



December, 2020

LC ACHIEVES!

Distance Learning Edition

This Month's Focus: Growing Change

Happy
Holidays

With the holidays fast approaching, LCSD teachers and administration continue to look for ways to make education work for all of our students, taking opportunities where we can find them and making changes when necessary. This month's LC Achieves features a Q&A about COVID-19 and in-school education along with our normal coverage of what we're doing to help every student in the district be as successful as possible.

Home School
Academy
Growth &
Improvement

The Home School Academy continues to enroll students and grow. We are up to 110 students, 91 of them attending full time. In order to facilitate this growth, the LCHSA is adding an Odysseyware Online Program called Accelerate Education. This new program will better meet the needs of parents with students in grades K-2 and shore up areas where Odysseyware currently falls short. Accelerate is approved as an online program through OSPI. In addition to growing virtually, the LCHSA has added a second physical location to provide more space to meet the needs of our parents and students while following social distancing standards. The HS portable remains in its original location with Mr. Hill. Mrs. Parman and Mrs. Schrock now work with K-8 students from the 'new' portable behind the MS on the baseball field.

Library
Updates

In the elementary school, online lessons are going strong with at least a third of our students in each grade level accessing the library slide on their teacher's Google classroom. On Oct. 26th, the elementary library started Zoom meetings with entire grade levels in order to promote online lessons and the new curbside library service. These meetings also give the librarians a much-needed opportunity to connect directly with students.

Over at the high school, Coral Yee, our library technician, has been assisting students Monday through Wednesday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. These later hours make it easier to connect with some families for tech support. The high school library is open by appointment for book check-out.

Kindergarten Returns

The return of kindergarten students to in-person learning started on Thursday, Oct. 29th and has gone incredibly well. Big thanks to all of the elementary staff who played key roles in transitioning our students back into the classroom. Special thanks also to our kindy teachers, our school nurses and to Mr. Nolan for their hours of work to make sure this was a safe, orderly and successful transition. There are about 20 students that are staying exclusively online as that is working well for them. Thank you to Mrs. Webberly who raised her hand to maintain the online option for those students and their families.



Mrs. Graham



Mrs. Blankenship



Mrs. Johnson



Mrs. Lindblom

This year, the District has added three additional aspects to the District Improvement Plan.

- 1) Working to improve student engagement and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on our students.
- 2) Development of action plans to direct the work towards more specificity within the goals.
- 3) Development of a professional development committee: an advisory group who will develop a comprehensive professional development plan that will overlay with the district strategic plan.

BY THE NUMBERS

Section 504: Serving 93 Students
Special Education: Serving 218 Students
McKinney/Vento Homeless: Serving 13 Students
Foster Care: Serving 9 Students

DISTRICT POPULATION (DATE)

High School: 513
Middle School: 405
Elementary: 652
Total Students: 1570

Is “In-Person Education Safe?”

The La Center School District has implemented and will continue to take preventative measures, such as COVID symptom screenings, physical distancing, mask wearing, increased hand washing and enhanced cleaning protocols. We are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 activity in schools and the community, as well as data concerning hospitalizations and testing. We use this data to guide decision-making.

The majority of COVID-19 cases in Southwest Washington are the result of community transmission, and most did not originate from exposure at school.

Public Health is working closely with us in cases where someone has tested positive for COVID-19 and been on a school campus while potentially contagious. If someone tests positive for COVID-19 and was in a school while potentially contagious, Public Health works with us to identify students and staff who may have been exposed and notify everyone identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 case.

It’s important to remember that as we begin to provide safe, in-person instruction for our youngest learners, our entire community must take preventative measures such as wearing masks, remaining physically distant and washing hands more frequently in order to minimize community spread of the virus.

Why are we allowing kids to return to the classroom when COVID-19 activity is high and continuing to increase?

With small group sizes and continued preventive measures, we believe in-person education is a safe, cautious and logical next step.

In-person education may be safe for kids, but is it safe for TEACHERS and other older staff to resume in-person education?

School districts are providing staff with necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves. With small group sizes and continued preventive measures, the health department and school leaders believe in-person education is a safe, cautious and logical next step.

Because young children are less likely to transmit the virus, Public Health does not believe bringing the youngest learners to schools for in-person learning will have an impact on our case numbers or COVID-19 activity rate.

Are you worried in-person learning will contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the community?

A report released from the Institute for Disease Modeling (IDM) demonstrates that while in-person learning is not zero risk – no scenario is (including fully remote learning), having students, especially young students, in-person in small groups on a staggered schedule with prevention measures in place did not significantly influence virus activity in the community when compared with all-remote learning.

Further, the reports showed that symptom screening and other countermeasures are highly effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19 in schools.

With continued preventative measures, Public Health believes and IDM modeling demonstrates, that in-person education for small groups of students is safe for students and staff and will not significantly impact our local COVID-19 activity rates.