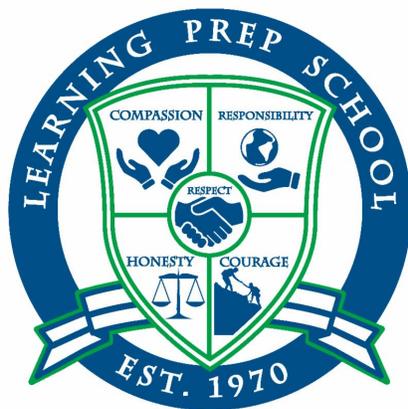


December 19, 2020



Family Newsletter



Check out our **now weekly** newsletter to stay informed about what is going on at LPS!

[Visit our Website](#)

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 23 - Friday, January 1 : No School, Winter Break

Monday, January 4: Classes resume, ALL SCHOOL REMOTE

Monday, January 11: In person classes resume

Monday, January 18: No School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 20: Partners in Education meeting, 8:00 AM

To see the full School Year Calendar, [click here](#)

A message from Kurt

Dear families,

My first note to you was in July, and here we are in December, close to the beginning of Winter Break, with just 2 school days remaining before we all get a well deserved holiday. It has been a challenging year for everyone. For me, coming into a new school and not being able to interact with the larger school community has been a particular challenge. I cringe even saying it, but because of Covid there are both students and staff whom I have not yet met in person. That seems impossible in a community as close knit as Learning Prep, but it is the reality. But I also realize that my challenges are minor compared to those faced this year by others in our Learning Prep community and in the wider world.

As 2020 winds down, I find myself grateful for many things, my family and my health above all. But I am also so appreciative for the welcome the Learning Prep community has given me and the partnership we have all developed as we came together this year to keep our community safe and healthy. We will have future challenges, I am sure, but, as a school, we remained open longer than any of us had ever imagined possible over the summer. Now, as we look forward to a vaccine on the horizon, we see in the new year the possibility of returning to our more normal routines at some point even though we will forever be affected and changed by what we have experienced in 2020.

I wish each of you a safe and healthy winter holiday filled with joy and peace. I look forward to the simple pleasures of meeting and talking with you in the new year and of helping your children grow as learners and reach their tremendous potential.

Thank you for your support this year.

Have the happiest of holidays,
Kurt

Kurt Moellering, PhD
Executive Director

All School News

General announcements:

Flu Vaccine deadline 12/31

The flu vaccine is now required for all children attending Massachusetts schools ages 6 months+.
The deadline to receive the vaccine is 12/31/2020.
Please send a record to the Nursing office by 12/31.

Lunch Menu

To see next week's menu [click here](#).

Amazon Smile

With holiday shopping in full swing, be sure to shop from your AmazonSmile account after selecting LPS as your non-profit organization (which gives LPS .5%!). To sign up go to smile.amazon.com, Account, Other Programs, and Change Your AmazonSmile Charity to "Little People's School" (LPS's legal name).

Wear your holiday sweater Monday!

As a way to show holiday and school spirit, we are encouraging all staff and students to wear their holiday sweater/ugly sweater this **Monday, December 21st**. Stay tuned for photos showcasing all the great sweaters!

Face Mask & Food Drive

Due to the snow days, the Student Council extended the date for donating items for face masks and food donations for the Bristol Lodge until **Monday, December 21st**. We are looking for donations of face masks and any type of single serving food items (chips, fruit or granola bars, packages of crackers, cookies, etc) and beverage items (bottles of water, gatorade, etc). Please consider picking up an extra package of any of these items if you are food shopping this weekend. The Bristol Lodge hands out bagged lunches to people in need, and they would greatly appreciate any donations.

Please contact Marla Jacobs (mjacobs@learningprep.org) with any questions.

Thank you!
Marla Jacobs, Bob Owens, and Laura Nicholson
Student Council Advisors

Reminders & Updates ahead of Winter Break

An email went out earlier today from Kurt with a few important reminders - you can see a copy of this letter [here](#).

Show off your holiday spirit!

While we cannot be together to celebrate the holidays in person, we still can have fun and share the spirit of the holidays. Show off your holiday & school spirit in this fun activity that will strengthen our community and bring us closer together:

- Please send us your favorite holiday recipe and tell us the family story behind it, when you make it, who started using it in your family first, when you eat it, and maybe a picture of your LPS student helping to make it.
- Send us pictures of your family's holiday decorations like your family menorah or your holiday tree, your stockings on the mantel, or lights on the outside of your home with your LPS student in the picture. Send us photos of your holiday traditions and activities that are so important to all of us.
- Make a creative LPS holiday decoration for your home and share a picture of it with your child.

We will share your pictures, stories, and recipes with the community on social media so we can all have a little fun and spread the holiday spirit within the LPS community! You can send your pictures, stories, and recipes to Ipsalumni@learningprep.org.

Middle School News

No news to report!

High School News

High School Yearbook

It is time to pre-order your 2020-2021 High School Yearbook. 52 full color pages documenting this extraordinary school year. Order on JostensYearbooks.com

High School Remote Students! Did you get your portrait taken yet? If you have not submitted your yearbook photo, please do so soon! Take one at home and email to JDibenedetto@learningprep.org

Senior Parents/Guardians! Seniors will work on their senior collage page after winter break. Please gather some childhood/memorable pictures. Email pictures to JDibenedetto@learningprep.org

MCAS Update

Updates to MCAS and ACCESS Testing Schedules and Participation Requirements

In September, DESE announced the initial testing schedule for MCAS and ACCESS tests for the 2020-2021 school year, including a special administration of the high school ELA and mathematics tests in January-February 2021 for students in grades 11 and 12, as well as for adults who need to earn their competency determination (CD) in one or both subjects.

At that time, we acknowledged that we would update our plans as needed. I am writing to you today to inform you that, in recognition of the scheduling and logistical challenges that schools and districts are experiencing, we have decided to adjust the schedules and expectations for MCAS high school testing and ACCESS testing as follows:

January-February High School MCAS ELA and Mathematics Tests

- Students in grade 11 (class of 2022) will no longer participate in testing during the January/February window. Testing for this class in ELA and mathematics is being postponed until later in the year.
- Students in grade 12 (class of 2021), as well as adult test-takers, will remain eligible to participate in one or both tests beginning in January to earn their CD. Please note that currently enrolled 12th grade students who were previously on track to graduate during the 2019-2020 school year do not need to take the tests, as they remain eligible for the modified CD.
- The testing window for eligible students is extended through February 12, giving schools an additional week to complete testing. The full testing window will be January 14 through February 12, 2021.

Therefore, the testing opportunity in January will take place only for those seniors who have not yet passed the ELA and/or Math MCAS tests. Dates for this testing session are as follows and families will receive an email letter with more specific information:

ELA – January 19th, 20th and 21st
 Math – January 25th and 26th

Other information



Admissions Virtual Information Sessions

The best way to grow our wonderful community is by telling others! If you know someone who may be looking for a place like Learning Prep for their child, please encourage them to attend one of our weekly, Virtual Information Sessions!

Wednesday, 1/6 - 12:30 PM
 Thursday, 1/14 - 8:30 AM
 Tuesday, 1/19 - 9:00 AM
 Thursday, 1/28 - 1:00 PM

RSVPs can be sent to **Korina Martin**,
 Director of Admissions at
kmartin@learningprep.org



Show your school spirit!

Here's a great way to show your Panther Pride! Check out the School Store to buy shirts, jackets, hoodies, hats AND MASKS!

[SHOP NOW](#) and enter code PLAY10 at checkout for 10% OFF!

Thank you to our sponsors!



