



# Leicester High School

174 Paxton Street., Leicester, Massachusetts, 01524  
508.892.7030

## **February Newsletter**

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### **Important Dates:**

3/1-3/3 ELA MCAS Re-test  
3/2 2:30 School Council  
3/7, 3/8, 3/10, 3/11 Wizard of Oz -  
School Play  
3/8 Science Fair  
3/16 6/8pm Spring Parents' Night  
3/17 No School for students - Full  
Prof. Dev. Day for staff  
3/21 MEFA Night  
3/24 Freshman/Sophomore  
Semi-Formal  
3/28 5:30-8:30pm Evening with the  
Arts - [Evening with the Arts  
Schedule](#) & 3rd Annual Wellness  
Fair is running in conjunction with  
the Evening of the Arts from 5 to 7pm  
at Primary School

### **Connect With Us:**



Tracey Hippert -Principal  
[Hippertt@lpsma.net](mailto:Hippertt@lpsma.net)  
follow on twitter @LHS\_hippert

Dan Case Assistant- Principal  
[Cased@lpsma.net](mailto:Cased@lpsma.net)  
follow on twitter @statsman59



Core Values designed by sophomore Emily Moughan

**SENIORS-Finish Strong!** Here are important dates for Class for 2017:

[Click Here for Important Dates](#)

### **SAVE THE DATES**

The Red Cross Blood drive will be Friday Mar. 3rd from 8-12. Students must sign up at lunch from now until Mar. 2nd in order to donate. It is by appointment only. Students will be given an appointment card which can be used as a pass to leave class. There are weight requirements and students who are 16 need to have a parental permission form filled out on the day of drive. All students 17 and older do not need parent permission to donate. This is a National Honor Society event and if you have any questions please contact the advisors, Mr. Lennerton or Mrs. C. Grimshaw.

### **High School Curriculum Corner**

March Curriculum Corner:

In April and May, students in grades 3-8 will be taking MCAS 2.0 tests in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. The original version of MCAS, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, has been administered since 1998. In 2011 new standards were adopted and Massachusetts joined the Partnership for Advancement of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) to develop new assessments to match these new standards. Grades 3-8 students in Leicester took these new PARCC assessments in the spring of 2015 and 2016. Last year, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to develop next-generation MCAS rather than continue with the PARCC assessments. This new MCAS 2.0 will be used to assess grades 3-8 students in ELA and mathematics over the next couple of months. Students in Leicester will take these tests on a Chromebook as they have for the past few years. Although the test has a new name, it will be very familiar to our students in grades 4-8 who have taken similar tests in previous years.

These tests are given to our students as a result of the 1993 education reform law which directed the Board to create a statewide assessment program. Why and how we administer state assessments to our students continues to be a topic of discussion nationwide. As Commissioner Chester states, "It is entirely appropriate for us to examine the content and methods of assessment, the time we spend on testing, how test results best can help to improve instruction, and whether test preparation activities are crowding out more effective uses of classroom time." In Leicester, we strive to make sure that our testing schedule is efficient and causes minimal disruption to classroom instruction.

The results of these assessments are analyzed as one source of data as we work to support parts of our curriculum that are effective and determine where instruction needs to be strengthened. We plan instruction using the standards which tell us what our students should know and be able to do at a particular grade level or in a particular content area. Standards guide our work, but these assessments give us valuable information so we can take stock of how we are doing.

Passing the grade 10 MCAS tests in mathematics and ELA, as well as passing a high school science MCAS, are requirements for a student to receive a Massachusetts high school diploma,

based on the 1993 education reform law. Students must also meet all local graduation requirements. In October 2016, the Board voted to maintain these current requirements through the class of 2020, or this year's freshmen class. The Board also voted to implement the 10th grade MCAS 2.0 tests in spring 2019 (for the class of 2021 or current eighth graders). The students in Leicester's class of 2021 will have had experience with both computer-based testing and MCAS 2.0, making the new high school tests more familiar for them in 2019.

### **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](mailto:cascionel@lpsma.net) or 508-892-7030 x1190.

### **Message from School Nurse**

Just a reminder to Spring Athletes...there must be a current physical on file in order to participate. Maroon cards will not be signed by the nurse if there is not. Please don't wait until the day of try-outs. Drop in the Health Office to check if you are eligible. D.Moffat, RN

Please read the following articles of interest which were forwarded by District Attorney Joseph Early in regards to the Opioid Crisis.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2017/01/11/ive-seen-the-opioid-epidemic-as-a-cop-living-it-as-a-patient-has-been-even-worse/?utm\\_term=.68ed4e3f44bf](https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2017/01/11/ive-seen-the-opioid-epidemic-as-a-cop-living-it-as-a-patient-has-been-even-worse/?utm_term=.68ed4e3f44bf)

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/02/26/513865623/dentists-work-to-ease-patients-pain-with-fewer-opioids>

Kudos to our district nurses!

### **NURSE SUBSTITUTES NEEDED**

Are you a parent or community member who has time to work on call in our schools and is an RN? 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](#)

### **Guidance Corner**

Attention Parents of Juniors: The guidance department will be hosting a "College Night for Juniors" on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. All juniors should plan to attend with their parents. We will also provide an introduction to Naviance, our new web based college planning tool called Naviance.

### **Naviance**

The Leicester High School Guidance Department is in the process of introducing a comprehensive website (Naviance) that you and your student can use to make plans about college and career plans, so it provides up-to date information that's specific to our school.

Family Connection allows your student to :

- Get involved in the planning and advising process- Build a resume, complete online surveys, and manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers.
- Research Colleges- Compare GPA, standardized test scores, and other statistics to actual historical data from our school for students who have applied and been admitted in the past.
- Research Careers-Research hundreds of careers and career clusters, and take career assessments.
- Create Plans for the future-Create goals and to-dos, and complete tasks assigned by the school to better prepare for future college and career goals.

### **Library Corner**

Congrats to Shane Bowes for winning the library raffle.

We are reading Marie Lu's Legend for Book Club on 3/13/17. All are welcome.

Follow us on Twitter @LHS\_lib

### **Class of 2017 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients**

Congratulations to the following members of the Class of 2017! Please click ***HERE*** to view the updated list of recipients. Adams Scholarships are presented to high school seniors whose MCAS performance puts them at the top 25% of their district. The scholarships provide a tuition waiver for four years at Massachusetts state colleges and universities.

### **LHS State Report Card Letter**

Please click [HERE](#) to read my State Report Card cover letter and to view the State Report Card for LHS.

### **Special Education Update**

Parent Professional Advocacy League-PPAL Parent Support Group

The Massachusetts Family Voice for Children's Mental Health

Statewide Meeting, March 14, 2017 will focus on Trauma and the Parenting Experience

This meeting will be facilitated by Genevieve Kane-Howse from UMass Medical School/Trauma Training Center.

Best wishes,

Kristen Solaras, LSW

Family Support Specialist

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Worcester, MA 01608

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The Senior Class is holding an Eller's Fundraiser!

DATE: Wednesday, March 15, 2017

TIME: 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM PLACE: 190 Main St Cherry Valley, MA 01611

Help support Leicester High School's Class of 2017!

