

Auer Time @ LPMS

January, 2019

Pillar 1 - Teaching and Learning

- As the 20 week marking period comes to a close on January 24, this is a reminder that report cards are electronic and are NOT printed or sent via mail. Grades and attendance can be accessed through the Powerschool Parent Portal at anytime. A link to the portal can be accessed from our District web page at www.lew-port.com. Report cards can also be accessed by using your parent created Powerschool account. If you need assistance in setting up this account or have questions regarding access, please contact the Guidance office at bvandeusen@lew-port.com or (716) 286-7208.
- After School Assistance Program is continuing for those students that had two or more failing marks for the second Quarter (15 week mark) or who continue to struggle. As a reminder, each grade level has a designated day each week for ASAP: **Monday - Grade 8** **Wednesday - Grade 6** **Thursday - Grade 7**
- On **Tuesday, January 21 and Wednesday, January 22**, we will be administering our Winter Benchmark AIMSweb screening to ALL students at LPMS. ELA screening will be administered on Tuesday and Math will be administered on Wednesday. ALL students will be assessed during the first two periods of each day using a chromebook and headphones or earbuds. **STUDENTS SHOULD PLEASE BRING EARBUDS OR HEADPHONES WITH THEM FOR THOSE TWO DAYS.** We will run a modified schedule for remainder of those two days to account for the 45-60 minutes that that screening will take to implement. AIMSweb Plus is a web based screening that we use 3 times per year as part of our benchmark assessments to assist us in monitoring the reading and math skills of our students. The screening uses a robust set of standard-aligned measures, and has been proven to uncover learning gaps quickly, identify at-risk students, and assess individual and classroom growth.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** On **Thursday, February 6**, the High School will be hosting an 8th Grade transition night for all students and families in 8th grade who will be transitioning to the High School next year. This event will take place in the High School Auditorium from **6:00pm - 7:30pm**. The goal of this transition night is to help create a better understanding of the programs and courses that are offered at the High School along with introducing students to the many opportunities of high school student life including extra-curricular activities and athletics. The Academic Departments will have information tables set up for you to visit from 5:30 - 6:00 pm outside of the auditorium and the program will continue in the auditorium at approximately 6:00 pm. This will be the first of many opportunities your son or daughter will have to familiarize themselves with the many aspects of student life at the High School. From this meeting your counselors at the Middle School, Ms. Wright and Mrs. Stack, will begin the scheduling process for the 9th grade year.
- We are excited that our 6th grade will now be a part of the ***One District, One Book*** initiative! This initiative is designed to create a shared reading experience across an entire school community. The voting for the book to read ended on Saturday, January 11 with students casting their vote at local libraries. The choice to make is whether we want to read ***The One and Only Ivan*** by Katherine Applegate or ***Rump: The (Fairly) True Story of Rumpelstiltskin*** by Liesl Shurtliff. The book chosen by the students will be provided to every student and participants will follow a common schedule across the district. This initiative has been very successful at both the PEC and IEC and we look forward to finding out what book our 6th graders will be reading at the "reveal" on **January 22** at the Lewiston Public Library.
- Don't forget to accept invitations you receive via email to join Google Classroom! If you have a registered email address with Lewiston Porter, you should have received an automated invitation email to join Google Classroom. Please accept this invitation so your email address can be populated with your child's Google Classroom account. This will allow you to receive notifications from your student's teachers. This also will allow you to receive important information regarding One District, One Book as well.
- If you are not connected to your child's Google Classroom already, and you do not get an automated invitation, please contact the middle school guidance office at bvandeusen@lew-port.com or (716) 286-7208. We will need to obtain your current email information so you can be registered to Google Classroom. Thank you and we look

forward to working together with you using Google Classroom.

Pillar 2 - Leadership

★ Student leadership

- The 8th grade WEB Leaders will be attending a Regional WEB Conference on Tuesday, January 28. Several middle schools from Erie and Niagara County have been invited to participate in this event, which is being hosted by the Grand Island WEB Program. The eighth grade WEB Leaders will be honing their leadership and collaboration skills at the conference. Students will be boarding the bus at approximately 9:15 and returning to the middle school at approximately 1:50. Students understand that they are responsible for any work that they miss that day. Thank you for your continued support of the Middle School WEB program.
- National Junior Honor Society meeting dates have been set. Please contact Ms. Wright in the MS guidance office if you have any questions. **The National Junior Honor Society will have mandatory monthly meetings held in the library from 2:40pm-3:10pm on the following Thursdays: 2/6, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, 6/4.**
- If you haven't had a chance, check out our Morning Announcement link on our Middle School home page. This is a great example of how our students are taking a leadership role of providing our school with information to the student body about upcoming events. You will also see our students reading the "Thought for the Day" and giving a few words of wisdom.
- Students in Ms. Alexander's 7th grade science classes have been engaging in the skill of "engaging in argument from evidence" as part of the implementation of one of the science and engineering practices. Students in her classes investigated and came up with evidence on the essential question of "How is the strength of an electromagnet affected by the number of turns of wire in a coil?" Working in groups, the students needed to answer 4 essential questions based upon their evidence gathering process:
 - What patterns exist between my data and the data from the other groups?
 - How can I justify my results using science vocabulary and concepts?
 - How can I think and communicate with clarity and precision?
 - How can I engage in productive argument from evidence?
- Our music department continues to provide students with opportunities to show off their outstanding talents to family and friends with some upcoming events:
 - All-County Festival #1 will be at Niagara Wheatfield on **January 31.**
 - All-County Festival #2 will be at Wilson on **February 7-8.**
- Auditions for our MS play "Mary Poppins" will be on **Thursday, January 16 and Friday, January 17.** Sign up sheet are on window outside of the main office. Contact Mr. Marinacio if you have any questions.
- LPMS Student Council is sponsoring a **Snowball Dance on Friday, January 24 from 7pm - 9pm.** All students attending LPMS are welcome to attend with parent permission! Tickets will be on sale during lunch periods starting 1/15! Tickets are \$5.

★ Teacher leadership

- A group of 10-12 teachers and counselors recently attended a two day workshop relating to the concept of Restorative Practices using Classroom Circles. This concept is something that we are looking to implement in our Advisory period next year. This concept helps to establish a foundation in classrooms to help build a stronger sense of community and to cultivate a culture in which everyone feels like they belong. These practices help to build a sense of community in which EVERY person feels that they are seen, heard, and respected. All who attended have reported the value that this will bring to our school and classrooms.

Pillar 3 - Community and Culture

- Lewiston-Porter is pleased to announce that we will begin using the Raptor Visitor Management System to strengthen our program of building safety for students and faculty. Part of keeping students and faculty safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times, and the Raptor system will allow us to do that. The Raptor system will better allow us to screen visitors, contractors, and volunteers in our schools and provide us with a safer environment for our students and staff. Upon entering a district building, **visitors will be asked to present an ID such as a Driver's License**, which can either be scanned or manually entered into the system. If a parent or

guardian for any reason does not have a US government-issued ID, a school staff member can manually enter the person's name into the Raptor system. Lewiston-Porter Middle School is excited to be piloting this system effective **January 1st of 2020**, as part of a school safety grant, and this system is currently being used in the main office. The District anticipates bringing the other schools on campus online at the beginning of the next school year

- As part of the work on our strategic plan, we are looking for input on how to define student success. Some people prefer more traditional ways and others like less traditional measures. In addition to getting input from our employees and students, we are hoping to collect input from our families, community members, and recent alumni (graduates from the classes of 2010-2019). We hope that you will take our 3-5 minute survey anytime between now and January 31st by visiting this [link](#) on our website where you will find multiple surveys according to whatever your role is in our school community. Please encourage anyone you know to take it. Ultimately, we are collecting this information from all stakeholders including families, district employees, and students and we will share the results with you by mid-February.
- Students from 6th and 7th grades will be attending a Chinese Spring Festival Celebration on January 29 at the High School.
- Don't forget to follow us on Twitter! @LewPortMS and if you see something great with our students or staff, share it with us using #lewport!

Upcoming Dates/Events

(Subject to change. Please use other sources to confirm/verify)

January 20 - No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 24 - Student Council Snowball Dance- 7-9 PM

January 24 - End of Second Marking Period

January 24 - 6th Grade Dare Graduation

January 28 - WEB Field Trip - 8th Grade

January 31 - All County Festival #1

February 7&8 - All County Festival #2