

Lopez Island School District #144

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Brian Auckland, Superintendent/Elementary Principal

Dr. Martha Martin, Secondary Principal

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Dear LISD Families,

School starts on Tuesday and the staff is back! We've had two full days of professional development, meeting, planning, and working hard to be ready for your students. I've been so impressed with the way this staff crew is leaning into difficult conversations.

We had two sessions of equity training this week from the Equity Institute, a professional development opportunity made possible by the Lopez Island Prevention Coalition. The whole LISD staff participated along with other community leaders in an effort to build our own cultural competence, individually and collectively.

Qmlativ

As you well know, we have switched to a new student information system, and we are working out a lot of kinks. We are also getting a lot of training and support in an effort to leverage the power and flexibility of this new program in ways that make sense for our school. We think we have figured out a way to send attachments without requiring you to use a password. My fingers and toes are crossed. I keep saying this, but we really do appreciate your patience. I acknowledge that communication glitches at a time when you are really needing information has been very frustrating.

LIPTSA

Please join the Lopez Island Parent Teacher Student Association ([LIPTSA Website](#)). It's easy! You can now just follow the link below to join.

Online Membership Form!

[Join Online!](#)

K-8 Families

The Lopez Library and the LISD are partnering up to plan a possible after school enrichment program three days a week in the afternoon this fall, for 1st – 8th graders, primarily outdoors with some small group time indoors. As you can imagine, there are a lot of logistics and safety

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procedures to figure out, but before we can get too far along in the planning, we'd like to gauge interest from families about making this program happen. If you are interested and/or have questions about the program, could you let us know by filling out this short form? Please feel free to share this with other family networks. Thanks!

<https://forms.gle/mHi3p4up3G9gNq8r5>

The Lopez Library and Family Resource Center are also working on compiling a list of additional opportunities that local organizations are offering for kids to learn and socialize outdoors. That list is still being compiled, but will be available through the Lopez Library website and the LIFRC.

Secondary Families

Yesterday was the first official day back for teachers. We had a long secondary staff meeting and are meeting again today to work out more details. The office staff is very busy placing students in classes and figuring out how to make our new student information system, Qmlativ, flex to accommodate what we believe to be the right pedagogical decision for our students.... the seven 5-week blocks.

Your student will get an email from their G period teacher and from their Pack teacher on Friday afternoon. That message will include links and other important information your student needs for the first day of school.

Jed Lubin has joined the secondary staff as our 6th grade social studies teacher. Jed has been a paraprofessional at LISD, and he just finished his teaching certification. We are so pleased to welcome him to the secondary faculty.

6th grade families and other middle school families, you are getting a separate letter today with important info and a link to 6th grade orientation.

Here is what the day will look like for the first five weeks of school.

9:00-9:15	Office hours
9:15-12:15	G
12:15-12:45	Pack
12:45-1:30	Lunch
1:30-3:45	Office hours

Attendance and Grading

Both attendance and grading have returned to pre-Covid normalcy. Attendance at school is mandatory, and that includes both synchronous (whole Zoom meetings) and asynchronous (individual and small group activities). We are working out the details of what this means when families have connectivity issues.

For secondary students, mandatory attendance means classes and Pack. Students will be in class (though not on Zoom for the whole time) from 9:15-12:45 Monday through Friday. Afternoons are for individual work, conferring with teachers, and tutoring. Some students may be involved in the open-air enrichment program, which will not start the first week of school.

Uplifting News!

3 out of 5 AP English students from 2019-20 received a 4 out of 5 on their May exams (scores published in July). This is a huge achievement AND it saves money in college tuition!

Recent quote from a new Lopez graduate: “I just had something to tell you, which I think you would find amusing. I started my Gender and Sexuality in a Global Context class today and as much as I thought negatively about A Room of One’s Own, I have never been more thankful to have read Virginia Wolff as I do now having to discuss women’s roles. I resented it at the time but I am thankful you made us push through it.”



The Youth Conservation Corps has been working in our school production garden this summer. Check out this onion harvest photo!

Mr. B, who is teaching the kindergarten crew this year, is putting together a mentoring program with the help of a student he taught 18 years ago!

Kindergarten families are all booked for meet and greets next week:-)

We have a nifty new platform for speech therapy and occupational therapy.

The USDA has extended the waivers for schools to offer free lunch for children ages 0-18 until the end of December. **FREE LUNCH!** Go kitchen crew....we love you.

Take care, everyone. Have a great weekend and get ready for the first day of school!

All my best,
Martha Martin, Secondary Principal