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LMES
PTA

Volume 13, Issue 1

September, 2020

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- Sept 22 MOD Pizza Spirit Night
- Oct 1 Virtual PTA meeting

Welcome back to Laurel Meadow Elementary School!

Whether you have decided to join us back in the classroom or virtually, we are so happy to see you! The LMES PTA understands this has been a unique year for all of us and we are committed to make the best learning experience for our children during this unprecedented time in history.

You may wonder what the PTA is, who we are, and what we do for the school. It is the vision of the 2020 executive PTA board to transparently educate our parents, faculty, and staff about how we can help your child reach their full potential. We have found that the PTA is more successful when we clearly state how we help each child in our school. We will explain more in detail via social media platforms and a cohesive web presence.

The mission of the PTA is to make the best of every child's potential by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all. Here at LMES, we are working with our new principal, Mr. Brad Davis, along with teachers, faculty, and staff to provide resources and programs that might otherwise not exist due to budget constraints. We are excited to share the graphs with you over social media demonstrating how the funds we have raised have gone back to our students. The power of your dollar has helped shape the minds of countless students and future leaders in our community.

Due to social distancing requirements, and taking into account the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and parents, we have decided to postpone Boosterthon until the 2021-2022 school year. This was a difficult decision because Boosterthon is our largest fundraiser of the year, allowing the LMES PTA to fund long-term school projects.

We love and appreciate our volunteers, but we also recognize that it can be a challenge for some parents to become an active part of the LMES PTA. We ask that you please consider volunteering your time, and commit that we will help you find a committee to work with that will utilize your strengths and help our students. Basic membership in the LMES PTA helps our students by providing resources for programs like STEM fair, Art Night, Music Night, scholarships, classroom upgrades, and so much more.

We are all in this together! It is the LMES PTA's objective to join our school and our community and come out stronger than ever. This year, and under my leadership, I commit to you that our PTA will strive to become even more inclusive. We will be holding meetings virtually so all members can have the opportunity to be seen and heard. Moving forward, any in-person meetings or events that can be will be live streamed to social media.

The PTA and its resources are here to support your children at LMES. We need your support and representation. Please contact me or any member of the PTA to learn how to get involved.

I am excited to meet you all, and look forward to working with you in the coming school year. I love and appreciate you all for who you are and what you do to make LMES a place where our children grow, learn, and thrive!

Sincerely,
Nicole "Coley" McLaren
PTA President





Principal's Corner - Mr. Brad Davis



Dear Laurel Meadow Families,

It is with great pride and excitement that I join the Laurel Meadow Elementary School community as the new principal. This summer, I have had the opportunity to meet many of our talented staff members and even some students and families. In my time with the staff, it has become evident that I am joining a team of educators that is committed to providing engaging learning opportunities while teaching the whole child. The school's vision of providing an environment in which all students are inspired to achieve to their fullest potential at LMES is clearly in the hearts and minds of our staff members each day, even in the summertime! The support of our community and PTA has also been very evident, which makes me even more eager to work alongside these groups to support our students.

I am joining Laurel Meadow with 13 years of experience as an educator. During my career, I have had the opportunity to work as a teacher in a Private School in 3rd and 4th grade, taught in special education at South Anna Elementary, taught 4th and 5th at Mechanicsville Elementary, and served as an assistant principal at Mechanicsville Elementary and Kersey Creek Elementary. My Wife, Brooke, Daughter Ella Kate, and I live in Mechanicsville. I am excited to be transitioning to Laurel Meadow, and I couldn't be more thrilled that I have the opportunity to continue to serve the students of Hanover County.

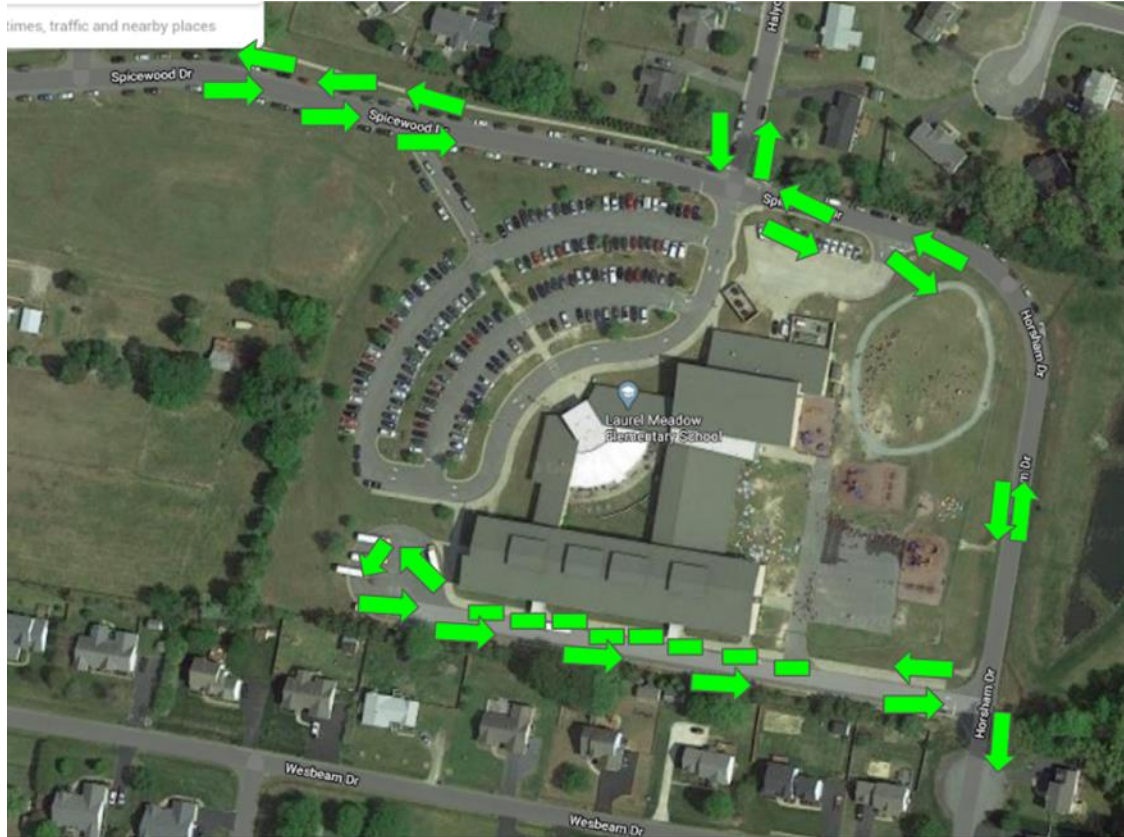
As principal, I strongly believe in the importance of providing students with a learning environment that is safe, engaging, and considerate of their needs and interests. I look forward to building positive relationships with our students, collaborating with parents and staff, and continuing to encourage the high level of community involvement that is at the heart of all that Laurel Meadow has achieved. I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve the students and families at Laurel Meadow, and I look forward to working with each of you to provide the best possible educational experience for our students, no matter what COVID Phase we are in. Please feel free to reach out to me throughout the year with questions or to discuss concerns or suggestions. I can be reached by email at bdavis@hcps.us or by phone at (804)723-2040

In partnership,

Brad Davis

LMES Arrival and Dismissal Procedures 2020-2021

We look forward to the start of school on September 8, 2020! Students in Grades PreK - 1 will begin school on Tuesday, September 8, and students in grades 2 - 5 will begin school on Wednesday, September 9. We know that this year brings with it many changes, one of which is our parent drop off and pick up procedures. Our goal is to promote a safe and efficient drop off and pick up procedure for our students, parents, and staff. Please refer to the map below for a general overview of traffic flow and read the guidelines to ensure the safety of students, staff, and visitors.



PARENT DROP OFF (MORNINGS)

- Parents can drop their children off in the bus loop (back of school in LOOP area, at green designated area on map) each morning beginning at 7:30am. Do not allow your child to exit the vehicle prior to a LMES staff member arriving at the loop to supervise our morning drop-off.
- When entering the bus loop, please follow the designated route (marked on the map above) to proceed to the parent drop off loop.
- Students may be dropped off at the designated location between 7:30am and 8:05am. Students will proceed directly to their classroom. The tardy bell rings at 8:10am.
- Please have your child ready to exit the car (backpack ready, goodbyes said, etc.) when you reach the drop off location so that students may exit the car quickly.
- Your child will exit through a door on the passenger side so that he or she will not have to cross in front of cars.
- There will not be door service to unload students.
- At 8:10am, the staff member on duty will close the door at parent drop off. Students may not be dropped off in the car loop after 8:10am.
- If your student arrives after 8:10am, you must park in the front parking lot and walk your child to the front entrance of the school. A staff member will meet you at the door to sign your child in as tardy. Parents will not be able to escort their child(ren) into the building this year as part of our health plan.

- Staff will be on duty throughout the building to assist students with getting to their classroom each morning.
- All students are asked to wear their Lion Badge to school for the first two weeks to help with learning their teacher name and room number.

PARENT PICK UP (AFTERNOONS)

Our new afternoon procedures will mimic our morning drop off. Parents will no longer park and come inside to sign out their child. Each family will receive two parent pick up car tags with your assigned family number. The pick up tags will be included in the Meet the Teacher packet. When arriving in the afternoons for parent pick up, please place the tag on your dashboard so that the number can be easily read by the staff member on duty. Your child (ren) will also have the assigned family number on their Lion Badge. This will allow for us to precisely and quickly match students to parents for parent pick up. If you have a family member or neighbor who will pick up your child(ren), please be sure to give them one of your pick up tags to use the day that they are picking up.

- Parents may enter the loop beginning at 2:00pm. Dismissal begins at 2:15pm, but we will begin at 2:05 the first week to get students accustomed to the new dismissal procedure.
- Parents will enter the bus loop and follow the car line (arrows on map) to the designated pick up location. A staff member will be on duty reading car tag numbers.
- As the staff member reads your number, your child will be dismissed to the parent pick up line. We ask that you wait patiently in your vehicle and an adult on duty will ensure that your child is safely loaded into your vehicle each afternoon.
- Each family will be issued two parent pick up car tags. If the person picking up your child does not have the appropriate car tag displayed, the staff member on duty will ask for photo ID to verify permission to pick up your child(ren). This may cause a delay with our parent pick up procedure, so please make every effort to have the tag used on a daily basis.
- Once your child enters your car, you should remain in line to exit the parking lot. For the safety of all students, staff, and families, you should not pass cars in line.

CHANGES TO TRANSPORTATION AND EARLY DISMISSALS

- Due to limited bus transportation, students will not be allowed to ride a different bus home or to a friend's house this year. Students may only ride their assigned bus.
- If you need to alter your child's typical dismissal plan (change from bus or daycare, biker or walker to Parent Pick Up), please **send a note** to your child's teacher in the morning. If an emergency arises and you need to make a last minute change, please call the school office at 723-2040 before 1:45 p.m. We ask that you follow up with an email as well.
- If your child has a medical appointment that requires early dismissal, please complete and **send in a note** to make your child's teacher and or our office staff aware. Parents who wish to pick their children up prior to our regular dismissal (2:05 p.m.) should plan to pick up their child before 1:55 p.m. Please be prepared to state your name and child's name, as well as present your ID at the doorbell this year and wait outside for him/her. Office staff will escort your child to the door for any early dismissal.
- Please note that if someone other than the parent/legal guardian is picking a child up early, we must have a note stating that the individual will be picking the child up early that day (even if the person is on the emergency contact/pick up list).
- If you are sending an e-mail regarding transportation changes, you must send the e-mail to the front office lmesbus@hcps.us.
- The "Note to School" template can be found on our website under Parents>School Policies>Drop off and pick up procedures>transportation note

If you have any questions about our transportation procedures, please contact the office at (804)723-2040. Thank you for your support. We look forward to another safe and successful school year!

NATIONAL PTA
REFLECTIONS

This is a call for entries Lions!

I Matter Because...

2020-2021

Arts Categories



Dance



Film



Literature



Music



Photography



Visual

2020-2021 PTA Reflections Theme:

“I Matter Because”

The PTA Reflections Program gives students the opportunity to create theme-based artwork in dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography or visual arts. This year's theme is “I Matter Because”. Visit the Reflections website to learn more about prizes and scholarships.


<https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections/awards>

Student submissions are due in early fall.

Complete rules are available through the Virginia PTA website at:
<https://www.vapta.org/programs/arts-and-education/reflections-top>

LMES Arts and Education Chairs: Amy Kuti & Theresa Smither
akuti@hcps.us, tsmith@hcps.us

SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Holiday	8  Pre-K, K & 1st	9 Grades 2-5 begin	10	11	12
13	14 Student Holiday/ Professional Development	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 MOD Pizza Spirit Night	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

FAMILY NUMBERS:

One system that we will begin using this year is a family number. Each LMES family with students returning to face to face learning will be assigned a number. This number will be used in multiple ways throughout the year, but will be most important as we work with our transportation plans, including dismissal. The family number will be printed on the inserts for student lanyards and correspond to the number on a placard to be placed in cars for ease of identification during student pick up at dismissal. Families will be given two numbered placards in part of their welcome back packet at Open House next week.

STUDENT LANYARDS:

Each LMES Lion joining us for face to face learning will receive in their welcome back pack (distributed at Open House) with a break away lanyard. The lanyard insert will be printed with the student's name, teacher name, and family number. Students should wear or bring their lanyards to school each day, as it will serve as a place for students to hold their masks during times when they are not wearing their mask, like recess and lunch. In addition, the information printed on the lanyard will help be a visible reminder to our students of their family number when it comes time for dismissal. Teachers will work with students the first week on how and where to wear and store their lanyards when not in use.

Modified First Day:

HCPS announced earlier this week that on Tuesday, September 8th, only students in PK, Kindergarten, 1st, 6th, and 9th grades will return to school. This will allow us to work through some of our adjusted procedures and protocols, as well as allow our youngest learners to have a day to orient to the building and school before our "veteran learners" return. Students in grades 2-5 will start back on Wednesday, September 9th.



Virtual PTA Meeting

Please join us, Thursday, October 1st at 7pm

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://www.gotomeet.me/coleymclaren5/lmes-pta-general-membership-meeting>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (872) 240-3412

Access Code: 216-716-565

At Laurel Meadow,

I respect myself and others.

I have the power to make good choices.

I am responsible for my learning.

I have pride in my school.

