

Lansing Middle School

Parent Newsletter



October 2022

Parent-Teacher Conferences/Information About Classes and Grades

Parent-Teacher conferences were held this week on Wednesday, October 12th, and Thursday, October 13th. A big "thank you" to parents that attended. This is an invaluable time for school and home to have meaningful conversations about the child's education.

Parents will be able to view final 1st quarter grades and access report cards on Skyward sometime next week, October 17-21. The 2nd quarter starts on Monday, October 17th. This does entail a schedule change for some 6th grade classes. Almost all classes for 7th and 8th grade are semester classes and therefore, students will not have any class changes.

At LMS, most students have two study halls during the school day. Each of those study halls is 30 minutes in length. Please encourage your student to take advantage of this time daily. It is a great opportunity for students to get work done so s/he does not have homework. It is also a time when students can get help from teachers.

Athletics

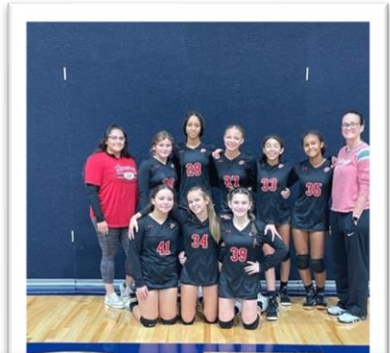
Fall athletic competitions are now complete for all sports – cross-country, football, and volleyball. We had a high number of students participating in the different sports, which is something we love to see! The 7th grade football team finished at 4-2 and the 8th grade football team went undefeated at 7-0! This was the first that LMS has had an undefeated football team since 2015.

Both 7th and 8th grade volleyball squads recorded several wins and improved greatly throughout the season. The Kaw Valley League Volleyball tournaments for 7th and 8th grade "A" teams were held on Saturday, October 8th. This is the concluding event for volleyball. Our 8th grade girls finished 4th and our 7th grade girls took 2nd.

<https://www.usd469.net/vnews/display.v/ART/63471bea30cca>

The Cross-Country teams were very successful this season – LMS had several medalists at each meet and also had a few teams win meets. The Kaw Valley League meet was held on Tuesday, October 11th. The meet was highlighted by our 7th grade girls team taking 1st in the league. Another noteworthy accomplishment this season was that Katelyn Johannes, 7th grader, set a new school record with a time 12:30.37.

Girls Basketball and Wrestling both begin at the conclusion of fall sports.



Unity Day

Lansing Middle School will participate in Unity Day on Wednesday, October 19th. LMS will join the other schools in USD 469 for this day along with schools throughout the United States. "Unity Day, the signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month (observed in the United States on third or fourth Wednesday of October), has been recognized in the United States since 2011. To participate in Unity Day, individuals, schools, communities, and businesses wear or share orange to unite for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to prevent students being bullied. One in five school-age children report being bullied at school."

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unity_Day_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unity_Day_(United_States)))



Lansing Middle School students are encouraged to wear orange on this day. Students have also created a bulletin board that displays feathers showing unity against bullying. We are excited about the overall potential impact for this event. A thank you to Becky Lowery, interim social worker, Stacey Jenkins, Student Council sponsor, and Jennifer Bishop, Peer Leadership sponsor, for organizing this event.

Fall Fundraiser

Our fall fundraiser concluded on Thursday, September 22nd. The fall fundraiser was a candy bar sale and we partnered with World's Finest Chocolate for the sale. The majority of money collected from LMS fundraisers is used to pay for grade level reward field trips. It covers the admission and transportation expenses associated with the field trips. Additionally, other funds are spent for classroom usage for things that may fall outside of the normal budget. Our students excelled on this sale and we set a fundraising record for LMS. We are very appreciative of the support we receive from our fundraisers. There is a lot of work that goes into this on the staff end and I'd like to recognize Nick Flynn, Shirley Painton, Jennifer Layton, Kayla Kimball, and Martina Crisp for their efforts with the sale.

"Feel Good Friday"

Recognition goes to John Riggs, 6th Grade Math and Literature teacher, for setting up "Feel Good Friday" at LMS. Mr. Riggs put the following information out to the staff, "I'll post a short video each week, featuring staff and students telling something that made them feel good during the week. It can be something that happened at school or outside of school – the goal is to create connections with students by showing them that we all can have **something** to feel good about!"

The first two videos from September 30th and October 7th are linked below...

<https://youtu.be/9eA-0fCze6o>

<https://youtu.be/CsIjz5aZhRw>

"Lion's Paw" – LMS Newspaper

Tracey Carney-Linn took over as LMS Newspaper sponsor at the start of last year, the 2021-2022 school year. Under her direction, the LMS Newspaper has undergone a total revamp. Students in all grades can participate and they meet daily during 9th period. The newspaper comes out monthly and is usually 5-8 pages in length. Students are learning valuable writing and reporting skills as stories focus on relevant events and people at LMS. It has become something that students are interested in reading and look forward to each month. Their first issue came out on Friday, October 1st. LMS will take an additional step this year by making it available to parents as one more means of communication. Kudos to Mrs. Carney-Linn and the Lion's Paw staff of students.

The October issue of the Lion's Paw is linked below...

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18wPaTug85F8X2jIBmNoZHcHhNMAla14p/view?usp=sharing>

Positive Notecards

When students were remote during COVID, teachers looked for ways to maintain contact with students and their families and to also highlight positives. Mindy Brinker, 7th grade teacher, came up with an outstanding idea to send "positive notecards" to students and parents with a personalized note from a classroom teacher about something specific and noteworthy for that student. Her team, the Stars team, sent notes to almost all of their students during that time. Last year, we expanded this idea to all Lansing Middle School teachers and students. This has been one of the best things we have put into place to build positive relationships between students and staff. During the 2021-2022, teachers were able to write 433 positive notecards, which was equivalent to 70% of the student body receiving one.

Academic Spotlights

6th Grade Language Arts – Kathy Baughman, Pecos Miller, Tiffany Simmons, Rachel Szmed

In 6th grade English Language Arts, we have just completed our first writing assignment on Personal Narratives. We will begin a creative writing project – mystery stories – after Parent/Teacher conferences. We just completed our first common formative assessment (CFA) on Parts of Speech. We are still calculating the scores, but so far we are impressed with the results. We will begin using KITE mini tests to familiarize students with the Kansas Assessment Program (KAP) and testing attributes, as well as to focus on what skills they are missing with regards to Text Purposes in Writing.

6th Grade Literature – Kathy Baughman, Cheryl Borgeson, Connie Evans, Alisha Holyfield, Pecos Miller, John Riggs, Tiffany Simmons, Rachel Szmed, Amanda Thomas, DeeDee Wiley

For the month of September, the 6th grade Literature team has been hitting the skill of Central/Main Idea. In addition to using StudySync, the team has brought in resources from Scope to address this skill. To ensure both teams stay on the same path, we use library day to review the specific skill. When the Eagles have library day, the Lion Pride team is providing instruction on the skill, and vice versa. Therefore, the students have had two lessons which only involve Central/Main idea. We just administered our first CFA this week. We will discuss the results during our next PLC meeting. Our next unit will focus on story elements.

6th Grade Math – John Riggs, DeeDee Wiley

Sixth graders have been diligent learners during the busy month of September. We opened the month by building on prior knowledge of greatest common factors and least common multiples. Students also added to earlier learning of absolute value, negative numbers, and opposites by working with rational numbers. These concepts will set students up for success when we begin our work with fractions and ratios.

6th Grade Science – Alisha Holyfield, Amanda Thomas

In September, students were able to identify the order of steps in the engineering design process by coming up with their own solution to an engineering problem. They had to complete a group design project, engaging in the design process, to construct a solution that meets design criteria and constraints. They designed a prototype in which they had to test and evaluate, then redesign if necessary. After groups completed their prototype design, they had to present their design to the class while answering engineering problem questions, which included explaining how their design solved their identified problem. By the end of the month, we completed our Variables and Design Unit. Our next unit will be over gravity and kinetic energy.

6th Grade Social Studies – Cheryl Borgeson, Connie Evans

In Social Studies, we are currently learning about Mesopotamia, the first civilization where the Sumerians settled. Geography took us to the area west of the Mediterranean Sea and between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. Useful resources have been a big topic in this unit. How and why these civilizations formed on the rivers allowed us to do higher level thinking and exploration of this civilization. Agriculture was started by making their own irrigation systems and having surplus crop production. The fertile silt left behind from flooding made conditions great for these crops. Many inventions were made to help them sustain their civilization. These included the wheel, canals, cuneiform (the world's first writing system), plow, sewer systems under their city, and many others. This was a key part of our history and why we are where we are today in many of our advances in society. As we learned about this chapter, we did activities on finding the main idea

and lots of unfamiliar vocabulary. Soon, we will be starting the history of ancient Egypt and Kush and learning how they became civilizations and how it led to where we are today.

7th Grade Language Arts – Mindy Brinker, Brandy Hamilton

During September, students focused on succinctly relating a true story by writing a personal narrative detailing an experience in their own lives. Additionally, there was a grammar focus on the basics – nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Students reviewed how to identify these parts of speech, but more importantly, how to use these words to write complete and colorful sentences to improve writing.

7th Grade Literature – Tom Cretors, Katie Larson, Becky Lowery, Brandy Hamilton, Rachel Sheeley, Stephanie Smalley

Students have been reading in the StudySync unit “In Pursuit” while reading “Rikki Tikki Tavi”, “The King of Mazy May”, and “The Cremation of Sam McGee”. The final two passages are set in the Klondike Gold Rush period. Call of the Wild has been read by students in the Literature + classes. Both “The King of Mazy May” and Call of the Wild were written by Jack London.

We continue to focus on story elements (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution) including plot and theme. Classes have either taken or will be taking their first Common Formative Assessment over story elements and theme.

Besides our target on vocabulary and comprehension all literature classes this week kicked off our school wide initiative using the Six Minute Solution to improve fluency. Every week, one of the core classes at LMS will participate in this activity with the exception of math. Students read a common passage and are timed for one minute with a partner. Then students record their correct number of words they read daily using a Google Form to track our data. Seventh graders read a passage on the history of Halloween as their fluency article.

All classes will also complete two mini tests as practice toward our State Assessment preparation in the Spring. This gives the students the opportunity to see what skills they might need more work on and allows them to use the format they will experience when taking the State Assessments.

7th Grade Math – Denise Dixon, Theresa Jones, Angela Remington

7th Grade math students are currently working on computing and applying all operations of Integers. Students took a CFA on Adding and Subtracting Integers earlier this month. We are almost done reteaching and retaking for students who did not score 80% or higher. We will be taking our second CFA on All Operations of Integers on September 30th. We will reteach and retake that CFA the first few weeks of October.

The Fastbridge testing showed a large majority of 7th grade students cannot do two digit computations with proficiency. All students who have a midday study hall are spending 10 minutes on Mobymax. Mobymax placement test should identify individual student math gaps and assign individualized assignments. Two-digit computations are part of the individualized assignments. We are using IXL for reteaching Math Enrichment students these concepts.

7th Grade Science – Stacey Jenkins, Stephanie Smalley

In 7th grade science, students have been learning about the plant and animal cells, their structures and the function of each part, along with comparing and contrasting the two kinds of cells. They have been working on strategies to include mnemonic devices and silly pictures to help in

remembering what each part of the cell does. They worked in groups to create cell models and completed cell packets to get in plenty of practice with all of the new terms. Students will soon be moving to a microscope unit where they will learn about the history of the microscope and the capabilities of current day microscopes. They will then practice using a compound light microscope to look at a variety of things including pond water.

7th Grade Social Studies – Tom Cretors, Edward Fenton

In 7th grade Social Studies, we are continuing with our 1st Unit on Kansas History. Currently, we are covering the Indian Removal Act and the effect it had on Kansas settlement. The unit will finish with us covering the overland trails that passed through Kansas on the way west. Our next unit will focus on the period in Kansas History called Bleeding Kansas.

8th Grade Language Arts – Tracey Carney-Linn, Julie Price, Danielle Perry, Stacey Ward

Eighth grade has been working on the Unit 1, “Bad Behavior”. It has stories that the character must make difficult choices and helps to understand their moral values and integrity. We have wrapped up all the reading of stories and have started the final Unit 1 Writing. We will break down a five-paragraph essay into several days. Students will learn how to write the body paragraphs with text evidence to justify their points from three of our stories. They will learn to write an explanation of their text evidence and tie it back to their argument. We have also been working on No Red Ink, learning about modifiers, active and passive voice, and now verbals. Vocabulary is also being used over the course of this unit with the stories and their writing.

8th Grade Literature – Dana Blew, Tracey Carney-Linn, Jessica Graves, Julie Price, Danielle Perry, Stacey Ward

Eighth grade has been busy with our novels, *Ten Days in a Mad House* and *Lord of the Flies*. Both novels fall under our unit of “Suspense”. Students are learning how authors use word choice to set the mood and figurative language to bring the reader into the drama. They have practiced several of their reading standards with these books such as how words provoke action of the characters and move the plot forward. Novels should be wrapping up in the next few days then we have a few poems by Edgar Allen Poe to wrap up the unit.

8th Grade Math – Miranda Cote, Penny Wagner

Math 1 – Students will be finishing the module on Exponents and Scientific Notation by the end of this quarter. Students have been working hard learning the methods of using exponents correctly, manipulating equations with exponents, and will finish with operations of scientific notation. We have related the use of scientific notation numbers in regards to space, technology, sciences, and biology.

Math 2 – Students are finishing Unit 1 this week. They will begin working with linear equations in October.

Algebra – Students have completed the first two units and are starting on Unit 2 Equations in October. They will learn how to manipulate equations in order to use them in different scenarios to solve for, graph, and know if they are proportional or non-proportional. This will lead us into Functions.

8th Grade Physical Science – Josh Yoakam

Students completed their exploration into measurement, significant figures, conversions with metric prefixes, and the scientific method. The class began to explore motion, scalar and vector

quantities, distance and displacement, speed and velocity. At this point in the physics portion of physical science students begin to see a confluence of math and science. Linear and nonlinear equations are used to represent speed on a distance and time graph. Algebraic skills need to be utilized to manipulate equations to solve for different variables. Students completed a distance and displacement lab and will conduct a velocity and acceleration lab including graphing their motion on the track. We will begin to explore Newton's laws of motion.

8th Grade Science – Jessica Graves, Kaylea Roth-Longe

Eighth grade has completed our first unit test! We have closed out the unit with letters to NASA in the hopes we will receive a letter back by the end of the academic year. As we move forward to the next unit, we have looked at changing cadence to the week so students have a more predictable cycle to the week. Students are excited to begin geologic time and have the opportunity to explore our fossil record.

8th Grade Social Studies – Ann Andrews, Dana Blew

8th grade social studies wrapped up our unit on the Constitution (Citizenship Handbook). We topped off the unit with a 1980 movie, "Gideon's Trumpet". This is a video based on the book by the same name by Anthony Lewis; it is about a poor prisoner who fought for his Constitutional rights. It was an engaging film that gave students a look into the workings of the Supreme Court in the 1960's. We are currently learning about the beginning of our nation 1789-1800, and the challenges that our new nation experienced – both internally and externally.

Advanced Studies – Josh Yoakam

Students in the sixth and seventh grade classes, and a portion of students in the eighth-grade class continued work on their Future Cities projects. Each group has selected their target city and will be designing their mitigation plans to address a climate change impact for their selected cities at least one hundred years in the future. Students will be developing a 1500-word essay, physical model, a video explanation, project plan and are scheduled to present in January. Students that have chosen to work on independent projects presented a math lesson, biographies, impact of, and examples of work for a chosen architect, and steps in selecting components for and building a gaming computer. Another student is working on exploring basketball related careers and developed a ranking system to weigh their career options. Students learned vocabulary, reflected on learning using the weekly progress forms, and participated in STEM challenges involving visual spatial skills and engineering.

Art – Emily Bucher

6th grade – Sixth grade students recently finished up with their soda can designs, Minion "selfies", ultimate ice cream ideas, and dinosaur drawings. Students could complete these tasks with medium(s) of their liking. Currently, students are working on "Funny Cups" where they incorporate patterns and various colours to create a "funny cup" containing a hot liquid such as hot chocolate, tea, or coffee. They will use oil pastels and watercolor to complete their "funny cup".

7th grade – Seventh grade students recently finished up Jenn Stark-inspired drip drawings, yearbook designs for LMS, and dinosaur drawings. Currently, students learned about the life and artwork of Walt Disney. Students are choosing their favorite Disney character to replicate, on large posterboard, in the medium(s) of their liking. Next, we will begin enlarged logo and/or package design paintings inspired by the life and work of pop artist, Andy Warhol.

8th grade – Eighth grade students recently finished up Chinese landscape paintings, yearbook designs for LMS, and dinosaur drawings. Currently, students learned about the history and tradition of the koi fish emanating from China and Japan. Next, students will hopefully begin a clay project or two beginning with the history and tradition of piggy banks. Students will create a piggy bank-inspired clay sculpture.

9th hour/Art Enrichment – Since the weather has been so nice, we have been doing quite a bit of chalking in the outside courtyard area! Recently, students finished up bioluminescent animals found in the depths of the ocean using oil pastels on top of black construction paper. We also completed Egyptian sarcophagus designs using aluminum foil and colored sharpies to add details. Currently, students are encouraged to complete LMS yearbook designs and we will be voting today on a new project idea.

Band – Aaron Edwards

Our 8th Grade band performed with the Lansing High School Marching Lions at the September 16th Football Game. We had over 200 band members on the field for pregame and in the stands. They did an amazing job!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVP23209UR8&feature=youtu.be>

Choir – Josiah Ketterman

All Choirs at the middle school are beginning to be performance-ready! Their concert is October 19th at 7:00 PM in the district auditorium and will feature 6th, 7th and 8th grade choirs.

6th Grade has also begun a composition project with GarageBand, a music software on student iPads. 7th and 8th grade students have been practicing music for the All-State Choir auditions. In total, around 40 students are auditioning for the Mid-Level All-State Choir that takes place in Wichita at the Kansas Music Educators Association Conference.

The following students have also been selected to sing in the Northeast Kansas Music Educators Association District Honor Choir –

- Allie Waite (8th Grade)
- Rachel Dowty (7th Grade)
- Ava Valdez (7th Grade)
- Chloe Bullard (8th Grade)
- Ethan Valverde (7th Grade)
- Elijah Sloan (8th Grade)

Computers – Sara Meyers

All grade levels have successfully completed a pilot program for typing. Students learned proper finger placement, speed accuracy of typing, and were able to improve their typing skills from the first day of our class beginning the pilot program.

6th Grade Computers – 6th grade students completed their unit on Google Docs, learning how to format documents, create menus, and design professional presentations on their dream dog. Since Google Docs is widely used across the district, it was important that students know all the ins and outs of this Google Platform. Students were also introduced to Google Sheets and creating tables and formulas to assist with data collection. As Google Sheets can be overwhelming, our classes focused on the recognition of each Google Sheet feature. With spooky season upon us, and the changing of quarters, our 6th graders will be researching fall and Halloween traditions around the

world and creating a presentation based off the information and skills to which they have learned and found.

7th Grade Computers – In 7th grade computers, students learned all about Google Earth and the abundance of features that it provides us. Integrating with social studies, students looked up different coordinates and had to find new and fun landmarks that were featured in their assignments. Students also began working on researching and creating a presentation on various animals. In the upcoming weeks, students will transition to learning and using Google Sheets to create menus, a budget, and keeping stats and data for basketball.

8th Grade Computer Applications – 8th graders began their introduction to CTE pathways (Career and Technical Education) with an introduction to marketing. Students learned about the 4 P's of marketing and the importance of branding products. Students are currently creating their own cereal box, learning the importance of their target market, production and cost analysis, and promoting their newly designed cereal. Students will also work on focusing what they have learned with the 4 P's of marketing and focus on designing their own sneakers as well as researching location, price, and promoting their own Haunted House. Since spooky season is upon us, students will then transition into hospitality and event planning by organizing and planning their own fictional Halloween party encompassing the marketing of their own haunted house. In the upcoming months, our CTE focus will shift to business communications and audio/visual platforms.

Math Intervention – Emerald Peters

During September 2022, Lansing Middle School completed Fastbridge screening assessments. Those results were used in addition to grades and teacher reports to place at-risk students into tier groups. Students who no longer needed services were removed from tier groups and placed into a general education elective. Moby Max is still being used in order to provide all LMS students with additional math support daily during one of their study halls. Emerald Peters is meeting with core math teachers during late start to target math skills that specific grade level students are struggling with. Tier intervention resources are still being piloted with the support of Miles Azzeh. 8th grade core teachers have reported that they are seeing growth and improvement transferred into students core math classes through implementation of this trial resource.

PE – Jennifer Bishop, Jason Floetke

PE has had almost all students complete their baseline mile, situps and pushups testing for the semester. During our fitness days, we will work on strengthening their cores, cardiovascular endurance and muscular strength and endurance in order to improve on this baseline score and improve the students' overall health. The goal is also to give students tools to continue their own fitness when not taking PE as a class. We continue to offer many fitness options such as workout stations, walking/running on the track, core work with free apps, and individual/dual activities. One activity that is new to PE this year that we just introduced is Spikeball. This works on hand-eye coordination, speed and agility and is an activity that only requires 2-4 participants.

Reading Intervention – Rachel Sheeley

After completing our fall benchmarking for aReading and CBM-Reading (fluency) for those who scored in the Tier 2 and 3 area, we started new tier groups the week of September 19th. Since our professional development on September 19th contained a session on FastBridge data, we have started testing Tier 3 students and some Tier 2 students using AutoReading. This test will give us

more information on specific needs we need to address with specific students. FastBridge also provides some intervention material that we can take advantage of in our classes to better address student needs.

Students currently in Reading Strategies classes have also started working more in-depth with vocabulary words they are seeing in their regular literature classes as well as phonic skills and words with prefixes and suffixes.

We have held off on progress monitoring with some students as FastBridge is updating the progress monitoring tool. We hope to get progress monitoring set up by the end of the first nine weeks for all students in Tier 3.

Game Day Thursdays continue to be a highlight of the week for many students. Students don't always think of game time as learning time. Many students have favorite games. You might ask your child what their favorite game is thus far.

Spanish – Cristy Quinn

Spanish 6th Grade – Students will continue to review vocabulary – Spanish speaking countries, saying hello and goodbye, days of the week, months of the year and numbers 0-30.

New topics include: seasons of the year, weather, classroom objects, adjectives and direct object pronouns. Also, familiarizing students with the celebration of the “Day of the Dead” in Mexico.

Spanish 7th Grade – Students will continue to review vocabulary – Spanish speaking countries, saying hello and goodbye. Useful phrases for the Spanish classroom, Days of the week and months of the year. New topics include: Weather, seasons of the year, numbers 0-50, body parts, classroom objects, definite articles and indefinite articles. Also, familiarizing students with the celebration of the “Day of the Dead” in Mexico.

Spanish 8th Grade – Students will continue to review vocabulary and grammar – Spanish speaking countries, saying hello and goodbye, useful phrases for the Spanish classroom and the subject pronouns. New topics include: the Ar ending verbs and conjugation, adjectives, numbers 0-100, days of the week and months of the year. Also, familiarizing students with the celebration of the “Day of the Dead” in Mexico.

Technology – Ron Averill

The 7th and 8th grade students are currently finishing up the first expedition that they have been working through independently. We should be starting a new expedition sometime next week. The sixth-grade students are finishing up their modules for the first quarter. We will end the quarter with a day of flying hot air balloons and a competition with their gliders they have built during the quarter.