

Dear Lowell High School parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the parents who were able to participate in last night's safety discussion. We had a very positive and productive meeting with a great group of caring and dedicated parents, staff and community members. We reviewed the recent events that were of most concern and shared what the administration team is doing to move our school forward. Our discussion centered around what we can all do to keep our students safe and engaged. It truly takes a village and I know Lowell is up to the task. Our school community has a strong track record of coming together to ensure we provide the best possible learning and safe environment for our children. We will not let the events of the past week and a half define us as a school community but we will undoubtedly grow from this experience.

We discussed the importance of relationships not only between students, staff and students, but parents with staff, and parents with their own children. Lowell High School is proudly the second largest urban high school in the State of Massachusetts. Our student body and community diversity is robust and together we will not allow this event divide us, but we will stand united to ensure the safety of everyone in our school community. As a group we talked about sharing some ideas with parents to assist us in this priority, which are listed below:

1. Encourage your child to engage in healthy and productive activities after school hours. This includes knowing their whereabouts at all times. Teenagers can easily be distracted when they think no one is watching or they have idle time on their hands. Support your child so they get involved in something they are interested in! We have dozens of clubs, activities, athletic teams and more for your child to participate in.
2. Talk with your child about SAFETY. Remind them that SAFETY comes first above any individual rights. If there is a SAFETY concern, SRO's/police officers, staff members, and adults will expect directions to be followed regardless of whether or not your child agrees with the request. Safety trumps individual rights. This was an area of major misunderstanding in the downtown situation.
3. Stay true to the little things because the little things add up to the big things. We expect all students and staff to wear an ID around their neck each day so we can ensure everyone who is in our school belongs here. Ensure your child understands why they need to keep ear buds put away for safety reasons. Please support us with these expectations of all LHS students. Check out the Parent & Student Handbook on our website where you will see school policies and procedures listed.
4. Get involved – did you know that students who have involved parents are much more likely to succeed in school and in life. Attending Parent/Teacher Open Houses, community events, school events, teacher conferences, parent voice meetings, Friends of Lowell High School meetings, as well general community events will not only help you stay informed but your involvement will ultimately help your child as well. Part of being a good citizen is being involved, whether it is in our school, and/or the community.

Excitedly, we are planning on continuing the discussion started last night on Monday, 10/29 at 6-7pm in the Little Theatre. Please come and be part of our new parent voice group as we work together to make LHS a better school for all students!

As promised, please see the invitation (below) for the citywide parent council meeting this Wednesday evening from 5:30-7:30pm at the Senior Center (dinner included). Our parent/teacher open house is on Tuesday, 10/9 – I hope you can attend one or maybe both!

Thank you and have a good evening.

YOUR VOICE ^{still} MATTERS

September 26, 2018
5:30pm - 7:30pm
Lowell Senior Center
276 Broadway Street
Lowell MA 01854

Join us for the
Lowell Public Schools
CITYWIDE FAMILY COUNCIL
Kickoff!

*In collaboration with the Working Cities
Lowell CHOP Dinner.*

Join us to kickoff the council that will help inform district decisions and make every Lowell Public School student's experience better.

Hosted by **Lowell Public Schools, Project LEARN, and Working Cities Lowell.**

Dinner, raffles, childcare, interpretation (if requested) will be provided.
Backpacks provided to the first 50 attendees.

RSVP: www.yourvoicematterslowell.org

