



Leopard News – September 7, 2022



Each year, the Colorado Department of Education issues the School Performance Framework (SPF) for every public school in the state. The SPF is a report card of sorts on the academic performance of schools and is intended to reflect the quality of education being provided by a school. While no measure is perfect, the SPF is a relatively accurate tool for comparison that looks not just at achievement, but at academic growth as well. In other words, you may not have the highest test scores on the State assessments in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies, but are you moving students in the right direction with overall improvement in academic measures.

The report card has four ratings for schools, with the goal to be rated a Performance school. The lowest rating, Turnaround, indicates a school in trouble, and the State gives these schools five years to remedy what ails them. The next rating up is Priority Improvement, with its own five-year clock for remediation, followed by Improvement, and then Performance. Schools who find themselves “on the clock” (in Turnaround or Priority Improvement) become eligible for additional financial assistance from the State but may ultimately find themselves taken over and run by the State for up to five years.

In 2018, Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary found itself rated as Priority Improvement on our SPF. We had both low achievement results and low growth from year to year. At this time, less than 25% of students in grades 3-5 were able to Meet or Exceed the expected score at their grade level on the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) assessment in English Language Arts. More imposing was the fact that less than 15% of our students could achieve the expected score on the Math portion of CMAS. Our growth numbers were just as bad, indicating that we were not improving our students’ academic abilities either.

Additionally, the State of Colorado requires all schools to identify students who are significantly below grade level in reading and create READ plans for those students. A READ plan basically describes the measures the school will take in an attempt to bring the student up to grade level in their ability to READ. By 2019, the number of students who required services on a READ plan had ballooned to over 120.

As you read this letter, I am proud to report that Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary is no longer in Priority Improvement status on the SPF. Through the hard work of Lincoln Orchard Mesa staff our school has achieved a Performance rating on our SPF. More importantly, more than 41% of our students scored at or above the expected score on CMAS in English Language Arts, and more than 42% achieved a score at or above expected on CMAS in Mathematics. Finally, less than 70 students are receiving services on a READ plan.

While all of the numbers are great to data geeks like myself, what this means in the day-to-day lives of individual students cannot be understated. More students are ready to move on to middle school and beyond, and experience life as successful readers and mathematicians and more primary age students are moving into the intermediate grades ready to tackle the learning there.

We are proud of the work that the Leopard community has put in over the last four years. Staff and students alike have demonstrated resiliency and grit in the face of some pretty arduous work. We also recognize that we owe it to the 6 out of 10 students not achieving at grade level to continue our efforts. We love to celebrate our accomplishments, but we never stop working to be better. We hope you will partner with us in the coming year to support all learners at Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary.

Randy Foster



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SAFETY SECURITY

With Mrs. McCurry
Assistant Principal

School safety and security is of the utmost importance to us here at Lincoln OM. It is our job to ensure that students are safe so that they are able to learn and grow to their full potential. At the beginning of each school year, teachers and staff work hard to teach students how they can be safe at school. There are many ways students are getting the message of safety on campus, students learn that rules and behavior expectations are in place to make sure children and adults do not get hurt. Mr. Foster and I talk about what it means to be "Always Safe" when we talk about the "A" in R.O.A.R, teachers and staff also talk about the importance of practicing safety drills correctly. Because of the work that goes into teaching our students about safety on our campus, we are getting great results. In August, our students and staff showed R.O.A.R. and did an amazing job carrying out our first two fire drills.

Throughout the year, we will be providing you with information, through our school newsletter, about how we plan for and implement safety and security on campus. Safety and security is an ongoing focus here at Lincoln OM, and we are appreciative of your continued support.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

In Counseling we have been working on Coping Skills. We have been practicing on how and when to use them. Here are the ones that we have worked on so far...



Rock and Socks:

1. Take in a deep, strong breath.
2. Make fists with your hands.
3. Squeeze your hands with so much force, it is as if your strength can transform your fists into solid rocks.
4. When you can't hold your breath any longer, exhale and release your fists.
5. Let go of all that tension and relax, as if your hands and arms have turned into dangling socks.
6. Try turning other parts of your body, such as your shoulders, legs, and feet, into rocks and socks, too!

5, 4, 3, 2, 1 coping skills focus on using the 5 senses:

5 things I **See** **4** things I **Hear** **3** things I **Smell**
2 things I can **Touch** **1** thing I **Taste**

Grade Level and Specials Updates

Kindergarten at Lincoln OM is serious business. This is the year that students learn to read and write. Every day you will see phonics happening with whole class instruction, small group work, and one-on-one for those students who need it. Learning to write first names is also a big focus. Correct letter formation and neatness is required. Students are encouraged to hold their pencil correctly, with the three-finger grasp. Of course, kindergarten is full of fun and social emotional learning as well. This month, kindergartners will learn about bus safety and take a school bus trip around the neighborhood!

PE has been off to a great start this year! Grades 3 through 5 have been busy setting personal fitness goals while younger students have been focusing on self-space and regulation. We will be integrating those concepts into a short floor hockey unit, followed by everyone's favorite, GYMNASTICS! Our gymnastics unit will begin on September 27th. Please make sure that your child has clean socks every PE day so that they may use the gymnastics equipment. I will also be selling y-ties every day before school in my office to help raise funds for the new playground. Y-ties come in many colors and are \$5 per pair! - Mrs. Shamblin and Mr. Crowley