

October 2, 2020



Family Newsletter



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

Visit our Website

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 6: Picture makeup day (in person and remote students)

Monday, October 12: No School

Thursday, October 22: Virtual Curriculum Night, 6-7:30 PM (details TBA)

Friday, October 23: Early Dismissal, 11:00 AM

Wednesday, October 28: Grandfriends Day, 10:00 AM (details TBA)

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

A note from Kurt

It was terrific to "see" some of you at the Partners in Education & Parent Connect meeting Thursday

morning. Thank you for your attendance and support. For those of you who could not make it, I do look forward to meeting you at some point in the future. Hopefully soon and hopefully in-person!

The fall increase in coronavirus cases that we have long expected has begun in Massachusetts. The numbers in the state, generally, are not bad, but they are slowly increasing. We are keeping a very, very close eye on this. We monitor the numbers of infections in Massachusetts and in the towns our students live in; we speak regularly with the Newton Board of Health, maaps, and DESE; we have thankfully had no positive cases in our LPS community. There is not one single number that will determine when and if we will close. We will act in coordination with public health officials, DESE, maaps, and the members of our own community. I hope remote does not happen, but if the numbers of cases simply keep rising, at some point we will not be able to continue bringing people together on campus and will go fully remote. We will continue to keep you informed of our decision, but it might happen quickly. Once remote, our students will continue to follow their schedules in much the same way as they did previously. I will of course keep you up to date.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,
Kurt

Kurt Moellering, PhD
Executive Director

Principal's Update

Jen Thorell, High School Principal:

Happy October! While the weather can't seem to make up its mind, we at LPS are sure about one thing; our students continue to shine! They continue to impress us with their flexibility daily.

As we settle in, more "normal" LPS things are happening. We had our first Pizza Friday last week which has been a staple at LPS for the 17 years I have been here, and beyond! We had our first Partners in Education meeting yesterday morning which welcomes parent involvement. Our student council will be up and running soon and today we resumed our Student Citizenship of the Week awards. Although they are small LPS things, they give a little sense of LPS pre-Covid and we are looking forward to more of these little wins!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,
Jen

Amy Davis, Middle School Principal:

Well we are 4 more days into all this learning. Students are beginning to get comfortable with the technology, learning how to sign in to online sites to support their learning, and starting to dive into informal assessments, baseline writing assignments, and content. With the idea that you can never say thank you enough...thanks for your patience and flexibility.

I wanted to share some exciting new communication tools (for returning families these will be a welcome come back.) Goal sheets and Good Citizen Slips are back!!! They may not look exactly the same but they will be returning in some form. Communication is such a hallmark of our program, not only with students but also with families. We know that students benefit from immediate feedback in order to progress and we know that families want to be in the loop about their student's day. Keep an eye out for the return of a re-envisioned goal sheet late next week or early the following week. Your student's counselor will have more specific information about Goal Sheets and what it will look like for your student.

Additionally, we have been feeling the void of ways, other than verbally, to provide positive reinforcement. Good Citizen Slips and Raffle Assemblies are back. Good Citizens Slips are a way that staff can "catch someone being/doing good." We need MORE OF THIS, especially in this time. Students gain so much from receiving a GCS and every few weeks we plan to have a zoom assembly to recognize student accomplishments.

Please note that we are minimally introducing paper into the program and will be following all safety protocols as advised by our nursing department.

Hope you have a wonderful fall weekend. As always, reach out to me at 617-965-0764 x407

or adavis@learningprep.org with any questions or concerns.

Fondly,
Amy

General announcements:

Calendar

The Family Calendar that details events and important dates is now available on the website. [You can check it out here.](#)

Picture Makeup Day

Is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6. Unfortunately, there will not be an after school option so if remote students want to arrange a time during the school day, they should contact Gretchen Petersen.

Daily attestations

Just a friendly reminder to please be sure to fill out the daily forms by 7:00 am each day.

Lunch Menu

To see what's coming up on the menu, [click here!](#)

Zoom Waiting Room - what is this?

One of the strategies we used in the spring and will continue to use now is the Zoom waiting room. This is an opportunity for a student to take a break from class whether it is decided by them and approved by the teacher, or used by the teacher. At times, students need a minute to regulate and get back on track and teachers can use this feature to give students time to take a break and return to class as a ready learner.

How to get involved

This week we held our first Partner's in Education (P.I.E.) Meeting in conjunction with a Parent Connect. If you were unable to attend, you can find the meeting's minutes on our website [here](#).

There are numerous ways for parents to get involved here at LPS. Partners In Education (PIE) and the Parent Advisory Group (PAG) are parent groups which each meet every other month and welcome your involvement. Below are descriptions and meeting times for each:

Partners In Education (PIE) is an association that includes parents and staff of Learning Prep School. The day your child joins Learning Prep School, and/or the day that you became a member of the school staff, you become a member of Partners In Education (PIE) at LPS. The rationale for The Partners In Education (PIE) organization is to provide support for the students and teachers by providing a range of activities and events each year designed to bring the various constituencies of the school together to advance and to celebrate the LPS community. Meeting days and times the 2020-2021 school year:

October 1st – 8:30am to 9:30am
November 19th – 8:00am to 9:00am
January 20th – 8:00am to 9:00am
March 25th – 8:00am to 9:00am
May 19th – 8:00am to 9:00am

Parent Advisory Group (PAG) meetings are designed to focus on the state of the school and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on the salient and timely focus points of the school, including the health, education, and safety of our students. Meeting days and times the 2020-2021 school year:

October 20th – 8:00am to 9:00am
December 9th – 8:00am to 9:00am
February 23rd – 8:00am to 9:00am
April 29th – 8:00am to 9:00am

The Partners In Education (PIE) Committee will

soon be holding Executive Committee Elections.

For more information about the election process [click here](#).

If interested in running, please review [the election timeline here](#), and note that a letter of interest is due **Monday, October 12**.

FYI - Bell Schedule

Middle School Bell Schedule:

1st period: 7:50-8:33
2nd period: 8:35-9:18
3rd period: 9:20-10:03
4th period: 10:05-10:48
5th period: 10:50-11:33
6th period: 11:35-12:05 (Lunch)
7th period: 12:07-12:50
8th period: 12:52-1:35
9th period: 1:37-2:20

High School Bell Schedule:

1st period: 7:50-8:33
2nd period: 8:35-9:18
3rd period: 9:20-10:03
4th period: 10:05-10:48
5th period: 10:50-11:33
6th period: 11:35-12:18
7th period: 12:20-12:50 (Lunch)
8th period: 12:52-1:35
9th period: 1:37-2:20

West Nile Virus

Newton's Health & Human Services Department recently announced that Newton is a high risk area for the West Nile Virus. While we are monitoring having students outside very early in the morning (peak mosquito time) you may want to send your child in with repellent or apply repellent themselves in the morning prior to coming to school. The Newton HHS Department advises to use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. They also advise that wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Middle School Yearbook

The Middle School intends to publish a yearbook for the 2020-2021 school year. Given the variety of learning environments this year, the yearbook committee would love students to send photos from home. Please email Emily at edaddario@learningprep.org with photos at any time! In addition to sending photos, we would love to hear one thing each student is looking forward to about their school year. Please email edaddario@learningprep.org with something you're excited about! Thank you for helping to create memories and make the yearbook special!

Stay tuned for more information coming on the High School Yearbook.

Parent Pick-up & Drop-off Procedures

To review the this year's policies, [please visit our website](#) under the page School Documents.

Flu vaccine mandate

Nancy Ishkanian, School Nurse

The flu vaccine is now required for all children attending Massachusetts schools ages 6 months and up. The deadline to receive the vaccine is 12/31/2020. This new requirement is an important step to reduce flu-related illness and the overall impact of respiratory illness during the COVID-19 pandemic. If not already included in your child's immunization records already submitted, please submit your child's proof of vaccination to the school nurses via fax (Fax: 617-527-1514), email (nishkanian@learningprep.org) or provide us with a hard copy. Thank you!

Two-thirds of Americans purchase items on Amazon, do you? If yes, please consider using AmazonSmile for



future online shopping. AmazonSmile is a separate website operated by Amazon that has the same products and prices as their regular website. The only difference is when you purchase on AmazonSmile .5% of your purchase goes to your favorite nonprofit of choice. That may not seem like much, but it can add up over time when an entire community like Learning Prep School takes advantage of the offer.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), go to Account, Other Programs, and Change Your AmazonSmile Charity to "Little People's School" (LPS's legal name) to sign up!

Family Directory

The Family Directory is available by student grade, student last name, and by town. As indicated in the "Information to Review" in your Annual Registration Paperwork, all families are included in the Family Directory unless otherwise specified. If you would like to be removed from the Family Directory, please contact Admissions.

To access the LPS Family Directory:

1. Login with your email address and self-created password to your Parent Portal account [Here](#).
2. Under the "Optional" checklist items, you will see the Family Directory with a link that will open a PDF that you can print or download.

Updated versions are made to the Family Directory quarterly. Continue to use the same link on your Parent Portal account as it will always bring you to the most updated version.



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!

Thursday, 10/8 - 12:00 PM

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



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