

LMMHS EXPRESS

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School Principal's Newsletter

October 2018

Welcome to Our New Faculty and Staff

Amy Bainbridge-Jordan is a Berkshire County native who is thrilled to give back to the community that gave her so much growing up. After teaching Spanish in the Pittsfield Public Schools for six years, she pursued her MA in Spanish Linguistics from Middlebury College. She then decided to spend extended time in Madrid, Spain finishing her degree and teaching at a pharmaceutical university. Since returning, she has spent the last six years teaching Spanish in CT. Aside from education, Amy's time is filled with tango dancing, world-traveling, gardening and her family, specifically her new baby boy! Language acquisition is clearly Amy's passion and she tries to instill this in her students along with an attitude of perseverance. She recognizes that without the chance to make errors, one cannot learn and achieve higher aspirations.

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Simona Collins is originally from Romania where she went to college and obtained her Masters in Business Administration. While in Romania, she taught English and Italian in the public school system while working as a freelance translator awarded by the Ministry of Justice of Romania. She moved to the USA over 10 years ago where she obtained her teaching license for ELL and Italian and has been teaching in various schools in Massachusetts helping students improve their English language skills or acquire Italian as a new language. She loves spending time with her family and traveling. She also enjoys working out and going to the gym. One of her favorite quotes is..... It is your attitude, more than your aptitude, that will determine your altitude.

Chris Hunt, our new Athletic Director and Student Support Center Supervisor, is a native of upstate NY. He is a 2003 graduate of Suny, Brockport with a Bachelor's Degree in PE and a minor in Psychology. He then received his Master's Degree in Sports Management and Leadership from Lasell College. Chris has played and enjoyed many sports from Little League, swimming, and youth soccer in elementary school to football, basketball, and track & field in middle school. After graduating college he has had the opportunity to coach both football and track & field at the middle and high school level.

Gabrielle Lavinio is our new ninth grade World History teacher. Gabby grew up in the Berkshires and graduated from Wahconah High School. She then attended Western New England University where she majored in History and Education and played on the basketball and softball teams. She then became a teacher at Ludlow High School where she also coached. She plans to travel to Paris and Portugal during the upcoming school vacations which I am sure will help in teaching her curriculum! Gabby also enjoys playing her guitar and is very excited to be back in the Berkshires and part of the Lenox community!

Kerry Martinez grew up in the beautiful Catskills where she became interested in languages as a result of hosting exchange students from France, Spain, Germany, and Finland. She attended Binghamton University with a degree in Spanish Language and Literature and has a MA in Spanish Education from SUNY, Albany. She has travelled extensively throughout Mexico and has spent time in Spain and France. Her love of language and culture is evident in the activities she shares with her language students. From crepe making to salsa tasting, piñata construction to verb construction, her students will find themselves immersed in cultural activities. During her free time, Kerry enjoys spending time with her husband and two children, the theater, going to concerts, reading and cooking. She is thrilled to be a part of the LMMHS family and community.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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:

Dr. Kimberly Merrick
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.

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.

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.

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

Documentation of the required immunizations must be received in the health office by November 1st.

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 Moodle. 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

Parent teacher conferences will be on Thursday, November 29, 2018 from 6-9 and again on Friday, November 30, 2018 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 Department

The guidance department posts important information on the school website quite often. 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.

Guidance News

PSAT/NMSQT exam was given to all Sophomores and Juniors free of charge on October 10, 2018.

Senior Night was October 11, 2018 at 6:30 in the LMMHS Library.

Junior College Night will be November 14, 2018 at 6:30 in the LMMHS Library.

9th and 10th grade night will be January 31, 2019 with 9th grade presented from 6:30-7:30 and 10th grade presented from 7:30-8:30.

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