

Dear LHS Family,

I hope you've had the chance to enjoy these beautiful days this past long weekend and you are ready for the second week of school! I know last week was pretty busy, but overall the first days of school were very successful due to all of your efforts.

As I mentioned on our first day together, this is the first of my regular weekly memos. I plan to send them out each Sunday evening or Monday morning in order to communicate happenings within the school, give shout outs, share upcoming plans for the week, and more. Please make sure you read them as I will try to include everything for the upcoming week so you don't see a constant stream of daily emails from me. If you have information you think you should be shared in this format, or would like to recommend a shout out, please let me know by Friday the week before and I will do my best to include it. 😊

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Staff absences or staff out of the building - Starting this week, we will be listing the names of staff members who are out for the day (but not the reason why) on the main page in X2. We are starting this practice so that we can all be aware of who is in the building for safety reasons. If you know that your neighbor next door or across the hall is out, you can keep your eyes and ears out if the sub should need any assistance or has a question. Also, if we have a fire drill it is very important to make sure everyone knows where to go and what to do. We are all part of the LHS family and we need to work together for the safest possible outcome in case of any emergency. I hope you find this helpful.

Teacher class changes - We had to make about a dozen teacher class changes the first week or so of school to make sure we are doing everything possible to meet the teacher contract requirement of no more than three teacher preps. If there was a change to your schedule last week or this week, I apologize and promise that we will do our best to prevent this type of late change in the future. I appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we implement this self-correction.

Attendance - PLEASE make sure you post your daily and class attendance in a timely and accurate manner. This is critical as mistakes can create much angst with parents. Imagine what happens if we accidentally call home regarding a student who is not in school, only to find out that they are actually here. We are working on having subs send a daily attendance roster to the respective house clerks to make sure attendance is posted daily for every student - be on the lookout for more information on how we plan to implement this.

Our student Isabelle Roche - Her parents came into LHS this past week and were presented with a large picture frame including a picture of Isabelle and a description of the new Merrimack Valley Unsung Hero Award which will be given to a LHS swim team recipient for the first year, and we have invited Isabelle's parents to be present when the award is given in November. Thank you to Coach Jen for paving the way to make this a reality! We were also able to bring them to the small memorial outside in the hallway next to Erin Kehoe and Amy Woo's classrooms. It was a small gesture that provided a place to show pictures of Isabelle and write notes to her family. Friends of Isabelle seemed to appreciate this act of kindness and remembrance. Isabelle's mom and dad were quite taken by it. Thank you to both Erin and Amy. Be on the lookout for an article in the Lowell Sun this week regarding Isabelle and her beautiful family.

School supplies - All sorts of supplies (backpacks, papers, pens/pencils, etc.) are available for students who need them. Please see Crystal Quinton in D House. Thanks Crystal for making this happen each

year, our students are very fortunate to have such committed staff members (plus neighbors and friends) willing to make sure our students have what they need for back to school!

### SHOUT OUTS!

Thank you again to everyone who helped prepare for opening day/week and who made the first days so successful!

Thank you to **Alan and his team** who cleaned and prepared our building. Thank you to the **department heads** who worked tirelessly to interview and hire so many bright and talented teachers. Thank you to our **lunch ladies** many of whom worked during the summer to prepare lunches but also made sure breakfast and lunch were up and running first thing Tuesday morning. Thanks to our **house teams (clerks, schedulers, counselors, social workers and admin)** who met with and prepared for students and families prior to school opening to help them have a successful start to school. As I have said before, we couldn't have done all of this without our scheduling team **Mark and Joan** who worked tirelessly all summer to make sure staff schedules were ready and students had schedules in their hands. Thank you to **Mary Lou and Pat (with some extra assistance from Kathy)** for welcoming and registering so many new students prior to school starting. Thank you to the **Freshman Academy team** for a well-run and exciting orientation day, many hands made the day run smoothly - great job by all! A special thank you to **Jim Lutz, our band director, our ROTC students, and dance teams** who performed for the freshman on Day One. Thank you to **Malinda and Sharon** for making sure the PowerPoints (and sound) went off without a hitch on both Monday and Tuesday! Thanks to **Tom Thornton**, who helped make sure students were in place for the events and overall made sure things ran smoothly on the first days. We can't forget to thank **Boyd** who was in before school started to make sure we teacher duties were set and any positioned any subs we needed for opening day. Thanks to our **SRO's** for being visible and helping students have a positive start to the year. Also thanks to our **new SPED Director, Shonii DiFrancesco** and her team for making sure our SPED students were set-up and ready for a wonderful school year. Thanks to **Charlie Pouliot** for getting our website updated and **Sheila Carroll** for her assistance with our new to LHS hires. Thanks also to our **librarians and library aides** for making sure our library was ready on Day One! Great job to our new **Athletic Director, Dave Lezenski** for implementing the on-line athletic sign-ups which are almost at 600!!! Lastly, thanks again to a warm and welcoming **leadership team along with Sue and Charlene** who helped prepare for our school opening. As you can see, everyone played a part in the success of the week and the level of overall teamwork was outstanding. I am so proud to be a part of Team LHS!

### WHAT'S COMING UP?

**Sept. 8 (F) First Home Football Game at Cawley 7:00 pm (Free admission with Staff ID)**  
**Sept. 11 (M) 9/11 Tribute, ROTC, LHS Main flag**

Enjoy your week; I'll hope to see many of you as I visit classrooms this week. As always, please let me know if I can do anything to assist you in making your LHS day better! My door is always open, just check-in with Sue to make sure I'm in my office before you arrive.

All the best,  
Marianne