

SEPTEMBER, 2020

LOA CONNECTIONS

LOA → Lakeland Online Academy ← 272



**...wired to Lakeland learning
...connected to the future!**

Back to School Issue

Dear Families,

September 1, 2020

I'm happy to introduce myself and the new Lakeland Online Academy. I am feeling honored to be the administrator leading this program and the teachers and I are looking forward to working with our many students and their families.

I have spoken to or emailed with many of you recently and I appreciate your kind input and understanding as we develop our online option for families to utilize no matter what color or level we are experiencing as a district. Because of fluctuating enrollment numbers as families grapple with this important decision, we are going to finalize our staffing as a district in the first week of school.

For our LOA families, you can expect that your child will participate in activities in the first week of school that ensures that all LOA students have a strong foundation for engagement in online learning and digital citizenry. Teachers we have assigned to LOA will be emailing you this week with a link to join in face to face meetings to begin this learning on Tuesday, September 8. Most important will be an opportunity for students in LOA to build in FUN and time for FRIENDS just like they had in their home school.

Please accept our staff's sincere empathy if your family is experiencing Covid-19 personally. I'd like you to start out this school year knowing that my staff and I are here to support your child(ren) no matter what this school year brings. Flexibility and teamwork are important for all of us to remember as we start out on this adventure together.

The first thing I'd like you to know about LOA is that all of us working here are your partners and are dedicated to your children. This is new for many of us, so I'll be asking for feedback from you all along the way. The LOA team has been collaborating and planning and our teachers have already invested great amounts of time and imagination to make this a great year for your children. What we may not do well starting out, we will improve along the way.

Please access our webpage in the next few days for the details you are looking for. We are adding to it daily and want to share everything with you as soon as it's ready.

Chromebook checkout for LOA families is scheduled at your home school for Thursday, Sept. 3. See your school's communication for details on the time and location on their grounds for pick up.

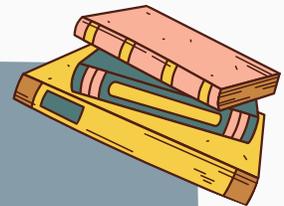
If schools do not have textbooks and materials available for pick up on Thursday, Sept. 3, we will announce another day next week for that. **School begins on Tuesday, Sept. 8.**

If you originally enrolled in LOA, but have changed your mind due to the district moving to the Yellow Level, please email me about that change and I'll take you off of the list.

Thank you for choosing LOA. I look forward to meeting and visiting with all of you as we work together this year.

Patty Morrison

Materials



If you have not been given your children's textbooks and materials, the school your child is zoned to will offer another pick up time. More communication for book pick up will be coming soon! All your child needs at this time for their first week of school is a computer (Chromebook) and internet connection.

Getting to Know Mrs. Morrison

I have worked within this district for thirty years. I started out as a first grade teacher at John Brown Elementary in 1991. I have since taught students at all grades K-8, and have been a Title I teacher, reading specialist, instructional coach, and a principal at both Spirit Lake and Twin Lake Elementary schools. I am now the Director of Federal Programs and worked the last two years to support our systems growth in preventing and responding to escalated behavior and working with children on social, emotional and behavior skills.

What I have learned through all of the opportunities this community and the district have given me is that TEAMWORK is the key. No one knows everything or is good at everything. On each of the teams I've participated in, it is the diversity among us that has made us strong and creates a natural need for us to listen to and to learn from one another. This academy will not be any different. LISTENING to one another and most importantly, OUR STUDENTS, will be one of the pillars we will build our success upon.

My background in social emotional learning as well as instructional practices has prepared me to guide our team to keep your child's balanced life in mind all year. How they grow in seeing themselves as learners and a part of this online program and their future will be my guiding focus everyday.

Each student needs to recognize their value, their talents, and possibly a few focus areas to grow in as they move through our district curriculum and their grade level. Some will move at slower paces than others in some areas. We will create a plan together with you if that happens. All children in the LOA program will grow everyday.





Tech Trouble?

If you have a district chromebook and are experiencing problems you need assistance with, please contact the helpdesk at helpdesk2@lakeland272.org

Hard Work - Done Well - Feels Good

I am a firm believer in putting a positive, brave foot forward, doing one's best, and adapting along the way to ensure success. In fact, all students at LOA will hear a repeated message from me all year: I gleaned it from a principal I knew many years ago and have shared it in both schools I led in the past: Hard Work - Done Well - Feels Good. There's a lot to that statement. It honors industriousness, a commitment to working through struggle to create something good, and it also speaks to feelings. Feelings can sneak up on all of us...especially when we are trying new or difficult things. I believe we owe it to our students to allow them their feelings: to help them recognize them, understand them, express them, problem solve with them, and learn how to grow with them. Your child's social emotional development is equally important to their academic growth. We will support them in both!

**Stayed tuned to the website to
meet your LOA Teachers**

