

LMMHS EXPRESS

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School Principal's Newsletter

September 2017

Welcome to Our New Faculty and Staff

Joe Bennetch works with us as a paraprofessional. He is currently a junior at Westfield State University, where he is majoring in Special Education. For the previous seven years he has worked with children in a residential setting. Prior to that he studied Culinary Arts at Johnson and Wales University, and worked in the food service industry. In his free time he enjoys cooking, hiking, playing basketball, and spending time with his 5 year old daughter.

Nicole Brooks is working with us as a paraprofessional. Nicole is an alumni of LMMHS and is very excited to be here. Nicole has an 18 month old son that keeps her very busy and lives in Lee with her husband. In her spare time she enjoys reading.

Mary Cherry returns to LMMHS full time this year as the Middle School Math Interventionist. Mary joined Lenox Public Schools in 2009 as the sixth grade math teacher. In 2011, she became the K-8 Math Specialist working at LMMHS part time but primarily worked at Morris. Mary is happy to return to LMMHS where she is co-teaching in grades 6, 7, and 8 math classes as well as PLT classes. She is excited to reconnect with the students she knew at Morris.

Janine Cote comes to us as our new high school math teacher after teaching six years at Drury in North Adams. Janine lives in Dalton with her husband Matt, (our CAD/ENG teacher) and has 3 daughters. Two who are in college and one who is high school. Janine is a huge Boston/New England sports fan and loves gardening, reading and mountain biking.

Jennifer Drees, an alumni Millionaire, joins us as our School Nurse. She began her school nursing career at Berkshire Country Day School, then at Hillcrest Educational Center's Housatonic Academy and as a substitute nurse for Pittsfield, Lee and Lenox. She has spent the last 3 years at Hospice Care in the Berkshires as their Pediatric Palliative Care Nurse, consulting and advocating for medically fragile children. She is also a Certified Healing Touch Practitioner, and has a passion for teaching self-care, focusing on wellness activities such as meditation and breathing.

Ryan Evangelisto is now our STEP teacher. You may know Ryan as he has worked here at LMMHS and Morris for the past several years. Last year he worked as a special education teacher at Lanesborough Elementary School and is excited to be back in our district. He has completed his master's degree in language and literacy and is currently enrolled in another master's program for special education. In his free time he enjoys renovating houses, being active across all sports, and traveling.

Mary Sorrentino is our new middle school math teacher. Mary is in her 28th year of teaching with 17 of those years being at Morris. Mary lives in Lee with her husband and two daughters. Mary especially enjoys spending time with her family and stays busy keeping up with her two daughters who are both students here at LMMHS and on the Cross Country Team.

Principal's Note
Page 1 - 2

Required Public Notices
Pages 2 - 5

Parent/Teacher
Conferences
Page 6

Guidance News
Page 6

Denise Staubach joins us as a paraprofessional. A graduate of MCLA, Denise is an Educational Interpreter for the Deaf. In her spare time she enjoys her grandchildren, fiber art, reading and traveling.

Scott Wade, originally from East Texas, came to the Northeast to do graduate work at the University of Rhode Island. Before coming to Lenox to be our 9th grade English teacher, he was an instructor at the University of Rhode Island, Roger Williams University, and the University of Connecticut, Avery Point. He has also taught with the Upward Bound program, helping high school students prepare to become the first generation in their family to attend college, and with Education, Inc., helping students in a hospital setting stay on track to graduate. Scott is excited to teach at Lenox and live in the Berkshires. He and his wife moved to the Berkshires from Rhode Island with their four children, including one-year-old twins.

Mass Health Insurance Plan

Mass Health is a comprehensive health insurance program that covers office visits, hospitalization, prescription drugs, dental services and other health care services. Income eligibility requirements can be found at www.state.mass.us/dma. Any family can get assistance by contacting the Department of Public Health at 1-800-531-2229.

Access of Students Records By Armed Forces Recruiters

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires schools to provide upon request the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all students in grades 11 and 12 to armed forces recruiters. A high school student or parent who does not want the school to provide this information to recruiters must request in writing that such information may not be released without signed consent. If you have a son/daughter in grade 11 or 12 and you do not want his/her name, address and telephone number released to military recruiters, then you or your son/daughter must sign a form to that effect. The form is provided to all students in grades 11 & 12 and more are available in the guidance office. The form must be returned to the guidance office no later than October 13th.

Protections Against Discrimination Discrimination Against the Handicapped

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Lenox Public Schools affirm that no qualified handicapped person shall, on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored by the Lenox Public Schools. Any complaints or inquiries concerning these policies should be directed to Ms. Ellen Farris, Director of Student Services, at 637-5571.

Access of Students Records By Non-Custodial Parents

Massachusetts's law (Chapter 71, Section 34H) specifies detailed procedures that govern access to student records by parents who do not have physical custody of their children. For more information, please contact the principal's office at 637-5560. If you have special instructions or court orders prohibiting a spouse or other family member from seeing your children, it is essential that you make a copy for us. Please remember to also provide us with up-to-date copies as changes are made.

REQUIRED PUBLIC NOTICE
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

Reminder for Visitors

All visitors please check in at the main office before proceeding to any location of the school. It is essential for the office to know about the presence of all visitors to the school for safety reasons.

Release of Student Directory Information

Massachusetts's Student Records Regulations permit the release of "directory" information without consent. Directory information includes data such as student's name, address, phone numbers, date of birth, photographs, major course of study, participation in officially recognized school activities, awards, honors, dates of attendance, and post high school plans.

In Lenox, such information is typically used in the newsletter, in press releases, and in sports coverage in local newspapers. We also provide names and addresses to recognized groups supporting school activities such as booster clubs. We do not release phone numbers without consent.

You have the right to request that such information not be released without your prior consent. If you wish to make such a request, please do so in a note sent to the attention of the guidance office.

State Smoking Regulations

Please be aware that smoking on school grounds is prohibited. This includes outside the school building on the sidewalk, soccer fields and the cross-country track course. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mandatory Notice: AHERA

This notification is required by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act ("AHERA"), 40 CFR Part 763 of Title II of the Toxic Substance Control Act. Asbestos Management Plans have been developed and are available for the following buildings currently in use by the Lenox Public Schools.

1. Morris Elementary
2. LMMHS
3. District Office, 6 Walker Street

These plans are available and accessible to the public for review at these locations.

Mr. Jeffrey Ano at LMMHS, 197 East St. Lenox, MA 01240 (413)-6237-5560 has been designated as the District's Designated Person under AHERA.

"Non-discrimination and equal opportunity are the policy of the Lenox Public Schools in all of its educational programs, activities, and employment practices. No person shall be excluded from or discriminated from participation or workplace advancement 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



Title IX / Chapter 622

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Acts of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Chapter 622 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Lenox Public Schools affirm that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, sex, age, creed, national origin, or sexual orientation be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in any education program or activity it operates, including employment therein, and admission thereto. Any complaints or inquiries concerning this policy should be directed to:

Mr. Timothy Lee
Superintendent

Town Hall
Lenox, MA 01240
637-5550

OR

Ms. Ellen Farris
Director of Student Services
Morris Elementary
Lenox, MA 01240
637-5571

Facts About "Bullying"

Bullying is defined as repeated, unwelcome, written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that (i) causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property, (ii) places the target in reasonable fear of harm to himself or damage to his property, (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the target; (iv) infringes on the rights of the target at school; or (v) materially or substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of the school.

Price Chopper's Tools for Schools

Please help our school earn points from the Price Chopper's tools for schools program. It is easy to do, every time you use your advantage card we earn points! We then use the points to get equipment for our school. You need to enroll your advantage card in order to do this. It is easy to do. Go to www.pricechopper.com to enroll, our school code is: 14048. If you do not have internet access, you can enroll your card at the customer service desk. If you enrolled last year, you do not need to do it again this year. If you have any questions about this please contact Kelley Khoury-Cady at kkhoury-cady@lenoxps.org

Forms and Notices

Please be sure that all forms such as health information/physicals, emergency cards, medication permission forms and reduced lunch applications have been sent into school.

Also please be sure that permission forms are returned to the correct teacher as quickly as possible when your child is participating in a field trip.

Reminder for Visitors

All visitors please check in at the main office before proceeding to classes or any other location of the school. It is essential for the office to know about the presence of all visitors to the school for safety reasons.

Students and Parents

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

SAFE SCHOOLS HOT LINE NUMBER
413-637-0868

IMMUNIZATION REMINDER FOR 7TH GRADE PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Just a reminder, as required by Massachusetts state law, the Department of Public Health has established immunization requirements for all children attending school. Students who are not in compliance with these state regulations must be excluded from school until the proper documentation of immunization(s) is received from a physician's office. The only allowed exceptions to required immunizations are a medical exemption (if a health care provider submits in writing that an immunization is medically contraindicated), or a religious exemption (if a parent submits a signed statement to the school stating that immunizations are contrary to their religious beliefs).

Mandated immunizations for 7th grade are:

- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 1 dose Tdap
- 3 doses Polio
- 2 doses Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- 3 doses Varicella vaccine or a physician documented history of chicken pox
- 1 dose Meningococcal

Phoning Home & Caller ID

The school frequently receives calls from concerned parents because the school's phone number has appeared on their Caller ID. They are anxious to know if their child called and why. Students, with permission, are welcome to use a phone to call home. In most of these cases, if the home phone isn't answered, they hang up and go on with their day.

The school's 50+ phones (each classroom has a phone) will leave any of four different numbers on Caller ID, depending upon which line was open when the call was made. However, when the parent calls that number back, all calls are directed to the main office and not to the phone the son/daughter may have just called from. So we have no way of knowing where in the building the call came from.

Please let your son/daughter know that if they need to call home from school and no one picks up that it is important to leave a message. With that information, we can then help you solve the Caller ID mystery.

Skateboards and School Buses

Our bus company wishes to remind parents and students of the rules for transporting skateboards. The rules are:

- They must be enclosed entirely within some type of case or bag and remain in the case for the entire trip
- They must be stored on the floor at the student's feet for the entire trip.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO SEE THEIR CHILD'S TEACHER

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.

Parent teacher conferences will be on Wednesday, November 29th from 6-9 and again on Friday, December 1st from 8-3. We will be booking our conferences for all middle and high school students on-line. We will be sending out information via email, our website, and the parent portal prior to October 30th explaining the process. We will have a call in option for those parents that do not use the internet.

Guidance News

Lenox/Lee Financial Aid Night will take place on October 5th, 7:00pm at the Lee High School Zukowski Theater.

PSAT/NMSQT Exam will be given to all sophomores and juniors free of charge on October 11th during the school day.

Senior Night will be October 12th at 6:00pm in the Duffin Theater.

Junior College Night will be November 14th at 6:00pm in the Library.

Student Athletes there will be a presentation of "What it takes to be a College Athlete" after junior college night on November 14th at 7:00 pm in the Library.

The Guidance Department posts important information on the school website several times a week. For guidance news please go to department and services, click on guidance and scroll through our posts. Check out our guidance menu to the left for important information as well. Please refer to the guidance page for important SAT, ACT and PSAT information as well as student scholarships which are updated as they become available. The guidance calendar which is listed under the guidance menu lists all colleges that will be visiting our school. The school bulletin, which is updated every day, is located under Family and Community on the school website. The bulletin is also posted outside of the guidance and front offices and in the library and classrooms.

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