

# **Update - Coronavirus - Friday 4-24-2020**

## **Administrative Support Staff Appreciation Week**

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### **Dr. Bertolini's Daily Message**

To the Leonia School District Community,

Yesterday, I used my daily update to give a shout out to the Administrative Support Staff. Something happened in my message that underscored the importance of the support staff. At times, when everyone was in the central office, my Administrative Assistant Diane Paino would proofread a document I was going to send out. Two sets of eyes are better than the writer's two eyes. The proof reader can catch a mistake that the writer can overlook. Well, since Ms. Paino is working remotely, she did not proof yesterday's daily message. When listing all of the support staff I made a glaring mistake. In my haste to get the update out in a timely manner, I listed one name twice and excluded one. My apologies to Maggie for this omission. Yesterday, the message read like this:

#### **BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

Amy Kopp

Patricia Brennan

Amy Kopp

It should have read like this:

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

Amy Kopp

Patricia Brennan

**Maggie Letsche**

Once again, my apologies to Maggie who does a wonderful job in our business office.

In the message yesterday, I said the following:

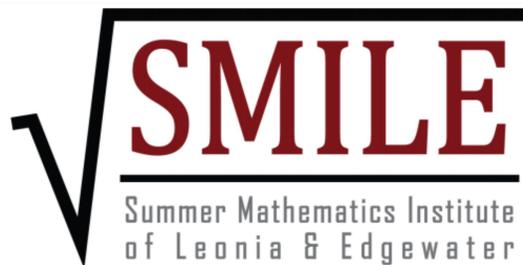
Often, the administrative support personnel go out of their way to help someone. If you are a student, co-worker, or parent and this has been your experience, take a moment today and send them an email and let them know you appreciate their efforts! Each staff member is the

[firstname.lastname@leoniaschools.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@leoniaschools.org)

As the weekend approaches, you can still send that note of support and appreciation!

Stay Safe! Be Healthy! Stay Home!

Dr. Bertolini



SMILE Summer 2020 enrollment continues to remain open. The goal is to run SMILE at Leonia High School, We will continue to monitor the situation with the pandemic. We are committed to the health and safety of staff and students. If the state requires the building to remain closed, courses will move into a virtual learning environment. Given the shift from physical classrooms to distance learning, students looking for reinforcement of concepts from this year can sign up for Fundamentals (middle school students) or Credit Recovery (high school students). Students looking to advance should sign up soon as seats are filling up. [LINK](#)

## Leonia High School College Decision Flag Ceremony



Congratulations to **Morgan Suh** on her commitment to **Cornell University**



Congratulations to **Lucas Waterson** on his commitment to **Columbia University**

## **ACS Update - Dr. Martinez**

Ms. Almeida, Ms. Jufer, and Mr. Babos created another uplifting Friday CampFire with the ACS community today. All teachers shared with their classes.

As we wrap up another week of distance learning, fourth grade students continue to be engaged and informed. The students in all fourth grade classes are writing and illustrating graphic novels. Some classes have even begun Virtual Writing Celebrations in order to share their stories with their classmates! Read alouds such as Shiloh, Bridge to Terabithia and El Deafo are being shared and discussed through response questions. Mrs. Kim has begun small group Zoom meetings on Wednesdays and Thursdays for Science Lab in order to answer questions and connect with the children. All fourth grade teachers are so proud of the work being done by their students and want to take a minute to say...BRAVO!

In science, fifth grade students are finishing up their Nutrition unit by creating meals for a family that includes the appropriate amounts of each food group and calories within a budget.

5th grade students have been working on converting customary units of measurement. Today they began to convert metric units of length.

Fifth graders have been researching a wide array of high interest topics and completing research reports. As they finish their reports in the coming days they will be celebrating their writing by teaching their peers about their topics. Additionally, they have been concluding their social studies chapter on the Civil War and will soon begin to look at the changes that took place across the country during The Industrial Revolution.

**This letter was e-blasted to the ACS parents earlier today:**

Dear ACS Families,

Please review the following information on bottomline expectations for live lessons during long distance learning, per grade level.

The ACS daily schedule is as follows. Teachers will be the primary contact about the schedule and the lessons that are provided.

8:00-11:00 Daily lessons and videos are posted

11:00-12:00 Lunch

12:00-1:00 Lessons and videos are posted

1:00-1:30 Answer Parent Emails ( please email teachers with specific questions and concerns about students)

The following is the minimum number of Zoom or Google Meet live streaming whole class sessions to be expected per week, per grade level.

You will notice that the older students have a plan that allows them to be more independent in their work and the younger students require more live streaming and teacher intervention. All plans are assessment driven, as they were in the actual classroom in the building. For instruction to be effective teachers have to respond to the needs of the students and help them to become independent. Any one size fits all plan or schedule is not an effective form of instruction.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten will have a daily whole class zoom session. Teachers will conduct small group Google and Zoom sessions as needed. Pre recorded videos will be available on the morning schedule to introduce new topics.

First grade will have a minimum of 3 whole class Zoom sessions per week. Teachers will conduct small group Google and Zoom sessions as needed. Live videos will be available to introduce new topics as needed.

Second grade is meeting their students two times a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, using either Zoom or Google Meet. Pre recorded videos will be available on the morning schedule to introduce new topics. Teachers will conduct small group Google and Zoom sessions as needed.

Third grade will have a minimum of 2 days a week on Google Meet and Zoom. Depending on the needs of the students and the units of study teachers will either meet with small groups (research clubs) or whole groups (math lessons and/or reviews). Pre recorded videos will be available on the morning schedule to introduce new topics.

Fourth and Fifth grades will have a minimum of one Zoom meeting once a week. Depending on the needs of the students and the units of study teachers will either meet with small groups (research clubs) or whole groups (math lessons and/or reviews). Pre recorded video links will be available on the morning schedule to introduce new topics.

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The expectations for students when they are participating on Zoom or Google Meets is as follows:

--- Active participation as directed by the teacher

-- Chats and comments are for the academic content covered only, not for social chatting.

--- Demonstrate positive On TRACK behavior . Demonstrate Tolerance, Respect, Attitude, Character, and Respect.

---If these behaviors are not followed the principal and parents will be notified.

Please email me with any further questions or comments at [maria.martinez@leoniaschools.org](mailto:maria.martinez@leoniaschools.org).

Thank you,

Maria Barcelo-Martinez

## **LMS Update - Mr. Saco**

Things we're working on at LMS:

- World Language preference form - 6th graders will indicate their preference for their 7th and 8th grade World Language course. Students may indicate Spanish or French. Remember that this is an indication of preference only. While we will use the information for scheduling, and we do our best to accommodate, we cannot guarantee that each student will be scheduled for the course they've indicated. 6th graders will complete this form next week in their Spanish class.
- NJHS Invitations - The first Guiding Principle of NJHS is Scholarship. 7th and 8th graders who meet the academic criteria set forth by NJHS guidelines (3.8 GPA calculated for their

previous six marking periods) will be receiving information by email about this year's application process.

- 2020 LMS Yearbook purchase form - We will be sending information to 8th grade parents about how to order this year's LMS Yearbook. The information will include a Google form that will need to be completed in order to purchase the yearbook. 8th Grade parents/guardians...be on the lookout next week for this information.

### **LMS Birthday Shoutouts!!!**

★ HAPPY ★  
BIRTHDAY!

**Sevyn Lord -Happy 13th Birthday!**

#### **Today's LMS Affirmations:**

- ◆ I AM AN ORIGINAL.
- ◆ WITH EVERY BREATH, I FEEL STRONGER.
- ◆ WONDERFUL THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME.

**Quote of the Day:** *"What is a soul? It's like electricity - we don't really know what it is, but it's a force that can light a room."* - Ray Charles

## **LHS Update - Mr. Kalender**

Reminders:

- Student Senate Nominations

Students please consider nominating yourself to have your name on the 2020-2021 Student Senate ballot.

Please use the link to access the Google Nomination Form.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ITxJI7jE6Ncwt2UyvB\\_mqyhVW2\\_jbZtJCYTp2CK28FE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ITxJI7jE6Ncwt2UyvB_mqyhVW2_jbZtJCYTp2CK28FE/edit?usp=sharing)

- Wellness Wednesday hosted by the LHS Student Service Department will begin this Wednesday, April 29th at 12:00pm. Our first class is Zumba with Ms. DeLorenzo. Use the link below to join:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zWSDD-pMImUMQMdEfCLjzndH\\_SpwzmEv5bBiO4YJgJA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zWSDD-pMImUMQMdEfCLjzndH_SpwzmEv5bBiO4YJgJA/edit?usp=sharing)

- All students must take their AP tests. Students should be accessing the various resources shared by Ms. Stein and their AP teachers that have been made available by the College Board. Students that do not take their AP tests will lose the AP level weighting for the course. Instead the course will be weighted as a college prep (CP) level course.
- SIIP/JIIP paperwork is available on the the link below:

<https://sites.google.com/a/leoniaschools.org/lhs-s-i-i-p-j-i-i-p/>

## **Special Services Update - Mr. Servis**

I want to start off today's update with a focus on our students who are educated in out of district placements. Every school we are in contract with has sent us a detailed Distance Learning Plan. We have reviewed them and the case managers have followed up with the schools. I have asked the case manager to also follow up with the parents of these students too. I want to make sure that those schools are following what is in their plans. If you have questions or concerns about those plans, or how they are being executed, please reach out to your Leonia case manager.

On another note, our distance learning plan in Leonia continues to evolve. For our ACS students who are doing a lot of work from packets (mostly preschool students) the teachers and related services providers have asked me to remind you, that if you are able to, please send them back your child's completed work. You can download a free scanning app like Genius Scan or you can take a picture of the completed work and email it back to the teacher or related services provider. This is not about giving the student a grade, but rather so we can assess progress towards goals

and objectives. We also understand if circumstances at this time do not allow you to send back the completed work, so please do not stress over it.

The NJ Department of Education has sent out a resource flyer for educators and parents with children on the autism spectrum. These resources are specifically regarding Covid-19 and distance learning. You can find the link to the flyer [here](#).

Lastly, I want to thank you all for the support you have shown the staff at Leonia over the past six weeks. We are all struggling at this time, but when we get a supportive email or post on social media, it gives us the energy to push forward. When issues do arise and you have contacted me, I hope we have been able to resolve the problem, but if not, please keep communicating with me and my team and we will make every effort to ease the burden of these times.

Thanks again and enjoy the weekend!

## **Instructional Supervisors - Department Updates**

### **English/Language Arts - Ms. Cicarelli**

Here we are at the end of another week of distance learning! Teachers in the ELA department continue to explore new ways to integrate the best practices of balanced literacy instruction while teaching from their kitchen tables and home offices. Students can follow along as their teacher reads aloud via a pre-recorded video and take notes in their traditional notebooks. Or the practices are reversed with the teacher interacting via Zoom and the students using a digital notebook. There is a different combination of tools and strategies that works best for each class--and even that combination may change as new technologies and programs are revealed.

Many grades continue their work on inquiry and research but narrative writing has also begun! The sixth grade Writer's Workshop is drafting a Personal Narrative Essay at the same time students in Introduction to Seminar are working on their own Memoirs. The idea of personal and reflective writing is one students revisit each year--and is nearly perfected by the time they write their college essays as seniors.

Even when the libraries are closed, the ELA department finds ways to continue literature circles. Classes are still holding Book Clubs and having discussions through shared documents or in the stream on Google Classroom; [there are still ways to borrow books from the library!](#)

## **Mathematics - Mr. Lee**

Mathematics department at both the middle and high school continue to utilize Google Classroom and Meet/Zoom to maintain communication with their students. Technology at LMS has been using Google Meet to provide live lessons. Teachers continue to discuss and explore different resources to increase lesson efficiency.

To highlight this week, we have several middle school teachers using Jamboard in combination with Google Meet to better instruction. Study Island has been added to classes as a resource to help their students. We also have teachers preparing project based learning occurring in classrooms to provide an alternative way of learning. Mrs. Corino's class is utilizing the manipulation of logos to describe transformations.

## **Science Update - Ms. O'Hagan**

There are interesting projects and activities taking place in the science classes! Students in AP Biology have been learning about signal transduction pathways and gene expression by working on a fruit ripening project. CP Biology students are working on a genetic disorder project. Anatomy and Physiology students are studying a case called Immunological Malfunction, which explores different classes of antibodies and their specific functions. Students in Science 7 are creating wave machines using household items. Students in Science 8 are analyzing a case study to learn about chain reactions in ecosystems when a factor is limited or missing.

The high school science department welcomes Ms. Gina Chesmore, who will be teaching the LAS Leadership course, Honors Biology, and CP Biology classes. Ms. Chesmore comes to us from Massachusetts. She has her M.Ed. in Secondary Education in Biology, and a B.S. in Animal Science, both from UMass Amherst.

## **World Language - Ms. Despaigne**

The World Language Department has risen to the challenge again of teaching language with the use of technology. The department has really gone above and beyond to communicate with parents and the community to help students succeed in language acquisition.

At ACS, Mrs. Williams's second and third graders listened to a read aloud about feelings/emotions. Then they picked one emotion they were currently feeling and explained why they felt that way using as much of the target language as possible. This assignment allowed the teacher to obtain vocabulary acquisition, but more importantly gain insight into her students' feelings during this time. The teacher was then able to comment with words of encouragement or validation of all their feelings. At LMS, Mrs. Hernandez's students have been creating sayings in Spanish about motivation using Spanish verbs and adjectives to lift their spirits during this difficult time. Using the target language for students to express their feelings about the pandemic is very powerful. It sends a powerful message that all teachers care about all students, all the time. Our teacher and student connections are alive and well. Great job Spanish students!

Also at LMS, Mrs. Garcia's students are utilizing edpuzzle for assigning listening activities to students, and it has been working quite well. One advantage of the teachers using technology in the classroom is the opportunity to engage students with listening skills. While learning an acquired language, listening skills is one of the first skills to develop. This receptive skill is vital as students are able to build upon their listening skills, and later transfer the learned material to productive skills: speaking and writing. At LHS AP Spanish Teacher Sra. Cárdenas, has been resourceful in using the AP TEMAS textbook resources in her Google classroom, as well as Google hangout to practice speaking and listening skills for the AP exam.

French students in Google classrooms have been quite busy as well. French II students were given a map and needed to provide spoken directions to Ms. Azzolino through Google Hangout. Dr. Politano at LHS launched a virtual pen pal exchange with students at Teilhard de Chardin School in Saint Maur de Fossè, suburb of Paris. Her juniors are match students who are describing their daily lives both before and after the quarantine. They are also using their virtual letters to describe their hopes and dreams after the quarantine and beyond. This was a great activity for students to realize that they are not alone, during this unprecedented time and that they are taking part in a shared global experience.

## **Social Studies Update - Mr. Cullen**

Our focus this week is on the middle school where a number of strategies are being implemented to keep the youngsters engaged and on a path to success.

The teachers have been reaching out to their students in order to maintain a face-to-face relationship. Platforms range from Zoom to Google Meet. Lessons are introduced and there are follow up assignments for each. Mr. Gugick follows his 'New York Mets introduction' with

pre-recorded videos for the students. He then uses options such as real-time intervention and Edpuzzle to help the children complete their projects.

Our seventh graders are working on American history and the lead up to the Civil War. In addition to meetings on Zoom, they are also using screencastify and Google classroom. Mrs. Albanese-Reiner's classes recently completed a 'virtual' mock trial on the Supreme Court decision in *Dred Scott v. Sanford*. This week, she is introducing videos from the Khan Academy.

Mr. Kassan has made the transition with ease. His project-based format lends itself to the present circumstances. Along with Mr. Muench, the eight grade students are completing the first component of our new course in World History. They will transition into the second half in September.

Our concern is for those students who are feeling isolated and disengaged. To that end, selected teachers have turned to small group meetings. These allow youngsters to meet with the teacher one-to-one or with their close friends. It helps reduce the peer pressure and stimulates interactive discussion.

Regardless, students and teachers are struggling with this most unusual situation. One noted that her father has adapted by spending time alone, photographing. As she noted, "As a child of WWII, he understands how to cope better than most." Perhaps there is a lesson in that statement for us all.

## **Physical Education/Health Update - Mr. Perrotta**

Distant learning for Physical Education and Health classes continues to go extremely well. The Physical Education teachers are utilizing multiple platforms when communicating with their students. These platforms include Google classroom, teacher websites, teacher-made videos, YouTube videos and packets. The teachers are also using Zoom and Google Hangout/Meet so they could connect with the students on a more personal level. The teachers are doing a great job of mixing up the lessons between written assignments and physical activities. The workout regimens and activities are constantly updated and remain fresh. The activities are both fun and challenging, allowing the students to be invigorated while exercising in the safety of their own homes. Attendance and response by the students is excellent and the motivation level remains high. Teachers at ACS included fun activities this week to celebrate Earth Day. The thoughtful emails sent to the Physical Education teachers by the parents and students are greatly appreciated. From the Physical Education family to yours, please continue to be safe, stay fit and be well.

Click on the link below to watch a video created by ACS Physical Education teacher Mr. Morales with special guest King (his dog). How many jumping jacks can you do in a minute?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88H52zTBlGM&feature=emb\\_err\\_watch\\_on\\_yt](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88H52zTBlGM&feature=emb_err_watch_on_yt)

## Parent Notes

Parent # 1 “Thank you for all of your hard work on behalf of the LHS students. This all came upon us so suddenly, and you have made the transition to online learning seamlessly. Also, you and the LHS faculty have been very supportive and encouraging with the kids.”

Parent # 2 “Also, I just want to take a minute to thank you and your faculty for the amazing job you all are doing. These are uncharted waters, and everyone is navigating them with such a reassuring and patient face for the kids. I have never felt more fortunate to be a part of this district.”

Parent # 3 The following is an excerpt from an email sent to LMS School Counselor Mrs. Feldman from a 7th grade parent: “Thank you so much for checking in on (student)!! We are all healthy , and doing ok with our new normal life. I have to say (student) is handling it better than I anticipated she would! Her routine is working for her and I’ve been so impressed how the teachers are continuing to provide effective instruction , meaningful work and clear communication!! Please send on my appreciation.”

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**\*\*\*\*\*Previous information from earlier updates can be found on the district’s website front page. Click on COVID-19 and then choose a date to see that day’s daily update.**