



November, 2020

LC ACHIEVES!

Distance Learning Edition

This Month's Focus: Adaptation

Reaching Out

Welcome back to LC Achieves! Despite the hardships of one of the most 'interesting' years in our long history, La Center Schools continue to strive to do the best for the students of our community, whether their learning takes place in-person or from a distance. In this newsletter, we'd like to highlight some ways our teachers and staff are finding to stay connected, despite the ongoing difficulties of distance learning.

Schedule Changes

There are numerous unique complications involved in distance learning that we've been taking into consideration as we move through the school year. Student screen time, teacher prep time, student capacity and staff engagement (to name a few) are all moving targets; finding the right balance takes time. We are constantly collecting feedback from staff and students, which has led to changes in the daily schedule. A committee has been created to coordinate these schedule changes across the district.

Kindergarten Coming Back

The Clark County Department of Health approved the return of Kindergarten students on Oct. 29th. We have adjusted classes to accommodate students continuing in distance learning with a designated "online teacher." Between 3-7 students per class have moved into the classrooms of the other four Kindergarten teachers. The elementary school holds 'internet cafes' Monday-Friday from 8:15 to noon for students with limited or no internet connectivity at home. Traditions are important, even during COVID-19, so on Oct. 28th LCES held a Halloween Drive-Thru Parade in lieu of the typical holiday celebrations. Goodie bags were distributed with treats provided by the PTO and assembled by the second grade team!

HS Engagement Efforts

LCES has taken a number of actions to not just improve student contact, but student engagement too. For students without internet access at home, the high school offers an internet cafe for up to 16 students; transportation and lunches are provided. The library is also open with special hours, M-W 11:00 - 7:00 and TH-F 8:00 - 4:00. Teachers are inviting small groups of 2-3 students into the classroom as needed. We are contacting all students on the non-engagement list in an attempt to discover what is needed for reengagement. Additionally, Special Education students (up to 16) are meeting with paraeducators in the building on a daily basis.

LCMS—Character Cards - Positive Reinforcement

Even in distance learning, we want to celebrate our student’s growth as positive human beings. Mr. Thiessen and Mrs. Landerholm are making home visits to students who earn 5, 10, or 20 cards to celebrate their achievements with them. Students are given character cards from the staff for demonstrating monthly traits such as kindness, commitment, patience, honesty, respect, selflessness, humility or forgiveness. Students can earn items like a CharacterStrong T-Shirt or Hoodie. Paeyten Kilborn, Sonja Hendrickson and Sharp Young recently earned 5 cards, a candy bar, and a visit from their school counselor and principal. This is a very enjoyable opportunity for all involved. We can all use a little more positivity these days!



Personal Learning Technology and Skills

This is the one area where the pandemic and distance learning have benefitted our entire district. The distance learning model was the impetus to finally take the leap into providing a “one-to-one” Chromebook ratio for our students. We spent most of the summer gearing up for the dispersal of over 1000 Chromebooks to students across grades K-12. The distribution went really well, and we are now in a great position when we return to in-person instruction. Additionally, our staff has invested an incredible amount of effort to get up to speed on the distance learning model. This model relies heavily on the “Core 4” of Google classroom, Zoom, Flipgrid and Google drive. Our staff has worked diligently to become experts in these platforms. All of this work will be a huge asset once we return to in-person education.

BY THE NUMBERS

Section 504: Serving 93 Students

Special Education: Serving 219 Students

**McKinney/Vento Homeless: Serving 13
Students**

Foster Care: Serving 9 Students

DISTRICT POPULATION (Nov. 2)

High School: 466

Middle School: 374

Elementary: 622

Total Students: 1462