La Center High School
September 16, 2013

Curriculum - Friday October 18th during 6th period LCHS will be hosting Kenneth Oppel, author of This Dark Endeavor and the Airborn series. Mr. Oppel who has won numerous awards for his writing will share background on his books and how he began his writing career at the age of 17. He will also allow time for questions from students and will autograph any books students might bring.

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library arranged for Mr. Oppel to speak there and to present the awards to the winners of this year's Teen Writing Contest. As part of his trip he offered to speak to a local high school and through the help of Justin Keeler, librarian of the La Center Community Library, we were chosen to benefit from his visit.

Kenneth Oppel has received The American Library Association's Michael L. Printz Honor Book Award, the Governor General's Award for Children's Literature, and the Canadian Library Association's Book of the Year for Children Award; along with numerous other awards. He is currently writing the screenplay for a film based on his book Airborn.

MAAPS – Math A and Physics Support - This year we have created a class that supports Freshmen students who have been identified to struggle in school, particularly in math and science. These students coming from the middle school are at or below grade level in math and science. As identified in the Learning Success Indicators, one of our goals is to provide additional support to students in their freshmen year so they can be successful by passing all classes and earn 6 credits by the end of the school year. Our data shows those freshmen who successfully earn 6 credits are more likely to be on track to graduate on time.

Mr. John Johnson is teaching this class and working closely with Mrs. Thayer (new math teacher) who teaches Math A and Mrs. Amy Neiman and Mrs. Teri Newman who teach Conceptual Physics. Mr. Johnson reviews, preps and reinforces the lessons these teachers are instructing in the classrooms. Students are getting the additional support needed including assistance with homework. We believe this class will provide the additional support needed to help these 24 students be successful at LCHS.

A **Athletics & Activities** Athletics/Activities:

The primary focus for the Director of Extra-Curricular Learning (DECL) will be to encourage coaches to view the time spent with athletes and students as an extension of the learning day. Each moment a coach spends with an athlete has the potential to become another learning opportunity, for both the coach as well as the student-athlete.

Football celebrated, last Friday night, its 100th victory under the leadership of John Lambert. This is an important milestone for any football coach, however it is a monumental one given the history of the program prior to his leadership. The program is undefeated thus far in the season. This includes MS teams, HS C-team, JV and the Varsity team.

Boys Golf has had a great start as well, and is under the direction of Rusty Kissinger. They have wins against Elma and Rochester.
Girls Soccer has a new coach, Cecilia Hagemier. She is young, passionate, and willing to learn. The team is currently 2 – 1 with wins against Toledo and Castle Rock. Their one loss was given to them by Seton Catholic on the first game of the season.

Volleyball looks to be a solid program once again under the direction of Heather Grotte for her 10th season as head coach. The senior players served lunch to the freshmen players on August 27th as a way to build team unity and make the freshmen feel welcomed on the HS team. Volleyball is currently 2 – 0 with wins over White Salmon and Seton Catholic.

Cross Country will again be a dominating force, not only in our league, but also come the state meet this November. Dave Holmes enters his 20th season has the head coach. There has only been one competition so far, which was a jamboree that we hosted on September 9. La Center had 3 of the top 4 finishers for the boys and 2 of the top 3 finishers for the girls.

T **Teachers-** This year's Navigation Captains are Rhea Heaton, Sharon Bryan,

Kathy Bounds and John Johnson. This team met twice over the summer to discuss the direction and implementation of the Navigation program. I am pleased to share with you that our staff has worked very diligently to continue to revamp the program into a more meaningful and productive four year class. Students will have a better understanding of the Pathways and how to use the goals they create to guide them toward their post-secondary plan. Each of the

Navigation Captains has updated their grade level while meeting the objectives of the program which meet the Ends Policies.

Welcome Ms. Storer - Ms. Sara Storer is our new Art/ Drama teacher. Students have already stated to me how much they enjoy her creative ideas she bring to the classes. Sara is incredibly motivated and energized to be at LCHS. One of the student's first art projects was to create a sculpture with the use of garbage. Some of the sculptures are amazing to see how she is starting to get them to think about design, creativity and imagination. Students are very pleased with her interactions and willingness to learn about our school and culture.

Ms. Storer has also taken on getting rid of the massive amounts of items that has been stored in the stage area. Students have been great organizing and discussing the need for various outfits, props and furniture. We are short on space, so it is critical to save any unique items and recycle the rest. Rob Williamson is also helping us figure out what it would cost to replace the storage container behind the theatre, including adding a heater to the unit. Otherwis,e with the moisture in the air, furniture will get moldy and rot in a short time. This is still being worked out.

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Students – Flag of Heroes - We had a wonderful surprise by one of our Freshman, the morning of 9/11. Ryan Rogers brought in to my office a "Flag of Heroes" and asked if we could hang the flag on the wall somewhere in the school for the day to recognize those individuals that were the service men and women who lost their lives on that terrible day. The flag was amazing! I had never seen a Hero's flag, but only heard of them. Ryan shared with us that there are only 400 flags like this and his uncle received it after serving in Afghanistan.

I took Ryan to the entrance of the school and with the help from Mr. Cooke on a ladder, we displayed the "Flag of Heroes" on the wall. I shared this with the staff and students during the morning announcements. Teachers throughout the day brought their classes down to see this beautiful flag. It was powerful and impressive to have the Heroes flag hang in our school for the day. Thank you to Ryan Rogers for his generosity and kindness in sharing the Heroes flag on 9/11.

La Center Comedy League - Jacob Granneman, a sophomore, is organizing our own La Center Comedy League, also known as the LCCL. This is an Improve group that is focusing on teaching students the basics and fundamentals of Improv. He is inviting students to attend each Tuesday after school in the Art/Drama classroom with Ms. Storer. They hope to learn about developing a Character, build a Relationship in a scene, find the Objective or goal in the scene, and establish their environment within the scene which is the Where they are. This acronym for the process is CROW. (Character, Relationship, Objective, Where) It is used in all types of Improv. Jacob hopes to launch LCCL sometime in Mid-October.

Phoenix 6! – We are pleased to announce we are able to offer Phoenix 6 to 26 students and 4 staff members. It begins September 27 – 29 at the YMCA Camp Collins with the support of the YMCA and Synergo. Thank you to the Casino Community Foundation and the La Center School District for their support in making this possible. Students and staff will have four follow-ups when they return over the following two months. The Phoenix Graduation is scheduled for November 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school commons.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Patton
Principal