

## **Lopez Island School District #144**

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Lopez Island, WA 98261  
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[www.lopezislandschool.org](http://www.lopezislandschool.org)

Brian Auckland, Superintendent/Elementary Principal

Dr. Martha Martin, Secondary Principal

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September 18, 2020

Dear LISD Families,

Even if you are a typically positive, enthusiastic, and grateful person, I think many of us can agree that this is all really hard. In a faculty meeting yesterday, you really should have heard the outpouring of love and compassion for parents and guardians. You are doing a LOT to support learning for your students and we see you! We sincerely hope that you are all taking good care of yourselves by taking device free breaks. When all the smoke clears, we hope you can take some time to take walks, breathe in some fresh air, and remember that we are here to support you.

The LISD staff put together some family tips for remote learning. We hope you find a few helpful:

- If you can, involve your students in creating a clean and quiet work place for each child, that's great. If that's really hard, headphones can help. And to go a step further, we are happy to provide headphones if you let us know!
- Keep school supplies in a box that are handy.
- Try not to vacuum or talk on the phone when your students are on Zoom, but we do recognize that life happens and you have to get things done when you can.
- Post the daily/weekly schedule(s) on the fridge so everybody in the family knows who is doing what and when.
- Keep healthy snacks and water available for breaks.
- Encourage students at every age to get up, get dressed, and transition to the school day, even though it's from home. We ask that students do not attend Zoom meetings from bed.
- Reach out to teachers and let us know if you need support or materials for remote learning. We appreciate you and we are here for you!

### **Playground**

Playgrounds have reopened and your family is welcome to use the school playground after 4:00. We recommend masks and physical distancing if there are children from more than one family/friend pod.

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The Lopez Island School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee(s) has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Superintendent Brian Auckland – [bauckland@lopezislandschool.org](mailto:bauckland@lopezislandschool.org), Title IX Coordinator, HR Specialist Renee Koplan – [rkoplan@lopezislandschool.org](mailto:rkoplan@lopezislandschool.org), Section 504 Academic Case Manager, K-12 Counselor Jeanna Carter – [jcarter@lopezislandschool.org](mailto:jcarter@lopezislandschool.org), OR contact by phone, 360-468-2202, OR mail to 86 School Rd, Lopez Island, WA 98261.

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## **Secondary Families**

A separate secondary letter has been posted on the blog about the FINISHED A-F schedule and how to communicate your choices. One thing I neglected to say in that letter is that we'd appreciate a first, second, and third choice for electives so we do not have to call you.

Pack is an attendance requirement and we are doing our best to ensure that it is time well spent for our students. Pack this year includes social/emotional connection, digital citizenship, clubs, and productivity skills.

We recognize that many students have jobs. Afternoons are for office hours and one on one or small group tutoring with teachers. We ask that working students keep most afternoons free.

## **Coffee Talk**

Please join me for a [Coffee Talk](#) on Thursday, September 24, 5:00 pm. As you know, I'm the secondary principal, so I may not have the most up to date intel on elementary, but I always appreciate the opportunity to visit with LISD parents and guardians.

## **Internet and Attendance**

When internet goes down on island or just at your home, we will of course offer an excused absence if students...

- Join the synchronous Zoom lesson late if internet comes back up during the lesson.
- Use a cellular hot spot if possible.
- Let the teachers know what is happening as soon as possible

## **Lunch Program**

The USDA has extended the waivers for schools to offer free lunch for children ages 0-18 until the end of December. [Follow this link](#) to apply so you can get delicious LISD meals delivered!

## **Phones:**

The phone system is still down and likely to be so for a while. As I said, it is an old system and unable to be fixed, so we are exploring new systems. We will update you when you can call us again. In the meantime, we'll do our best to respond to email in a timely manner.

## **Really Good News!**

- From Richard T.: The Cornerstones class has been delving into the three branches of Philosophy - Ontology, Epistemology and Ethics - while also learning the three skills of philosophical study to help solve problems with analysis, assessment, and argument. They're studying readings from Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and also from great thinkers such as Rene Descartes, Aristotle, Plato, Confucius and many more to come. The assignments turned in by these young people have gone beyond expectations. "Cogito ergo sum"

- From Brian G.: *School-Homing Kindergarten Experiment* starts Monday! Kindergarten parents, Brian Auckland, and Frank James approved a proposal to take kindergarten on the road. In-person learning delivered to kindergartners in familiar outdoor settings, where students are experts of their own gardens, trampolines, fields, forests, goats and beaches. Picture a Transformer toy with an unfolding classroom spilling from the back of a pick-up truck. A canopy tent, PPE, round rug in a drive-way, small table and chairs, materials on the tailgate, anything to break young students (and teacher) away from screens. I'm feeling fortunate to live in a small district where innovation and community make space to cook up delicious variations. Thank you, kindergarten parents for seasoning with your ideas and enthusiasm!!
- From Becca: Hey there. 4th and 5th Graders are engineering and creating full-size Selfie's for their classrooms to keep their teachers from being lonely. Lorri and Becca have big plans for the selfies once they come to school. The idea was taken from the Mariner's Seat Fleet campaign. Here's Ms. Becca's Selfie!



Today, I close with a photo of Ginger, the garden kitty, who found her way into the secondary wing and surprised me in my office.

*"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time."*  
-Ruth Bader Ginsburg

All my best,  
Martha, Secondary Principal