

LAWRENCE HIGH

SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER



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HEADMASTER'S REPORT



Dear LHS faculty,

Thanks for helping us get off to one of the strongest starts to the school year ever! We have a bustling campus these days and I am excited to see our new freshmen settling in, the launching of a 10th Grade Academy and our Upper School students sharing classes together and working towards rekindling a culture of pride and togetherness at LHS!

One of our goals for this school year will be ensuring consistency and coherency within each school and program and across the campus with regards to curriculum, instruction and assessment. We can do this by sharing and growing effective instructional strategies and practices across the school and by agreeing to clear and transparent learning targets for each class, unit and course.

Some ways that we plan to achieve this will be through campus wide learning walks. Our team of principals will be gathering some baseline data through formal and informal class visits across the campus to observe and identify trends and patterns between and among grades and content areas.

In the coming weeks we will be establishing 'transition teams' across the campus. Teams will be comprised of staff from each grade level who will work together to identify common goals and expectation with regards to curriculum, instruction and assessment. More information on the design and timelines for these transition teams will be provided in early October.

Accreditation

Lawrence High School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Back in 2014 and again in 2016 we requested a postponement of the decennial evaluation visit due to the campus redesign efforts. We are officially scheduled for a decennial visit in 2019. This means that we will undergo a Self-Study next year to

CONTINUES

prepare for our evaluation visit. I will be sending out more information in the coming months regarding the high school accreditation process and will be enlisting the support of the entire LHS campus to prepare for this important opportunity. I am pleased to announce that Mr. Richard Gorham, LHS English teacher, will be leading our steering committee through the accreditation process!

High School Redesign

The 9th and 10th Grade Academies are intended to provide a rigorous foundational curriculum and supportive, structured learning environment to successfully transition students into high school. While the early grades are focused on student transition into high school, the upper schools should create viable opportunities intended to prepare them for what's next. The focus of the upper grades should be to prepare students for college and careers, by enabling them to exercise more choice and drive their learning more independently. As a campus we need collectively decide what the model and structure of the upper school will look like to help us achieve this vision. More information on the high school redesign process will be announced in the coming days. Thank you for all of your support and for being a part of Lawrence High School!

Sincerely,

Michael Fiato



9GA ADVISORY WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2020



The goal of the 9th Grade Academy advisory program is to help the students to adjust to the high expectations of high school by cultivating a mindset that equips them to view challenges as opportunities while simultaneously creating an emotional support network with a close

family feel. During the Advisory Olympics each group was competing in a series of mini-competitions geared towards fostering bonding between each individual group. As you can see our students had a blast!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 15-OCTOBER 15:

Hispanic Awareness Month

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21:

ASVAB test for some juniors & seniors

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23:

No school, professional development day

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30:

Lancer Pep Rally and Homecoming Football Game

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1:

Homecoming Dance

MONDAY OCTOBER 3:

Anti-Bullying Week in Upper School Academy

MONDAY OCTOBER 10:

No school, Columbus Day

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19:

PSAT for juniors

250 PARENTS AT 10GA

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR EVENT

In an effort to encourage family involvement and establish community relationships, the 10th Grade Academy hosted a Beginning of the Year Event where parents were welcomed into the school and introduced to the faculty and staff. Prior to the day, staff members conducted home visits, where they discussed the school's expectations, listened to parent questions and concerns and personally invited them to the event.

Approximately 250 parents came to the event, which began at 12 noon. Parents and students were then provided with an overview of the day's activities. Two community restaurants, Pez Dorado and El Pueblo Market provided multi-cultural food for the attendants while local church congregants served the food. Also accessible, were a number of community organizations which provided information and resources for parents seeking educational and family support.

Throughout the afternoon, upperclassmen led interactive games for the parents and the

staff. Parents had the opportunity of meeting their child's teacher through the team colors each were assigned. To finalize the event, the merengue band Moreno entertained the families with an orchestra. The overall response to the event was great, as many families felt welcomed into the school and were able to establish initial connections with teachers and administration.

By Michael Whitehead



The beginning of August means fall athletics for high schoolers are that much closer to getting underway, with the month used as a time for tryouts, practices, scrimmages, and whatever else to prepare for the upcoming season. Essentially, fall coaches use part of the month of August to get their teams as ready as possible to perform at the highest level.

When the calendar turns to September that means the start of fall sports for many high school students across the Merrimack Valley. The Fall season always brings excitement and a heightened sense of anticipation. Fall sports run from September to November each year and feature an array of sports such as girls volleyball, football, golf, field hockey, cross country, girls, boys soccer and cheerleading.

Coaches Mike Yameen (football), Kate Quinlan (field hockey), Marino Valdez (girls volleyball),

Keith Sherman (cross country), Ron Santacrose (golf), Nick Beauchamp (girls soccer), Edgar Escalante (boys soccer), and Katelyn Skerry (cheer) are working as hard as they can to make sure their teams do everything they possibly can to fulfill their potential and have a successful season.

Special days to mark on your calendar: On Friday Sept 16, LHS welcomes back all Alumni football players to the home game against Dracut, Friday September 30-Saturday October 1 is Homecoming weekend and November 24 at 10am is the Thanksgiving football game against Central Catholic.

All scheduled games can be found on our school web page under Athletics and then under Lawrence High Athletics. Come by and enjoy a game.



By Jim Licciardi, Director of Athletics:a

BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU

9GA



Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is a brand new fitness class at 9th Grade Academy. Students are getting an introduction to the sport of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. The class focuses on the concept of how a smaller, weaker person can successfully defend against a bigger, stronger, heavier opponent by using proper technique and leverage. Students are learning how to work together as a team as well as developing their own strength, balance, and flexibility. It is a fun, fast-paced workout that every single student can enjoy!



THE ASVAB TEST WILL BE OFFERED HERE AT
LAWRENCE HIGH ON WED, SEPTEMBER 21 IN
THE LECTURE HALL.

THIS TEST CAN HELP IDENTIFY POSSIBLE
CAREER PATHS

AND CAN BE USED TO
QUALIFY FOR MILITARY SERVICE.

SEE THE JROTC STAFF
FOR MORE DETAILS!

JROTC SERVES THE COMMUNITY



The Lancer JROTC Battalion has been busy all summer performing community service. Every Tuesday they help prepare and serve food for the Merrimac Valley's needy at the Cor Unum soup kitchen run by Saint Patrick's church. Cadets have continued to serve at the soup kitchen throughout the summer and each week since the school year started. Other community service performed by the Lancer Battalion included the City's National Night Out event, the Dominican Parade, numerous Color Guards, helping to distribute food at the Lawrence Senior Center Food Pantry, assisting with the Lawrence Community Boathouse canoe and kayak event as well as many other events. Upcoming community service includes the Spicket River Clean up, The Bellevue Cemetery Clean-Up

as well as presenting the Colors at the Lancer home football games. The Army JROTC Instructors are proud how the Cadets have given back to the City, High School and the Merrimac Valley community. Pictured are Cadets from BMF/MST, HLD/PFA and 10GA, with Major Kathleen Romano, Senior Army Instructor, at the Cor Unum soup kitchen.

*By CSM John F. Helbert, USA Retired,
Army JROTC Instructor:*

ENLACE EXPLORES

CORE VALUES

ENLACE students have started the year off strong! They are already building a strong learning community and taking academic risks as they practice English in all their classes.

Here students in World Studies class are engaging in an academic conversation about maps, using file folders with sentence frames and word banks as helpful scaffolds.

ENLACE students have also spent the beginning of the year learning about and exploring our core values – Perseverance, Vision, Professionalism, Courage, Growth, Responsibility, and Community. During Student Orientation, our Year 2 students demonstrated Responsibility and Community as they

participated in a service learning project with Groundwork Lawrence. They helped work on the irrigation system at nearby Costello Community Garden & Urban Farm.



NEW COURSE FOR LAWRENCE HIGH THE HISTORY OF LAWRENCE

For the first time in many years Lawrence High School is offering a course in local history. This course is an opportunity for the students to learn the history of Lawrence through hands on historical research. Students will also document the history of Lawrence by conducting interviews of residents of the city that will be archived at the Lawrence History Center and online as well.

In the first weeks of the course the students will explore the industrial and cultural beginnings of the city. This will be accomplished through a student created historical museum that will be on public display. Next, students will contact persons of interest to document their history in the city. The students will choose the subjects for the oral histories. They will write the questions and edit the stories. It is hoped that these stories will become powerful tools for

future historians interested in Lawrence history. We are also working with Mark Cutler, a teacher at Phillips Academy in hopes of collaborating on these projects. It is hoped that the two schools can work together to create the oral history projects. We are excited by the possibilities.

By Gerry Hayes:



LAWRENCE PREP CAFE

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

ROOM H122

PANINI

PULLED CHICKEN

GRILLED HAM, CHEESE AND TOMATO

SUB

TURKEY

HAM AND CHEESE

CESAR AND GARDEN SALADS AVAILABLE DAILY

DRESSINGS

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RANCH

PEPPERCORN

ITALIAN

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A LIMITED NUMBER OF SANDWICHES MADE PER DAY. PLACE YOUR ORDER BY 10AM

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SPOTLIGHT ON LHSC STAFF

MEET JEN BUCHANAN SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICER



LIST 5 WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOUR JOB:

- Compassion
- Chaos
- Teamwork
- Consistency
- Love

DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS? No pets.
But I have a son who is two years old

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?
Thai or Spanish

WHAT IS YOUR PET PEEVE?
Unnecessary noise

**WHAT IS ONE THING MANY PEOPLE
HERE AT SCHOOL MAY NOT KNOW
ABOUT YOU?**

I am a huge Celtics fan! I have loved the Celtics since I was a child. Reggie Lewis and Dee Brown were my favorite players.

**WHAT IS THE LAST GOOD BOOK
THAT YOU READ?**

A crime thriller called The Grave by Diane M. Dickson- Crime Thriller

**WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU
NEED TO BE A SCHOOL SAFETY
OFFICER?**

- Minimum of 21 years old
- High School diploma
- Experience with students or Criminal Justice system or the military is preferred

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED IN
LAWRENCE?**

I have been here for 16 years (The Bruce, South Lawrence East and the High School for the last 4 years)

**AS A CHILD, WHAT DID YOU WANT
TO DO WHEN YOU GREW UP?**

I wanted to go to Film School

SUMMER SPORTS AT LHS

By Eric Allshouse

This past summer of 2016, there were some new sports programs happening on and around the LHS campus. These programs

were attended by Lawrence student athletes at a very low cost, and were run with the generous help and support of two local non-profit sports organizations, Beyond Soccer and Everyone's A Player. Over 100 students from the city

participated in the different camps.

From the end of June to the end of July, upcoming elementary, middle and high school tennis players participated in clinics at the LHS courts twice a week for five weeks. They were instructed on all parts of the game, developing their court skills, athleticism, and fitness in a fun but challenging setting. We hope to establish reoccurring seasonal tennis clinics to continue the progress these hard working athletes have made, and improve the overall competitiveness of the high school tennis teams.

During the first two weeks of July, the Beyond Soccer organization ran the Lawrence Sports Leadership Academy, a multiple sports camp at the LHS campus, featuring many sports: Soccer, Volleyball, Field Hockey, Basketball,

and Tennis. Many different coaches participated in the instruction of the over 100 middle and high school aged participants from the City of Lawrence. This camp featured more than just



sports, highlighting fitness and agility training and stretching and strengthening activities like yoga.

Both programs were a great success in their first year, and we hope to continue our success and keep the student athletes of Lawrence active and competitive in any and all sports. Thank you to all the people that helped make this happen and thank you to all of the students that participated in the camps, and gave it their all on the courts and fields!!!

RISE

By Carlos Nunez:

"IT'S BETTER TO BEHIND ON THE PATH THAN LOST IN THE WOODS."

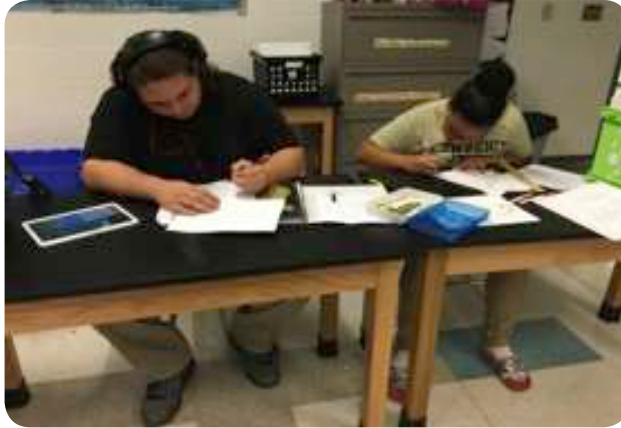
Historically, each class of incoming freshman has included a subgroup of students who require a high level of intensive support in order to be academically and socially successful. In the past, this level of support has been hard to provide consistently with students spread out

across six different schools on campus. In the fall of 2015, Lawrence High School started an intervention for at risk students called the Realizing Individual Strength Everyday (RISE) program, for 9th and 10th graders. RISE is founded upon a belief that these students deserve a chance at an excellent education in an integrated, traditional high school environment.

In the words of our students:

What does RISE mean to you?

- Family & having fun -Fabian
- That we have the opportunity to learn and graduate- Monique
- Helping me be someone one day -Grace
- It is a good program that is overlooked -Chris
- RISE program is a program that helps students who have trouble in large classrooms- Carlos N.
- RISE means a lot to me. It's all about experience, trust, and how to learn to love each



other as a family and to educate each other - Leamsi

■ To bring up your grades – Wesley
Where would you be if this program didn't exist?

n I would have been back in 9GA

skipping every class, not doing work, talking back, and a lot of arguing with teachers – all of them! – Leamsi

■ To be honest, I don't know- Leonel

■ In Phoenix Academy – Carlos N.

■ Jail/ I would have dropped out/ skipping everything/ reacting to everything- Gracie

n I wouldn't be in school. But since this program existed, I have matured from the last few years. -Monique

■ My old school would be bad for me because I [would] be bad and not even get my voice heard by the people down here.

[Sometimes] I say a few bad [things] but I don't mean [it] and I am glad I got to be a part of this big family – Fabian

Our program staff continues to support and provide individualized attention, instruction, and guidance to the students at RISE.

NEW TEACHER MENTORING POSITION 2016-2017



RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Build trusting, non-evaluative relationship with mentee
- Support mentee with their professional growth, specific to the mentee's needs
- Attend one, 90-minute mentor training session (September)
- Attend one-hour monthly professional development sessions with mentee (after school)
- Meet with mentee one hour per week
- Record meeting topics, notes, dates, and times & submit monthly to Mentoring

COORDINATOR:

- Communicate monthly with Mentoring

Coordinator to discuss mentee progress

REQUIREMENTS:

- A minimum of 3 years teaching experience
- Positive attitude and enthusiasm for the mission of Lawrence High School

COMPENSATION:

- \$500/mentee
- Can mentor up to 2 teachers

WHERE TO APPLY:

- Faculty Link—Extra Duties job posting
— don't forget to LOG IN



This edition of the LHS campus newsletter was made possible by:

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