La Center High School
March 18, 2014

Curriculum - It's HSPE testing time again! All sophomores including juniors and seniors that have not passed the HSPE Writing and Reading tests, will test this March 19, 20 and 21. Students will begin testing at 8:15 and are able to work as long as they need to complete the test to their best ability. School will begin at 10:20 for the rest of the students with a varied schedule over the three days.

The Junior Mock Interviews are taking place March 19 and 20 each morning during the HSPE testing window. The Navigation Captains implemented this program into the Navigation curriculum last year and it proved to be very successful. Kimberly Bingham, the newly hired College and Career Specialist, has done a great job taking the program over, organizing the event and communicating with the volunteers. We anticipate a successful event and learning opportunity for our students. A big "thank you" goes to the many local and area volunteers taking time away from their businesses to help our students experience the interview process.

In Kathy Bound's US History classes, students have been researching the WWII home front efforts. Students have done extensive research utilizing their textbook and 30 vintage Life magazines. The goal was to interpreter the constitutions Preamble ideals and evaluate if they were upheld during this historical era. For instants, did we establish justice by interning Japanese Americans? Did that really provide for common defense? How did the dramatic increase in war production provide for the common defense? What did the explosion for boom towns effect domestic tranquility? Parents and administrators are invited to attend Mrs. Bound's classroom this coming Tuesday, March 25, to watch the student's presentations.

Students from Mrs. Karukas' Transition classes had a two week **Iron Chef** event. Students researched and chose a beverage, appetizer, main entrée, and desert to make for the competition. It was great fun to visit the class when they had to practice their meals and be a taste tester. The class also invited guests in for the competition and each panel voted on the plating, taste and originality. Tyler Collins placed in 1st and Preston Thorn placed 2nd overall. The students had a fantastic learning experience and did a great job! Congratulations to all of them!

Judges enjoying a beverage and entrée.

Eden Walker presented her entree and Dustin Dolezal his beverage to the panel of judges.

A **Athletics & Activities –**

The Spring Sports Season is upon us, and the Dance Team has the state competition to wrap up the Winter Sports Season on March 29. Nearly all of our spring sports programs will be very competitive at the varsity level. It should be a fun and intensive few months. Our other extra-curricular activities have done really well, with the Knowledge Bowl left to represent La Center at the State meet.

The Chess Team had a fun, first year as a competitive team. They were able to compete at the State Meet in Issaquah on February 28 and March 1. Although, they did not fare well at this meet, it was great experience for the returning players next year. There are plans in the works to set up a schedule to hold competitive chess matches with local schools in Clark County. The team will benefit from the competitions in preparation for post-season.

The Music Department has had some notable success stories, as well. Patrick McConahy represented La Center extremely well by placing 1st in Percussion at the Solo Ensemble, which will allow him to represent LC at the State Competition. Other excellent performances included Blake Johnston who received a Superior Rating in Vocal and Sam Yates who placed 4th, received a Superior Rating, and is an alternate to the State competition. La Center will be competing in the Instrumental Large Group Festival on March 27 and the Vocal Large Group Festival on April 17. We expect our students to shine and perform well in both of these competitions.

The Knowledge Bowl Team is sending both varsity teams to the State competition this Saturday, March 22. It is quite a feat to send 2 teams from the Regional Meet, which took place on February 24. The Stevenson team took first place at Regionals, with the 2 La Center teams following in 2nd and 3rd.

The Dance Team was very successful at the District IV meet on March 8. They qualified for state in all 3 of their routines: Kick, Pom, and Dance. To my knowledge, this is the first time that the LCHS Dance Team has qualified for state in 3 different styles. It is looking possible for the team to bring home a championship trophy or at the very least, a top 4 finish.

The Boys Soccer program has already gotten off to a good start. They defeated King's Way Christian School on Monday, March 17, by a score of 4 – 2. The style that the new coach has brought to the program is a more controlled and finesse approach to the game. Reece Scragg is the new coach, and he comes to us from Wolverhampton, England. He is young, energetic, and most importantly, he has a lot of passion for the game. On the down side, we only have 19 out of 25 players eligible due to grades or not enough practices. This caused the JV games to be cancelled for the first week of the season. It is our hope that when all 25 players get eligible, we will do a modified 8 verses 8 JV game with the other schools in order to keep the JV team alive while the new coach builds the program.

The Girls Golf team is hitting a lull as of late. There were only 6 girls that turned out, where 2 of them quit during the first week and 1 student decided to play softball after 2 weeks of practices. We will continue to support the girls that are out; all of whom are freshmen. This is good news for the future of the program and more efforts will be made in the off-season to get more players out. The girls will definitely go through a learning period during this season.

Our Track and Field team will be among the top in Districts again. Our boys' team is especially strong this year with notable LC athletes turning out for the first time. We will be competitive on the girls' team, but probably not contend for the District Title. The District Meet will be held at Mackenzie Stadium in Vancouver, which will be a great venue for all athletes. This move was decided by the A.D.'s due to some issues with overcrowding and timing devices at Rainier High School last year. Since this is a qualifying event to the State Championships, the Trico League A.D.'s decided to coordinate with the Evergreen School District to hold the event there, since it was the Trico's turn to host the District Meet.

The Baseball Team started off the season well with strong performances at their Jamboree in Battle Ground by winning 1 out of the 2 games on Saturday, March 15. Their first League Double Header against Stevenson on Tuesday, March 18 was a huge success. They won 5-0 in the first game, and 14-0 in the second game. Jaimeson Benitez pitched a perfect game in that second game, which means no one from Stevenson reached 1st base the entire game.

The Softball Team will have a strong Varsity and JV team. There are many underclassmen that are proving to be very valuable to the program. Both the Varsity and JV teams defeated both of their opponents at the Jamboree on March 15. The teams they defeated were Evergreen HS and Heritage HS, both 4A schools. There first game is Wednesday, March 19, against Battle Ground.

Teachers – I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers that have and will continue to participate in the Phoenix programs. This coming weekend, March 21-23, four of our teachers will be chaperoning and participating in Phoenix 7. The staff participating is Minna Thayer, Beth Marshall, Brian Clegg and one of our track coaches, Dennis Dykes. These adults will work with 26 students from Friday beginning their trip to Camp Collins until Sunday arriving back at the school about 2:00. All are eagerly awaiting the adventure. Counselor from Synergo will work with the group at the YMCA Camp Collins located out of Sandy, OR. The entire group will also have four meetings from 3-6 PM over the next 2 months that reinforce the leadership skills taught at camp. The final step for Phoenix 7 is the Phoenix Graduation taking place May 15th at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

We would not be able to do this without the staff's dedication to this program. Thank you LCHS staff for your countless hours of supporting our students as we continue to reach our goals with the Phoenix opportunity.

Students - The Beyond Phoenix class, taught by Shawn Link, has a mission to help improve the schools climate and culture. Students have spent the year developing leadership skills using many tools from their experience and training during their Phoenix weekend and workshops. In bringing the student body together the latest school activity was a movie night on the big screen, Feb. 28th at 7:00 PM. Students watched *Despicable Me* in the commons, bringing folding chairs, eating popcorn and having a great time. About 40 students attended the event. It was such a positive experience that they plan on showing *Despicable Me II* in April.

The Leadership class had yet another successful year with the game Quarantine. This year more students attended the event than in past years. We had about 150 students running through the school maze attempting to get the secret formula and to solve the solution. The entire game took about 1 ½ hours to complete. This was a great fundraiser for our students.

The LCHS Music Department is hosting their March concert, Thursday March 20th at 7:00 PM. Performing that evening is the Jazz Band, Choir, Percussion Ensemble and the Concert Band. These groups are preparing for upcoming regional festivals and their San Francisco tour April 24-27.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Patton
Principal