



Lewiston-Porter Intermediate Education Center March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Our school store is open in the Glass Room Friday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm		<i>Music in our schools month</i>	Red Cross Month	1	2 No School Store	3 National Anthem Day
4	5 National NUTRITION Month	6	7	8 Spring Classroom Group Picture Day Band Kaleidoscope Concert 7 pm HS	9 2nd Trimester Ends	10
11 Daylight Savings Time	12	13 PTA Meeting 6:30 pm PEC	14 National pi Day It's 3.14!	15 Orch. Kaleidoscope Concert 7 pm HS	16 Supt. Conf. Day Parent/Teacher Conferences NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE	17  St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20 First day of Spring BOE Meeting 6:00 pm CRC	21 Community Coffee Hour at Orange Cat 5:00	22 Choral Kaleidoscope Concert 7 pm HS	23 National Puppy Day 	24
25 National Women's History Month	26 Spring Recess—No Student/Teacher Attendance	27	28	29	30 DISTRICT CLOSED Good Friday	31

Lewiston-Porter Intermediate Education Center
Tina Rodriguez, Principal
Phone: 286-7252 Fax: 286-7854





Lewiston-Porter Central School District

Aiming Higher

March 8, 2018

Dear Lewiston-Porter Families,

In just about one month, students in grades 3-8 will begin the New York State Education Department's assessments in English Language Arts (April 11-12) and Mathematics (May 1-2). While no single test provides a complete picture of student achievement, annual assessments provide important information about a student's academic progress when combined with classroom grades and teacher evaluation. The results help ensure that a student get the supports needed to be successful. Additionally, the tests provide vital collective data to educators that guide overall curriculum development. The assessment process is a key instructional and teaching tool.

Assessment should be viewed as a positive opportunity for students and parents, teachers and administrators: We get a look into the learning process, in order to support student learning and student growth. Obviously, we are all aware of the many issues surrounding the roll out of these tests five years ago. In many ways, the state was "building the plane in midair", as it implemented the Common Core curriculum and developed the assessments simultaneously. New York State then linked the teacher evaluation process (APPR) to these test, adding a new level of anxiety and uncertainty to the process. These issues, and NYSED's response to the issues, created a tremendous backlash most visibly manifested in the opt-out/test refusal movement statewide. It has been difficult, as a career educator, as a person who believes in public education and the art and science of teaching, to watch this play out.

Over the past two years, the New York State Department of Education and specifically new Commissioner Mary Ellen Elia have listened to the concerns voiced by parents, teachers, administrators and Superintendents from around the state. I have had an opportunity to personally discuss with Commissioner Elia the issues I had with the roll out of the tests, the link to teacher evaluation, and the Common Core Standards. She is an outstanding person - a teacher through and through (she taught Social Studies at Sweet Home Central) - and most importantly, I believe that she gets it. Commissioner Elia has very clearly expressed her empathy for teachers and parents over the assessments, and the roll out of the tests under the previous administration. Significant changes have now been made (A flyer outlining these changes is included with this letter). For me, the most significant changes are:

The fact that NYS teachers have written the tests, not an educational testing company.
The number of days for the testing has been reduced from three days to two days.
The tests are now delinked from the teacher evaluation process.

As an educator, I want to encourage all Lewiston-Porter students to take the tests. I want to see if these changes have a positive impact on student results. The results will not be counted in any way toward teacher evaluation or student placement, but will give us a snap shot, another bit of vital information, around student learning at Lewiston-Porter. This information guides curriculum and instruction. The time has come for the community of learners to reengage with the testing program. The diagnostic information we will garner from the results will help us significantly hone our teacher and learning practices to meet the needs of all students as they transition through our elementary and middle programs into the high school, where state tests (Regents exams) are critical benchmarks for graduation.

Let us hope that a new course is set for education in New York State, a course that respects the student learning process, educators, and the important work they do. Let us hope that we can get back to the true purpose of education: Creating the next generation of leaders and innovators that will make our community, and our world, a better place.

Thank you,

Paul J. Casseri
Superintendent of Schools

Paul J. Casseri
Superintendent of Schools

4061 Creek Road, Youngstown, NY 14174
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www.lew-port.com



From the Principal's Office

Mrs. Rodriguez

March 8, 2018

Dear Families,

Every spring, the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests are administered to students across New York State. In the past year, the NY State Education Department has made several changes to the annual Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests in response to concerns from parents and educators. Some of those changes are included with this letter but we would also like to provide you the opportunity to discuss these changes in person and answer any questions you might have. Please join us for a discussion of these changes and to learn more about the 3-8 assessments on **Monday, March 19, 2018 in the IEC Auditorium @ 6:30 P.M.**

The New York State English Language Arts and Math test will be given after our return from spring break. The schedule for the testing period at both the Primary Education Center, Intermediate Education Center and the Middle School will be as follows:

ELA – Grades 3 through 8

April 11, 12 (Two days of ELA testing)

Make up testing for the ELA will begin on April 13 through 18

Math – Grades 3 through 8

May 1, 2 (Two days of Math testing)

Make up for the Math will begin on May 3 through the 8

These tests are only one measure of a student's learning in school but they are an important component to identifying a student growth from year to year. These annual tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and help to ensure that students are on track to graduate from high school with the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills needed for success in college and the modern workplace. The tests also show how schools and districts are progressing with the learning standards.

As you know, we place great value in ALL ongoing assessments of students' reading and written responses, as well as on students' contributions to classroom discussions and project based work in all subject areas. We want each student to have the opportunity to do his/her best and we recognize that teachers in each class have prepared their students to perform at a high level on both the standardized ELA and Math tests. Families play such an important role in this process. Here are some reminders of the kinds of things that you can do to help children feel comfortable on testing days:

Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and a breakfast that will carry him or her through the school day. We will begin testing no later than 8:15 A.M. Please make sure that students arrive on time in their classroom and are ready to work by 8:30 A.M. on test days.

Please make sure your child arrives at school on time and is ready to do their best.

BE POSITIVE! Positive words are always helpful in any situation and students work hard and deserve our praise.

As always, we appreciate your support. Please feel free to contact the school at 286-7201 if you have any questions.

Tamara Larson

Tina Rodriguez

Andrew M. Auer

Primary Education Center Principal

Intermediate Education Center Principal

Middle School Principal

4061 Creek Road, Youngstown, NY 14174
District Office: 716-286-7246 Fax: 716-754-2755
www.lew-port.com

March Character Trait

Seek first to understand, then to be understood

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints.

I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas.

I look people in the eyes when talking.



The 2017 Grades 3-8 New York State Assessments: What Parents Need to Know

Every spring, the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests are administered to students across New York State. These annual tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and help to ensure that students are on track to graduate from high school with the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills needed for success in college and the modern workplace. The tests also show how schools and districts are progressing with the learning standards. Below you will find information about the 2017 tests.

Untimed Testing

- The 2017 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests will be untimed so students who need more time to demonstrate what they know and can do will be able to work at their own pace. The 2016 tests were also untimed.
- In general, this means that as long as students are working productively, they will have as much time as they need to complete their tests, within the confines of the regular school day.

Fewer Test Questions

- The number of test questions on the 2017 tests will be the same as the 2016 tests.
- Each of the 2016 Grades 3-8 ELA Tests had one less reading passage and fewer questions than tests from previous years. The 2016 Math Tests also had fewer questions.

Greater Teacher Involvement

- Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing the 2017 assessments.
- Beginning in fall 2015 and going forward, a greater number of New York State teachers has been—and will continue to be—involved in the review of all test questions and construction of test forms.
- Teachers from across the State gathered in Albany throughout the summer and fall of 2016 to evaluate and select questions for the 2017 tests.
- For the first time ever, New York State teachers will write the test questions for the Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests. These questions will first be used on the 2018 tests.

Faster Results for Teachers and Improved Resources for Parents

- Like last year, the State Education Department plans to have instructional reports returned to teachers by the end of the school year and release at least 75-percent of the test questions.
- Also like last year, the 2017 Score Reports for parents will feature the updated clearer design and more information about what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. These will be ready over the summer.

Computer-Based Testing

- This spring, some districts will administer the 2017 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests on the computer. The computer-based test (CBT) will have the same questions as the paper version but students will take the test on a computer, tablet, or Chromebook. The State plans to have more districts use CBT next year.
- The State is helping districts transition to CBT. The long-term plan is to have all districts use CBT for annual state tests because CBT has the potential to make the assessments stronger instructional tools and will make it possible to get test results back sooner.



From the Art Room

Submitted by Mrs. Frederick

Mrs. Jaruszewski's class participated in a final critique of their artwork and that of their peers. A critique involves writing and discussing artwork. Students were asked, "What criteria is working well in the artwork," and "what can be changed to improve the artwork?"



Enrichment opportunities are provided for students who are available during certain times. Sydney McDermott and Sydney Sloma assisted in creating a character education related display during their art enrichment. Below, students in Mrs. Niccola's class assisted in creating birch trees for a fourth grade art display.





Genius Hour

Written by: Deanna Bondi, Abigail Ham, Francesca Hess, Maxim Shumaker, Kaitlyn Szarejko, Madilynn Waldeck



Genius hour is when we use our imagination. We create anything we're interested in. We research things we like and love. Some of the things we were passionate about include tips on drawing, tips on taking care of dogs, and how to sew a dress. Then we made the project we wanted to do. It took some hard work. Finally we took what we learned and made our slide shows and posters. We hung our projects for people to see what we love and what we researched. Genius hour is fun and amazing.



There are many steps in genius hour. The first step for genius hour was to watch a video to find out what genius hour is. Then, as a group, we talked about what genius hour is. After that, we

made a list of rules for genius hour so that we would all think win-win and be proactive. Next we made a list of what we are passionate about. Then we turned our passion into a question, and we chose one of our questions to research. For your passion. After that we had poster, a Google slide or a researched. Our last step was to hang it up on the wall outside of there are many steps in genius



was researching our projects. anything that you are was fun because I got to learn like. The websites we could go which made this a lot more fun

My favorite part of genius hour Our projects were about passionate about. Researching more about things that I really on gave us so much information, and easy. You also get to look up what pictures you want to use for your project. This was my favorite, and maybe other people would enjoy it too.

The end result of genius hour was we each got to finish our projects that we made on Google drive or made a poster (only a few people did a poster). Then Miss Metz hung them up in the hall. This end result came about because we all are passionate for something and know a lot about it. We all worked hard to make these amazingly great posters or slideshows. One thing I love, and have a passion for, is snowboarding, so I made a Google slide presentation about snowboarding tips.





Thomas Parker Memorial Bench



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Please direct contributions to Garry Daigler in the IEC by March 23, 2018 (last day before break). We are trying to raise \$1500 to cover all costs. Thanks for your support!

The Chinese Presentation

By Emily Droegmyer

On February 8th, Zoe, Cindy and I gave a Chinese presentation. First, we sang a song called "The Orchids", or "Lan hua cao". Then we watched a zodiac video with the 12 animals. The 12 animals are rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. After that, we learned a poem called,

"Plum Blossoms"

A few plum twigs at the corner of the wall,
Blossoming all alone, defying the cold!
Even from afar, they cannot be mistaken for the snow,
For a delicate fragrance comes wafting with the breeze.

Then we made a fan. First, we blew ink onto the paper to make the branches. Next, we used paint to make blossoms. Lastly, I taught everyone to say Happy Chinese New Year (xin nian kuai le). In conclusion, this is my Chinese New Year presentation.



Chinese New Year Celebration





Third Grade “Souper Bowl”

Third Graders donated cans of soup,
which will be donated to the
Magdalene Project, based in
Niagara Falls, to assist people in need.



Congratulations to our students who participated in the All County Chorus held at Barker High School on February 2nd & 3rd.

Mackenzie Kennedy
Matthew Siejak
Julia Varney
Mattilynn Freiermuth (not pictured)



In February, IEC classes had a guest teacher for Writer's Workshop. Writing expert Dr. Tribuzzi came in to visit teachers and classes at every grade level. Lessons and procedures of Writer's Workshop were showcased. Students engaged in planning, and then writing with new techniques. It was a great day for sharing our writing success.

Did you know.....

Our National Anthem is "The Star Spangled Banner", and was written by Francis Scott Key on September 14, 1814, during the Battle of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812. It was originally called "Defence of Fort McHenry".

In August, 1814, the British Army detained Dr. William Beanes as a prisoner of war. He was a friend of Francis Scott Key. On September 13th, Francis Scott Key and a U.S. negotiator boarded a British vessel where Beanes was being held. He negotiated his friend's release, but then he and the negotiator were detained, and held until after the attack on the fort (which guarded the harbor and city of Baltimore). He watched the bombardment of the fort from the ship. The next morning, he was ecstatic to see that the American flag was still flying over Fort McHenry, which inspired him to write "The Star-Spangled Banner".

It wasn't until over 100 years later that "The Star Spangled Banner" became our national anthem. On **March 3, 1931**, President Herbert Hoover signed a congressional resolution officially making it the national anthem of the United States of America.

The Greek letter π was first used by William Jones in 1706, probably as an abbreviation of periphery, and became standard mathematical notation roughly 30 years later.

Try a brief experiment: Using a compass, draw a circle. Take one piece of string and place it on top of the circle, exactly once around. Now straighten out the string; its length is called the circumference of the circle. Measure the circumference with a ruler. Next, measure the diameter of the circle, which is the length from any point on the circle straight through its center to another point on the opposite side. (The diameter is twice the radius, the length from any point on the circle to its center.) If you divide the circumference of the circle by the diameter, you will get approximately 3.14 -- no matter what size circle you draw! A larger circle will have a larger circumference and a larger radius, but the ratio will always be the same. If you could measure and divide perfectly, you would get 3.141592653589793238.... or **π** .



On February 14th, Jay, Theresa and their daughter, Jill Claus, from the Tuscarora Turtle Clan, spoke to our fourth graders about their culture, traditions and games. Students participated in Native American dances, and displayed artifacts that the Clauses brought in to share. This was a great learning experience for all.



Fifth Grade

Catherine Beiter
Gianna Casale
Amaya Hill
Alivia Ingram
Chloe Marcyan
Leo Clark
Jack Scully

Fourth Grade

Anna Lauger
Leah Marshall
Mayashanti Samudrala
Mallory Unwin
Noah Frye
Matthew Krassopoulos
Charles Orsi
Josh Steimer

Third Grade

Franca DiBernardo
Sarah Gibbs
Mary Kate Ryan
Natalie Smith
Eliot McAuliffe
Ty Wallace



Students Teach About Animal Adaptations Using Green Screen App

By: Mrs. DeFranco's Third Grade Class



Have you ever wondered how meteorologists on the local news have all of those wonderful map images behind them while delivering the weather forecast? Well, third graders in Mrs. DeFranco's class received an up close and personal experience with a video technique known commonly as "green screen". Using an iPad app, called Do Ink, students were able to teach others about certain animal adaptations using Do Ink.

First, students selected an animal to research and completed a graphic organizer. Students were able to access specific text, photo, and video files selected by Miss Metz and Mrs. Kitchen. Once information was gathered, Mrs. DeFranco and Mr. Daigler guided students as they worked on their scripts. In addition, Mrs. Kitchen introduced the class to the Do Ink app and steps to take to get ready for recording. While using the app, students were able to add three layers to their presentation: a map showing where the animal lived, a picture of the animal, and the actual video recorded in front of a green screen. (For our purposes, we used a plastic green tablecloth! This was a low budget operation.) When ready, students recorded their scripts, and the final product was in place. As a final wrap up, all students evaluated their presentation skills on a project rubric and uploaded their Do Ink presentation to their Seesaw journal. This allowed parents to view the presentation and make comments.

This project was a collaborative effort among several teachers in the IEC. Melanie Kitchen (district technology liaison), Becky Metz (IEC librarian/media specialist), Garry Daigler (technology teacher), and Laree DeFranco (classroom teacher) all worked together to introduce this presentation platform to Mrs. DeFranco's class. The students really enjoyed the process and using a new platform to showcase their research efforts. We will definitely use Do Ink in the future for upcoming projects!



Parents:
If you're asking "What happened to your.....", please remind your child to check the Lost & Found in our cafeteria. We have many things with lost owners!

Reading Students Perform STEM Activities

Fourth grade students in Mrs. Hauck's reading classes recently completed a STEM project after reading about a bald eagle that was rescued after having its upper beak shot off. The book, *Beauty's New Beak*, written by Jacqueline Adams, recounts the efforts of the Birds of Prey NW wildlife center to keep Beauty, the injured eagle, alive. An engineer stepped in and lent his expertise to do something that had never been done before: create a prosthetic beak that would allow Beauty to eat and preen without human assistance.

The students followed the steps of the Engineering Design Process to create new upper beaks using pipe cleaners, aluminum foil, duct tape, and clay. They attached these "prosthetics" to a paper cup cut into the shape of an eagle's lower beak. They then had to test their prosthetic beaks to see if they could perform similar to a natural beak. The students tried picking up different items with the beak, as well as testing how well their beaks could separate braided strands of yarn, emulating the preening process that is critical for birds to maintain their health. Students then logged the results into the Engineering notebooks they kept for this experiment.

The students did a thorough job, and they were very enthusiastic to share the results with other teachers and students. Above all, we all learned a lot about engineering, and what can be accomplished when you set your mind to a task.



Multi-Age and K-Kids Recognize the Youngstown and Lewiston Police

Students from the IEC Multi-Age and K-Kids club showed thanks and appreciation to officers from the Youngstown and Lewiston police departments at the February Board of Education meeting. Twenty officers attended the presentation, which was led by 5th grade Multi-Age student and K-Kid member, Luke Montibello.

In his opening remarks, Montibello thanked officers for their protection, making our community a priority, and for risking their lives for all citizens. Chief Previte and Chief Shuey were then presented with banners signed by all students at the Intermediate School. Next, Maya Radder, a 4th grade Multi-Age student, read a poem written by her 4th grade class titled, "Heroes in Blue." Representing the K-Kids club, Gianna Casale presented 36 "Police Survival Bags" to the officers. Kiwanis President Martin Pauly awarded officers with the Kiwanis Everyday Hero Award for their dedication and service to our communities. As a final gesture of thanks, students, led by teachers Mrs. Khatib, Mrs. Danahy and Miss Yager, sang and signed "Proud to Be an American."

This was a wonderful opportunity to pay tribute to the men and women who work tirelessly to keep our homes, communities, and schools safe. The Multi-Age and K-Kids are proud and honored to pay tribute to their heroes in blue.



Health & Wellness

Submitted by Dana Thompson

Mrs. Siuta/Mrs. Block, Ms. Plewa, Mrs. Lombardo, & Mrs. Kensinger's students are currently participating in the Health & Wellness program with Mrs. Thompson during the month of March. Topics that will be discussed include:

- The Role of Family/Self-esteem
- The Endocrine system and the role of hormones in growth & development
- Gender differences
- Personal hygiene
- Nutrition & Physical Activity
- Puberty
- Cyber safety
- Infections/HIV & AIDS

Mrs. Boss & Mrs. DeFranco's 3rd grade classes are participating in the second session of Health & Wellness program through the month of March. Topics that will be discussed include:

- Nutrition/Healthy Eating & Exercise
- Hygiene
- Internet Safety

Students will keep a journal for the classes, and will reflect on topics discussed each week. Students are also encouraged to leave questions in the "question box" each week on anything that is discussed that requires further explanation. All classes will continue until the middle of April.

School Attendance

The IEC school day begins with the students getting off the bus at 8:45 a.m. If you are driving your student in, they should also arrive at 8:45 a.m. Classroom announcements begin at 8:55 a.m.

Any student arriving after 8:55 a.m. will be considered tardy.

Afternoon dismissal is at 3:30 p.m.

Any students leaving prior to 3:25 p.m. will be considered an early dismissal.

Regular attendance at school is vital if a student hopes to do well. Our school district has adopted an attendance policy based upon our District's education and community needs, values and priorities. The School District has determined that absences, tardiness and early departures will be considered excused or unexcused according to the following standards:

Excused: An absence, tardiness or early departure may be excused if due to the following, or other such reasons as may be approved by the Board of Education.:

- Personal illness
- Illness or death in the family
- Impassable roads due to inclement weather
- Religious observance
- Quarantine
- Attendance at health clinics
- Approved school field trips
- Approved college visits
- Military obligations
- Required court appearances

Unexcused: An absence, tardiness or early departure is considered unexcused if the reason for the lack of attendance does not fall into the above categories (e.g., family vacation, hunting, babysitting, haircut, missing the bus or oversleeping).

A student who is absent from school, for all or part of a day, must provide a valid written explanation, including the date and a specific reason for the absence/tardiness, signed by a parent/guardian. The written excuse is given to the attendance clerk upon returning to school. A student who is absent due to an appointment is encouraged to be in attendance for as much of the day as possible. Until a valid excuse is received, the absence will be considered unexcused.

Notification Process

To help increase attendance and decrease tardiness or early departures, written notification from the principal will be at 7, 14 and 21 absences. The teacher will call the parent/guardian after 10 absences. Written notification of possible retention will occur at 28 absences. With the progression of written notification, meetings will be established between parents/guardians and school personnel to discuss and implement strategies up to, and including, denial of grade level promotion.

Please call the office if your child will be absent, so that an attendance verification call will not be necessary.

SCHOOL LUNCH

The Lewiston-Porter School District cafeteria serves breakfast and lunch to interested students. Both the breakfast and lunch programs at Lewiston-Porter are provided by a private food service firm.

- Breakfast and lunch menus are sent home with students at the beginning of each month, and are available on the school website.
- Breakfast is available.
- Students may choose a hot lunch or 'a la carte' items.
- Snacks, cookies and ice cream are available on limited days. Please call the school at ext. 7288 if you would like restrictions placed on your child's account.
- Food allergies should be reported to the school nurse and kitchen staff.
- You may prepay your child's lunch account at any time through MySchoolBucks.com, or checks payable to the Lewiston-Porter Central School District sent to school with your child.
- The cost of breakfast is \$1.75, reduced cost is \$.25
- The cost of lunch is \$2.10, reduced cost is \$.25
- Free/Reduced School Meals information is sent home at the beginning of the school year. An application may be requested at any time by calling the office.

In the event a student does not have lunch or lunch money, it is the District practice that he/she will be allowed to charge a lunch for that day, **once per trimester**. Please send payment with your child to the **IEC Main Office** on the next school day to reimburse the main office for the provided meal.

Lewiston-Porter is using **myschoolbucks.com**, an online service allowing you to pay for your student's school meals online, using your credit/debit card or electronic check.

If you have any questions regarding our food service, please call Anna Thomas, Food Service Director, at 716-286-7288.

**For the safety of all our students,
everyone will be asked for picture ID each time you visit the IEC.
We also encourage parents to refrain from walking students
to their classrooms and lockers.**

Thank you for helping us to keep our students safe!

A reminder to parents:

*Please only drop off students if you see a staff member at the arrival doors
between 8:45 and 8:55 a.m. (and for safety, only on the curbside)*

**All students being dropped off AFTER 8:55 a.m.
MUST be brought into the office and signed in by an adult.**

**Please remember that students should arrive
no earlier than 8:45 a.m. or 8:00 a.m. for tutorials.**

**If your child is absent, please call the office to let us know.
Thanks for your cooperation.**

TUTORIALS

**Permission slips will be sent home when a teacher plans a tutorial.
In order to properly plan for transportation, permission slips are required to be returned
to your child's teacher by his/her deadline, but no later than two days before the tutorial.
Thank you for your cooperation.**

**YMCA Before and After School Program
held at the PEC
Call: YMCA Niagara Falls 285-8491**