

LMMHS EXPRESS

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School Principal's Newsletter

February 2017

Dear LMMHS Parents/Guardians:

Our school will soon administer the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) Tests to all 6th, 7th, 8th & 10th grade students. The actual test schedule is included below. This year, students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade will be assessed using Computer-based Testing (CBT) in ELA and Math. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that all students complete all portions of the test. Each session lasts approximately one hour. The test is designed to provide data regarding the proficiency of each child at each tested grade level. It is our educational goal that all children do their very best. In order to prepare our students for this testing, all middle school students have participated in ACT Aspire Periodic Assessments as a periodic benchmark test. This testing has been computer-based and uses the same testing platform as the new MCAS 2.0.

We do not want them to be overly anxious, but we do wish them to understand that it is important to try their best and demonstrate their highest reading ability. You can help at home by making sure your child:

- Comes to school each day
- Gets plenty of sleep each night
- Eats a nourishing breakfast each morning
- Knows you believe he/she will do his/her best on the test.

Your care and concern are greatly appreciated. We know we can count on your support. Please call us with any questions or concerns.

Over 90 percent of districts ready for computer-based testing in the spring

In response to ESE's transition to computer-based testing, over 90 percent of public school districts are preparing to administer the computer-based version of the next-generation MCAS in English language arts and math for grades 4 and 8. In addition, a significant percentage of districts are giving the computer-based tests in all grades.

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"Non-discrimination and equal opportunity are the policy of the Lenox Public Schools in all of its educational programs, activities, and employment practices. No student shall be excluded from or discriminated from participation in educational, athletic, or extra-curricular activities on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, limited English proficiency, housing status, or disability."

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School MCAS Testing Schedule 2017

ELA

Date	Grade	Subject/Session	Format*
March 21 (Tues.)	10	ELA- Comp A & B	PBT
March 22 (Wed.)	10	ELA- Reading 1 & 2	PBT
March 23 (Thurs.)	10	ELA- Reading 3	PBT
April 4 (Tues.)	8	ELA- Session 1	CBT
April 5 (Wed.)	8	ELA-Session 2	CBT
April 6 (Thurs.)	7	ELA- Session 1	CBT
April 7 (Fri.)	7	ELA-Session 2	CBT
April 26 (Wed.)	6	ELA-Session 1	CBT
April 27	6	ELA-Session 2	CBT

Math

Date	Grade	Subject/Session	Format*
May 3 (Wed.)	6	Math- Session 1	CBT
May 4 (Thurs.)	6	Math- Session 2	CBT
May 10 (Wed.)	7	Math-Session 1	CBT
May 11 (Thurs.)	7	Math-Session 2	CBT
May 16 (Tues.)	10	Math-Session 1	PBT
May 17 (Wed.)	10	Math-Session 2	PBT
May 16 (Tues.)	8	Math-Session 1	CBT
May 17(Wed.)	8	Math-Session 2	CBT

STE

Date	Grade	Subject/Session	Format*
May 18(Thurs.)	8	STE- Session 1 & 2	PBT
June 5 (Mon.)	9	Biology Session 1	PBT
June 6 (Tues.)	9	Biology Session 2	PBT

* PBT refers to Paper Based Testing; CBT refers to Computer Based Testing.

Massachusetts schools administering the next-generation MCAS on computer vs. paper						
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Computer	38%	93%	38%	41%	42%	95%
Paper	62%	7%	62%	59%	58%	5%
Total Schools	973	961	894	589	505	500

REQUIRED PUBLIC NOTICE

File: JICH

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUG USE BY STUDENTS PROHIBITED

A student shall not, regardless of quantity, use or consume, possess, buy or sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol, any tobacco product, any vaporizer or E-cigarette; marijuana in any form; steroids; or any controlled substance on school property, on school buses, or at any school-sponsored activity. Students found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and referral to the Lenox Police Department. Additionally, any student who is under the influence of drugs, (including controlled substances, marijuana in any form, or prescription medications not prescribed for the student) or alcoholic beverages prior to, or during, attendance at or participation in a school-sponsored activity, will be barred from that activity and may be subject to disciplinary action. This policy shall be posted on the district's website and communicated annually through newsletters. Notice of this policy shall be provided annually to all students and parents in accordance with state law. Additionally, the district shall file a copy of this policy annually in accordance with law in a manner requested by DESE.

SOURCE: MASC 2016
LEGAL REFS. : M.G.L.71:2A; 71:96; 272:40 A
CROSS REF: GBEC, Drug Free Workplace

REVISED AND ADOPTED: January 23, 2017

THURSDAY IS HOT CHOCOLATE DAY WITH MS. BARROS

During the winter months, kids of all grades have been stopping into 6th grade English teacher, Ms. Barros' classroom for a special treat. At 2:30, as soon as the bell rings, the hot water, hot chocolate, and spoons are set out ready for the students; they know what to do. "Three scoops, fill your cup and stir" The music is playing and kids just "hang out and talk."

"I felt like there needed to be a place where kids could hang out in a safe place and have face to face conversation. Too many kids communicate via text and haven't really practiced actually socializing," said Ms. Barros. It's been a success so far. Even the high school kids are starting to venture in. It makes for a special memory. Hot chocolate, cups, napkins and spoon donations are always appreciated.



Lenox Memorial Middle and High School



Guidance News

Scholarships for Seniors – Scholarships are arriving in the Guidance Office weekly. The complete listings are posted not only on our bulletin board outside of guidance, but on our web page. Any senior who would like to apply for a particular scholarship should see Mrs. Deets. Tips for filling out scholarship applications are also listed. Because scholarships sometimes require recommendations and transcripts, seniors are asked to give a 2 week notice to both guidance and to whoever is writing their recommendations. It is the student's responsibility to gather all necessary information as well as the mailing of the scholarship applications.

The Lenox Town Scholarship for Seniors – is now available in the Guidance Department and can be downloaded from our Guidance Web Page. All seniors regardless of where they live should complete this application. Applications are due in the Guidance Department on Monday, April 3, 2017.

The Lenox Town Scholarship for Post Graduates who are residents of Lenox – is now available. Students must have at least a 3.0 GPA from their colleges/universities to apply. Applications can be obtained through the Guidance Department or on our Guidance Web Page. Applications are due in the Guidance Department on Monday, April 3, 2017.

AP Testing dates – Beginning on Monday, May 1st, Lenox High School students will be taking AP exams. These standardized tests are required of all students enrolled in an AP course during the 2016-2017 school year. Letters with dates and times were mailed home to all students enrolled in AP courses along with the 2017 AP Exam Registration form.

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Morning (8:00 AM)</u>	<u>Afternoon (12 PM)</u>
Monday, 5/1	AP Environmental Science	
Tuesday, 5/2	AP Spanish / AP Computer Science	
Friday, 5/5	AP Studio Art	
Monday, 5/8	AP Biology/ AP Music Theory	AP Physics C
Tuesday, 5/9	AP Calculus BC	AP French
Wednesday 5/10		AP Macroeconomics
Thursday, 5/11		AP Statistics
Friday, 5/12	AP Microeconomics/ AP Human Geography	AP Latin

Note to Students and Parents

Unless participating in a supervised club or sport, students should be picked up no later than 3:45pm.

Art News

Attached is a bulletin of current and up-coming art exhibits and performances! We are fortunate to have such a strong visual and performing arts program and hope that you will be able to attend some of the many events ahead.

31st Annual High School Show at the Norman Rockwell Museum, February 4-March 5
Ten pieces of artwork from Lenox High school students will be on display for the duration of the exhibit.

Lenox Post Office Window Display in the center of Lenox Middle school art, high school photography, & graphic design work will be on a rotating display until the end of April.

Countywide Arts Showcase at the Berkshire Museum, March 3-30
Opening March 3, 4-7 PM
The Renaissance Ensemble will perform at 7 PM
Approximately 15 pieces of artwork from LMMHS students will be on display for throughout the exhibit.

MMEA Junior District Concert at UMASS Performing Arts Center, Amherst, March 18, 3-5 PM
Three students were selected to participate in the chorus: Maddie Alsdorf, Teagan Demler, and Julie Monteleone.
Five middle school students were selected for the concert band: Grace Elliot, Mary Elliot, April Harwood, Junianne Harwood and Cecilia Kitross.

Middle and High School Band Concert at the Duffin Theater, April 26, 7 PM
Student artwork will be on display for the evening.

Middle School Art Exhibit at Lenox Library, Month of May, Closing Reception on Saturday, May 27

Student Recital at St. Ann's Church (details to come), May 2

LMMHS Choral Concert at the Duffin Theater, May 18
Student artwork will be on display for the evening.

Memorial Day Parade, Lenox Dale and Lenox, May 29
The middle school concert band & high school Renaissance Ensemble will be participating at the Lenox Dale &

SAFE SCHOOLS HOT LINE NUMBER
413-637-0868

Images and Photos courtesy of:
Lesliejohn Roche
Julie Barros
Your Color Connection

Keeping Up When You're Feeling Down

The colds and flu that accompany winter weather can really get you down. If students are running a fever, has a cough, sore throat or have active stomach ailments, please keep them home from school. But what about school work? While there is no substitute for being in class, there are some things you can do to help. First, if it appears that your student will be out of school for a prolonged period, call the guidance office at 637-5560. When a physician's note indicates that s/he is unable to attend school for 10 or more days, the school will provide a home or hospital tutor.

If your best estimate is that your student will be out for one or perhaps two days, the best thing to do is to call a friend to get the class assignments or go to Moddle. If you think s/he might be out longer than a day or two, you may call the school and ask to have work sent home. It is best to call before 9:00 a.m. so teachers can pick up messages early in the school day and time is needed for the teacher to put something together and return it to the office. An envelope with your name on it will be waiting for you in the main office by 2:45 p.m. As the work is completed, please return it to the office when you come in for the next assignment.

It is important to remember that there is more to "catching up" than completing homework assignments. Upon return, your student will need to check with each teacher for missed tests, quizzes, and in-class projects. Some after school time will probably be needed.

LEEF GRANTS

Do you have an idea for a unique learning or service activity at LMMHS? Need some funding to make it happen? LEEF, the Lenox Educational Enrichment Foundation, may be able to make that idea a reality. Every year LEEF makes grants ranging from \$100 to \$1000 for activities and events that extend learning or provide service to the school or school community. The grant application is easy. LEEF student reps, Peggy Yee and Kristin Parkinson can help with applications and answer questions. To apply or for more information go to: www.berkshiretaconic.org/LEEF or contact Tim Lee at 637-5550 or tlee@lenoxps.org Grant applications for spring funding must be submitted by March 15, 2017.



Any person in need of translation of school documents please contact LMMHS Student Services at 637-5571.