- The Renaissance Program, Our Alternative Education Program

During the 2016-17 athletic year, Leicester High School saw over 380 participants on interscholastic teams. In the fall alone over 40% of the high school population were active members on high school teams. The winter and spring seasons saw similar participation numbers, with all sports other than the track and girls soccer programs comprised entirely of high school students.

In the spring of 2017 the girls' tennis team qualified for districts and performed well against division powerhouse Hopedale. The boys tennis team qualified for the district tournament for the second year in a row, and this time were the first seed. They to were eventually defeated by Hopedale High School..

The winter season saw both boys' and girls' basketball teams play a difficult schedule, and the boys team qualified for the tournament and was invited to the prestigious Clark Tournament. The boys won their first tournament contest by defeating Oakmont High School, but lost in the second round. A highlight of the season was Senior Matthew Morrow scoring his 1,000th point while playing rival David Prouty High School.

In the fall, the golf team and boys' and girls' soccer teams qualified for the Division IV and Division III District Tournaments respectively. The boys and girls soccer teams were both defeated in the quarter-finals, but boasted league all-stars, two Central Massachusetts all-stars, and one State all-star. The varsity football team was very successful, tallying a final record of 8-3, and competing in the State playoff bracket. While losing in Sectional Final, the football team did win their 5th consecutive battle of Breezy Bend, defeating David Prouty on Thanksgiving by the score of 43-0. The cheering team was named Shepherd Hill Invitational Champions and District Champions for the second consecutive year. Also, they competed at the State Cheerleading Championship and placed 9th in Division 3.

While many in Leicester continue to call our facility "the new high school," the facility is now 23 years old and attention to the facility's maintenance and infrastructure is important to protect the town's asset. ADA improvements have been made to the High School restrooms and as well as restructuring the front entrance walkway. The schools crosswalks were painted green to match the rest of the town. In addition to this we have added reserved parking spots for visitors . During FY 17 the curtains in the Fine Arts Center were replaced.

The 1:1 technology program at LHS has expanded to allow students to take their devices home over the summertime. Because of the care students took with their Chromebooks last year, we were able to reduce the cost of the insurance from \$50 to \$40 per year. We replaced the computers in the remaining computer lab with modern devices that support the STEM and Robotics programs. We added electronics and ductwork to air condition the computer lab. We replaced 70% of the first generation wireless access points in the building and updated the audio and video components in the media center.

Based on current needs and future projections, we working on creating a new Living and Learning Center (LLC) program to address the specific needs of some of our special education students.

Budget decisions are made upon the instructional core which is student/teacher/content. Massachusetts provides schools with a set of standards for instruction. The implementation of these standards is our primary focus to ensure explicit delivery of curricula content. During the 2018 school year, staff will continue to implement the all Massachusetts frameworks which require ongoing professional development and collaborative opportunities. Teachers will use effective methods and instructional strategies based on scientifically-based research that strengthens the core academic programs, rigor and time on learning.

A review of student achievement data, projected population and current staffing levels has been completed. This review leads the teaching community towards a path of designing highly informative prescribed tasks which mirror individual student needs. Lessons are created with the outcome in mind.

Providing a safe, clean facility in which teachers and students interact is a priority. The facilities portion of the budget is developed with input from the district facilities manager and custodial staff. Security expenditures are researched to maintain industry standards. Capital needs for 2018 and beyond are documented and shared with district level administrators.