

Update - Coronavirus - Friday 4-17-2020

Today's Update includes:

- Dr. Bertolini's Daily Message - page 1
- Schools Closed - page 2
- ACS Update - Dr. Martinez/Mr. Breyer - page 2
- LMS Update - Mr. Saco - pages 2-3
- LHS Update - Mr. Kalender - pages 3-4
- Special Services Department - Mr. Servis - page 4
- Athletic Department - Mr. Perrotta - page 5
- Update - Instructional Supervisors pages 5-8
 - Social Studies - Mr. Cullen - pages 5-6
 - English/Language Arts - Ms. Cicarelli - page 6
 - Science - Ms. O'Hagan - pages 6-7
 - World Languages - Ms. Despaigne - pages 7-8
 - Math - Mr. Lee - page 8
- **Our Heroes of the Coronavirus Crisis** - page 9
- Previous Information - page 10

Dr. Bertolini's Daily Message

To the Leonia School District Community,

Today in the update, in addition to the daily posts, you will read the weekly reports from our instructional supervisors. The information provides highlights the ongoing engaging lessons developed by our faculty and staff. Distance learning has been a challenge for everyone, including our teachers and support staff. We continue to hear accolades from our parents here in Leonia on behalf of our teachers. So as Week # 4 of distance learning comes to a close, I want to extend my thanks to each teacher, nurse, counselor, CST, support staff, classroom aides, supervisor and administrator. All of us have different challenges while we are quarantined at home - financial, medical, emotional, academic - to name a few. And our teachers have met this challenge head on with enthusiasm, care, and professionalism .

Have a relaxing weekend and be ready to continue distance learning on Monday.

Stay Safe! Be Healthy! Stay Home!

Dr. Bertolini

Schools Closed To At Least May 15th

All New Jersey schools will be closed to at least May 15th. Prior to May 15th, Governor Murphy will base his decision if the May 15th date will be extended on the status of the virus.

Although we all want to return to school, it should only occur when it is safe to return. Obviously, this new date - a month away - raises new questions. Graduation ceremonies? Senior Week? 8th Grade Experience? Exams? Clap outs? Enrichment? SMILE? Middle and High School Athletics?

We will be making decisions on many of these items in the near future. The administrative team, with input from the different factions of our school community, will discuss and I will provide information in the daily updates as we go along. Please bear with us as we through these uncertain and challenging times. Please email me with any comments or questions to Edward.Bertolini@leoniaschools.org

ACS Update - Dr. Martinez

The third grade students are working on researching animals and drafting nonfiction books. They are practicing their notetaking skills and are being really creative by using nonfiction text features in their writing. They have spent the last few weeks learning all about how addition and subtraction are related, how to estimate, and WHY you should estimate. In Social Studies, they are creating google slide presentations to show their cultural heritage. They continue to read independent books everyday, in addition to their animal research. Third grade teachers check in with students via zoom and google meets daily to help students, answer questions, and just say Hi! Students also have access to instructional videos to help teach daily lessons.

LMS Update - Mr. Saco

Today Ms. King and I met with our NJHS advisors Mrs. Seligman and Mr. Kassan. Our discussion was focused on ways in which we can carry out our annual NJHS application process during this period of Distance Learning. As we do every year, only students who meet academic criteria (GPA of 3.8 and above in the previous 6 marking periods) will be automatically invited to enter into the application process by email from LMS. This beginning point to the process will remain in place this year. From there we will be utilizing Google Forms to manage student application submission and teacher feedback, as well as Google Meetings with LMS teachers to review applications. Lastly, we are looking into options for hosting a virtual induction ceremony should that become necessary. More information to come. No action is needed on the part of parents.

Things LMS faculty and administration is currently working on (in no particular order):

- Spring STAR Assessment window (current 6th and 7th graders only)
- Next Year Scheduling (all grades)
- Next year scheduling Portfolio applications - Modifications to process for execution during Distance Learning (current 6th and 7th graders only)
- Yearbook purchase process (8th grade only)
- Field Trip Refunds - Processing 7th grade Liberty Science Center and Music in the Parks - More information to follow. Thank you for your patience.

LMS Birthday Shoutouts!!!



★ **Sebastian Soh - 7th Grade - Happy 13th Birthday!!!**

Today's LMS Affirmations:

- ❖ **IF I FALL, I WILL GET BACK UP AGAIN.**
- ❖ **I CAN DO ANYTHING.**
- ❖ **TODAY IS GOING TO BE AN AWESOME DAY.**

Quote of the Day: *“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” -Margaret Mead, American Cultural Anthropologist*

LHS Update - Mr. Kalender

In this morning's student announcements I informed the students that yesterday Governor Murphy announced his decision to have schools remain closed until at least May 15th. This means that at this time, all scheduled events through May 15th will be cancelled. At this time we are still hopeful for a possible return in May. In the meantime, I will begin looking into alternatives for end of the year events. These events include induction ceremonies, prom, sports awards, and graduation, to name a few. Once we have made decisions about these events we will inform the community.

Yesterday was the second Call In Show hosted by Mr. Sernatinger. 20 teachers joined the call via Zoom. Mr. Sernatinger “interviewed” two different teachers. The teachers shared stories from the early years of their careers and offered insight into the current situation we are all managing as educators. They provided specific examples of how they are conducting their classes and what has been successful during Distance Learning. This was a great opportunity for staff members to see each other and share some ideas and laughs as a group.

Reminders:

- Monday is the deadline for Senior Scholarship applications. Forms can be found on the LHS Website under Students, Parents, Community.
- Students that were invited to apply for the National Honor Society should have received an email from Ms. Bozik with a Google Classroom code. These students must join the classroom and submit the application.

Special Services Update - Mr. Servis

Week four of distance learning is coming to a close. Many annual reviews have already been conducted and we are starting to plan for next year’s classes. I have heard some concerns from parents in regards to how distance learning will affect their child’s promotion to the next grade. Everyone in the district is sensitive to the myriad of issues parents and students are having during this time, and there has been no talk about holding kids back and not promoting them. At the middle school and high school, we will take into account the student’s progress before distance learning took effect. If students were passing before, but struggling now, every effort will be made to ensure students receive credit. For some students who were failing before distance learning started, summer school may be considered. We will make all those determinations individually with input from parents, teachers, administrators, and the child study team. We all just want our students to try their best given the circumstances.

Please call me if you would like to discuss this further as it pertains to your child. 201-815-4160.

On another equally important note, CarePlus of New Jersey has put together a flyer with important mental health resources, including emergency numbers, that are still in effect during this crisis. You can find the flyer [here](#).

Thank you and enjoy the weekend!

Athletics Update - Mr. Perrotta

With the Governor's announcement that schools will be closed through May 15th, all athletic events scheduled through May 22nd have been postponed/canceled. So what does this mean for the status of Spring Athletics moving forward?

The NJSIAA has already announced that the spring season will not go past June 30th and the 6 day practice requirement will not be waived for any athletic program other than golf. So the best case scenario at this point will be as follows if school resumes on May 18th:

- Teams will practice the week of 5/18 (6 Required)
- Games/Matches/Meets will start to be scheduled during the week of 5/25 and run through 6/30

Please keep in mind that this is the best case scenario if schools reopen on 5/18. I will continue to provide updates as I receive information. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns (steven.perrotta@leoniaschools.org). Thanks, be safe and be well.

Social Studies - Mr. Cullen

The Social Studies teachers continue to engage their students in a variety of ways. In addition to traditional lessons, many have added reflection essays and video chats. Such face-to-face experiences are designed to help youngsters and teachers better adjust to this historic situation.

The freshmen Modern World History students continue to pilot the new curriculum. They recently began their unit on African nationalism, exploring the 'winds of change' which swept across the continent in the post-colonial era, 1960-1980.

Student contests have suffered from the lock-down. LHS junior Sadie Ballot was scheduled to represent the northern counties in this year's American Legion Oratorical Contest but the competition was cancelled.

Our Advanced Placement students continue to prepare for this year's revised examination. Five separate courses will be assessed using a revised 45-minute written exercise and modified rubrics. To help prepare, teachers are using a variety of materials from College Board, Glider Lehrman and selected publishers. Many have also been attending periodic webinars and professional chat rooms to stay current with the latest changes.

There is no question that this situation is historic. We hope that the lessons learned in these Social Studies classes are helping each to adjust and adapt to this new normal.

English/Language Arts - Ms. Cicarelli

The English/Language Arts Department continues to use technology to reach our students in new and innovative ways.

The Eighth Grade classes are reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*--virtually! With 200 paperbacks still at LMS, the eighth-grade team has shared both a digital copy and an audiobook with students. Through online annotation tools like KAMI, students will be able to do what was never allowed before--write on their copy of the text!

Many of our high school students are currently working on their research papers. Fortunately, [EBSCO is offering free access to NJ Libraries](#), allowing students to find the resources they need in a variety of databases.

Our Advanced Placement students are gearing up for online assessments. Both Lang and Lit students will attempt Question 2 in a 45-minute exam. Students are preparing by working not only with their own teachers but, through [AP Online Classes and Review Sessions on YouTube](#), with other teachers as well. Technology support for the test day is available through both the district and College Board.

Our Reader & Writer Workshop model continues to thrive as LMS teachers work with students to create virtual notebooks. Class discussions continue on Google Meets and through Classroom streams. Every week teachers innovate as they build their online toolkits!

Science - Ms. O'Hagan

Students in the high school Anatomy and Physiology classes are working on a virtual immunology lab. They are "centrifuging" samples of patient blood, creating titers and then using ELISA to test the samples for the presence of antibodies to diagnose disease. The lab is an overview of what they have been covering in the immune system and gives students the ability to practice experimental design and data interpretation. Students in Environmental Science have had live discussions, web quests, and case studies as they learn about air pollution.

Students in AP classes are studying YouTube review videos released by The College Board as they prepare for the new format for this year's exams. Students in AP Chemistry are writing summaries and working on published exams as they prepare.

Students in Science 8 are learning about the water cycle with a "who done it" case study, in which they explore maps and analyze data to propose a solution to an environmental problem.

World Languages - ESL - Ms. Despaigne

We returned from Spring Break ready to hit the ground running with new ways to teach language through technology. English Language Learners at ACS are using Khan Academy to practice grammar in context. Also at ACS, Spanish classes are using teacher recorded videos, interactive games as resources, and various projects to learn basic fundamentals of Spanish.

At the middle school level students are learning through competitive quizzes, and Kahoot games. They are also completing Latina Women's Research projects, with video presentations in the target language.

Students taking French at LHS are getting ready to complete Le Concours exam remotely from home, which is also known as the National French Exam. We wish them all good luck! AP Spanish & AP French students are in the process of preparing for the AP Exams. They will be administered from home, and we wish them luck with that exam as well. On behalf of the department we would like to congratulate Dr. Massey and his students several who placed in the National Latin Exam. We would also like to congratulate Mrs. Chen and Dr. Massey for appearing as guests on LHS Call-in show. Mrs. Chen described how she has been using video conferencing as an academic tool in other facets of her previous career and has been very successful in using video conferencing in her Chinese classes, especially using the screen share feature to teach the Chinese characters.

Our ELL students at LMS and LHS have been using NEWSOLA for nonfiction leveled reading activities and projects. Our newest addition to our department Ms. Jesenia Ramos has been creating many different creative activities for the students in her Spanish I classes by teaching pop cultural aspects of Hispanic Heritage such as a Selena Webquest, and virtual class trips all while teaching specific skills in the target language. Many Kudos to her creativity.

AP FRENCH EXAM - THURSDAY MAY 21 12:00 PM

AP SPANISH EXAM - FRIDAY MAY 22 4:00 PM

Mathematics - Mr. Lee

I hope everyone had a relaxing Spring Break. As we have resumed classes, several mathematics teachers have integrated new technology to enhance the teaching of our students.

Teachers have been using an assortment of new software made available to them. Jamboard has created a better way to communicate with our students on graphing. Google Meet and Zoom has allowed teachers to use the digital whiteboard and shared screen feature, and also provide feedback to students quickly. Another program is Flipgrid, where the teacher can post video responses to prompts that are given for quick assessment of student knowledge.

AP changes: Students should be aware of the changes to the exam format and test day. Please refer to the [link](#) for test days. The test will be [open notes](#) with 45 minutes to complete the exam. Students can go to Youtube to get free resources for review specific to your [course](#).

AB and BC Calculus: 5/12 2pm

AP Statistics: 5/22 2pm

AP Computer Science A: 5/15 4pm

AP Computer Science Principles: Portfolio submission only 5/26

Our Heroes of the Coronavirus Crisis

In this section, we will honor members of the Leonia School Community- both past and present - who are on the front line fighting the coronavirus. We are thrilled to recognize their efforts.



Susan Riordan
RN Englewood Hospital



The mother of Shane Riordan Class of 2014



Jackie Tomas
Nurse Practitioner - Holy Name Medical Center



Mother of two students

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.