

Dear LHS family,

We're back everyone! I am sure you can agree, we had a very busy and successful opening week. We are extremely grateful to our custodial staff who prepared our classrooms and hallways for our return this week. Thank you to Sue Francisco, Tom Thornton, Charlie Pouliot, Malinda Pires, Dr. Sharon Clark, and Alan Sayer for making sure the auditorium was all set for our staff welcome back. Thanks again to the Friends of LHS for the coffee and donuts they provided, and to Sue for picking them all up! Our time together in the auditorium was productive and informative and set the stage for the rest of the day and year ahead! Our welcome back to students the next day was very positive especially our time with each class in the auditorium. It is critically important to set the tone for the school year and our House Dean Team did a fantastic job with each class. The Freshman students also had a warm welcome from Michele and her team including the famous LHS Band welcome tradition and highlights from AF JROTC drill teams and our STEP team.

Now that our first week (of extreme heat and early release days) is behind us, we look forward to the next three full days. Thank you to all staff out in the hallways – your presence, and friendly faces make a big difference.

The climate of our school last week was so positive, thank you to all for such a strong school opening!

As you did last year, please continue to forward me any LHS news. It's important to share all the greatness happening on a daily basis with our whole school family so we can support and recognize the work we all do each day!

DID YOU KNOW?

Applications for our new student voice group were sent out last week. Please encourage your advisory students to apply if interested by 9/14. Applications can be emailed to me or dropped off in the main lobby. I also sent out the Staff Voice Group applications last week, I hope you'll consider participating in this important work as we move our school forward and work toward accomplishing our goals this new school year.

PLEASE WELCOME:

Once our new staff pictures have been uploaded in X2, I will post pictures of our newest staff members along with a few introductory words. If you haven't already, please reach out to a new staff member and see how you can help them. Let's show them how many Marigolds exist in our school! I'm attaching the article included in their welcome to LHS goodie bag as a reminder of how important being a "Marigold" is.

Thank you to Jen Carey for taking on the role of lead mentor this year - I know our newest teachers will be in good hands with Jen and our teacher mentors, Jodi Ahern, Patricia Adams, Mike Crowe, and Allyson Carbone.

LOOK AHEAD FOR SEPTEMBER

Date	Day	Description	Time	Location
Sept. 5	Wed	School Committee Mtg.	6:30pm	City Hall Council
Sept. 10	Mon.	ID/Portrait Photo/Makeups/L./T.	12:00pm-2:30pm	L.T.
Sept. 10	Mon.	Latin Lyceum Parent Assoc. Mtg.	6:00pm – 7:00pm	L.T.
Sept. 10	Mon.	Friends of Lowell High School Mtg.	7:00pm	L.T
Sept. 11	Tues.	9/11 Tribute, AFJROTC	9:30am	LHS Main Flag Poles
Sept. 19	Wed.	Early Release – Students	11:45am	
Sept. 28	Fri.	Schoolhouse Breakfast with all staff Host B House	7:15am-7:45am	L.T.
Sept. 29	Sat.	MIE study session for AP Lit. Students		

Have a super three days - let's keep the positive momentum going!

Proudly yours,

Marianne



Head of School
Lowell High School

Find Your Marigold: The One Essential Rule for New Teachers (excerpt)- Jennifer Gonzalez

Welcome to your first year of teaching. This year will test you more intensely than just about anything you've done up to now. It will deplete all your energy, bring you to tears, and make you question every talent or skill you thought you had. But all these tests, if you approach them the right way, will leave you better and stronger than you are today.

Advice is available everywhere you look, and some of it is very good. Still, with everything you have to do right now, it's easy to get overwhelmed by the sheer volume of it all. And the fact is, a lot of those tips won't work very well if you fail to follow this one essential rule:

Surround yourself with good people.

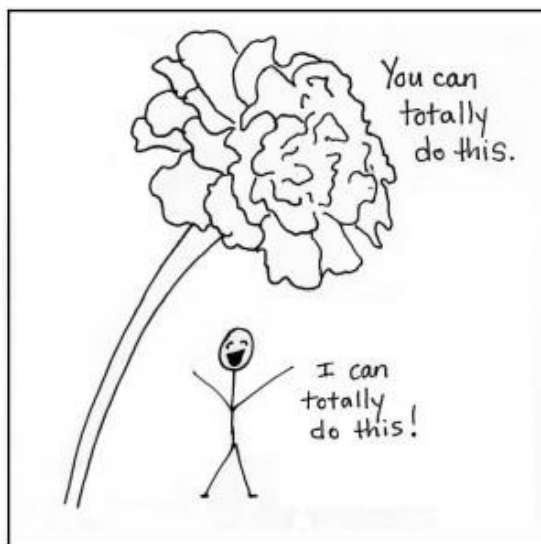
By finding the positive, supportive, energetic teachers in your school and sticking close to them, you can improve your job satisfaction more than with any other strategy. And your chances of excelling in this field will skyrocket. Just like a young seedling growing in a garden, thriving in your first year depends largely on who you plant yourself next to.

The Marigold Effect

Many experienced gardeners follow a concept called *companion planting*: placing certain vegetables and plants near each other to improve growth for one or both plants. For example, rose growers plant garlic near their roses because it repels bugs and prevents fungal diseases. Among companion plants, the marigold is one of the best: It protects a wide variety of plants from pests and harmful weeds. If you plant a marigold beside most any garden vegetable, that vegetable will grow big and strong and healthy, protected and encouraged by its marigold.

Marigolds exist in our schools as well – encouraging, supporting and nurturing growing teachers on their way to maturity. If you can find at least one marigold in your school and stay close to them, you will grow. Find more than one and you will positively thrive.

Few teachers will be lucky enough to be planted close to a marigold – being assigned to one as a mentor, co-teacher, or team leader will be rare. You will have to seek them out. You can identify them by the way they congratulate you on arrival, rather than asking why anyone would want this godforsaken job. Or by the way their offers to help sound sincere. Or just by how you feel when you're with them: Are you calmer, more hopeful? Excited to get started on a teaching task? Comfortable asking questions, even the stupid ones? If you feel good around this person, chances are they have some marigold qualities.



Once you've identified your marigolds, make an effort to spend time with them. Having a hard day? Go to your marigolds. Not understanding how to operate the grade reporting system? Go to your marigolds. Confused by something the principal said at the faculty meeting? Marigolds. They may be on the other side of the building, out of your grade or subject area, or otherwise less convenient to reach than others. If your school is especially toxic, you might have to find your marigolds in another school, or even online. Make the effort. It's worth the trouble.