



LOMPOC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Lompoc Community,

Below are some items of interest to our LUSD community.

Wi-Fi for All Students

We continue to make progress on providing Wi-Fi to all LUSD students using a “mesh net” that would provide service to all Lompoc students. ABM is assisting us with the implementation of this project. The project will be cost-neutral. Not only will LUSD students have access to the Wi-Fi, but local businesses as well as the City of Lompoc will also be able to access the Wi-Fi at a discounted price.

Labor Relations

We met with Lompoc Federation of Teachers (LFT) this week to discuss any concerns they might have. We are once again appreciative of the great relationship we have with our labor partners. We will meet with California School Employee Association (CSEA) next week to do the same.

Reopening Schools

School sites continue to work on their unique videos for reopening. Teachers, classified staff, and administrators are collaborating on these videos so that families know what to expect when they return to sites. We have shared our District/Site Universal Planning Document as well as the District Responses with the community so they can also see the in-depth planning. In addition, we have heard from nearly half of all of our students regarding their preference for their instructional model. Once the survey closes on October 28, we will endeavor to develop schedules based on the numbers of students in each form of instruction. Finally, beginning at least by December, we will undertake hiring any additional staff that may be needed. We will need to work with LFT due to the fact that their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) states that students must be 6’ apart. Finding space for these students, while also providing them a credentialed teacher is at the forefront of our minds. When we do reopen, our elementary schools will only be in-person half-days and asynchronous for the afternoons. This will minimize the need for Classified staff to supervise students during lunch.

Reading & Speaking Program for our Youngest Students

Because our youngest students and our English Language Learners (ELL) are getting less opportunities to speak and use language than they would traditionally, we are looking into various programs that use speech recognition and are fun, yet educational, that provide those opportunities for students. One of the big focuses of our Learning Loss Mitigation funds needs to be on our most “at-risk” populations, English Learners being one of those. We have identified a program that provides speaking and listening opportunities for our students, while also teaching them the basic components of reading, called *Alegra Learning*. We asked our TK-1 teachers for their interest in the program and they overwhelmingly were interested in using it in their classrooms. In addition, there is character education based on the New York Times best-seller *Teaching Your*

Children Values, by Richard and Linda Eyre. As part of the program, Mr. & Mrs. Eyre will come annually to Lompoc and provide training, in-person if deemed safe, to our community and staff around character development in children. We will allocate COVID funds to purchase the program this year and with the premiere licenses and professional development the subsequent years two and three are free. The opportunity to not only provide this educational resource to our students, but also provide parental support is huge for our community.

Teacher Support Providers (TSPs)

The TSPs worked to create a “shopping list” of great ideas for staff to utilize their \$500 COVID funds that would also meet the requirements of the funding source. By no means is the list all inclusive; however, teachers have asked for ideas that would be beneficial for their instruction as a launching point. The TSPs worked collectively with teachers, principals, and District administrators to come up with items that were then categorized by elementary, middle and high school.

In addition, the TSPs visited sixty-nine (69) classrooms this week to provide support for our newly hired teachers. The TSP focus this week is back on structures and supporting classroom management. They are digging deeper into the Teach component and are specifically looking for instructional strategies that support student behavior in the classroom. These skills are equally as important in the virtual instructional model.

Special Study

LUSD School Board members as well as administrators received a special study that was performed by School Services California (SSC) to analyze the academic performance of our schools. SSC compared our schools to those in our geographic area as well as those who have similar demographics to Lompoc Unified. It is an eye-opening study and we used this data to develop our focus for this year - literacy across the District.

Minimizing Exposure

At school sites and at the Education Center we continue to encourage staff to work remotely whenever possible to minimize the potential for exposure. We offer ALL employees every right afforded to them by law and we also make every accommodation deemed reasonable to limit the exposure of people which in turn limits the spread of the COVID 19. As a reminder, all staff are eligible for Worker’s Compensation should they contract COVID while at work. In order to minimize that possibility, while also protecting our employees, we are asking that office staff to work on a rotational basis so that staff members are available to answer any questions that students or families may have. We are asking other employees to work remotely as much as their positions allow, while still maintaining the same level of service to our families and staff.

Mandatory Staff Testing

Mandatory staff test kits are being mailed out this week to all LUSD employees, as well as long-term substitutes and student teachers. Staff will be able to access the results through a personalized portal to maintain HIPPA requirements. All staff have attested that they will report any positive results to Human Resources so that contact tracing can begin and the positive employee can be directed to the various resources available to them through LUSD and Santa Barbara County Health Department (SBCPHD). Our insurance will only cover staff who have District insurance. All other staff, those that are not full-time, substitutes, student-teachers, etc., will need to be paid for by LUSD. The test cost is \$115 per test.

Equity Study

In an effort to continue with our anti-racism resolution, we are partnering with an equity research company that will work with our students, teachers, staff, and administrators to look at our systems and identify how we can provide more equity in our schools so that all students can experience success and have greater opportunities after graduation.

Teacher Residency Program

We are in the beginning stages of creating a teacher residency program so that we can “grow our own” teachers. This will allow us to have a deeper pool of applicants while also having a workforce that is more reflective of our students and who have gone through LUSD. We are working with Santa Maria Bonita and Santa Maria Joint Unified School Districts to partner in this endeavor.

Resources

A link to our District Protocols is provided here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15oGNQKhowGuX4vzHGWO8xovxZpct5Zwej5nk04_Kd8/edit?usp=sharing

A link to our FAQs is provided here: <https://bit.ly/LUSDFAQs>

The above two documents have been emailed to all staff, posted on social media and the LUSD website since July 17 when the Governor presented his mandates for schools.

A link to our planning documents, which we have been working on since March, are provided here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IiALJbvpuUeBu4Ja7-TBm7LZjE0dtFIYUlyvzK2zqHs/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10AYr6gEVh-U2YGhwE9yElbAG3H1AzYTpKgocDUOYsNI/edit?usp=sharing>

LUSD in the News

<https://www.eschoolnews.com/2020/10/20/lessons-on-building-community-from-a-pandemic/2/>

Secondary Student Check-In

LUSD secondary schools have administered a short survey to their students to assess any basic needs that students have at this time. Students have been able to indicate whether they would benefit from blue-light glasses, headphones, tutoring, better internet, social connections, or other needs. The Lead Counselors of each secondary school are meeting every two weeks to collaborate on the survey responses. Each school is working on ways to address the needs at their campus (Teen Lounge, Lunch Bunch, after school groups, etc.). The new LUSD Counselor also has drop-in sessions from 2:15-3:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. LUSD is also seeking student groups in other areas, including Stress Management, Time Organization, Loss & Bereavement, and Yoga.

Small-Group In-Person Cohorts

Twelve of the SDC (Special Day Class) cohort plans have been approved to begin once an MOU with LFT has been finalized and transportation has been organized for the students. Six plans are in progress and should be completed and approved by the end of the week. Most plans start with gradual in-person learning for one to three students for a limited amount of time. Initially, the focus will be on learning the new protocols so that there is a safe environment for students and school staff.

Special Education Plan

On October 20, the Special Education Plan Committee met to finalize the action items and root causes in each of the designated areas: Suspensions, Graduation Rate, ELA, math, Least Restrictive Environment, and Chronic Absenteeism. In December, the plan will be forwarded to the state after review by site and district administrators, LUSD special education teachers, and the Santa Barbara County SELPA.

Attendance

On Wednesday, October 21 we held the first virtual SARB (School Attendance Review Board) meeting. Some of the families attended in person and some attended virtually. The meeting was held with our wonderful community partners who are assisting all families in need. All in all, it was a success for our students as they will now be receiving some support in order to help them engage in the learning process online.

CTE (Career Technical Education)

One-on-one meetings on Zoom have started with CTE teachers to find out what has been working, in what areas support is needed, what items they need to purchase this year so the budget can be organized and the curriculum being used. Some of the information gathered will be shared with other CTE coordinators in both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo so everyone may support each other's programs.

Maintenance & Operations Update

This week our in-house plumbing crew has continued to find and repair multiple leaks in the three infrastructure gas lines feeding the La Honda campus. After several repairs, two of the three lines are now holding pressure, however, the third continues to drop pressure. We will be looking into hiring a leak detection contractor for this line so that we can find and repair it before having the Gas Company re-install the meter and turn the gas back on.

The Maintenance Direct on-line platform lists 318 open work orders today. Over the last week, LUSD staff has closed out 51 completed work orders.

In preparation for the return of our students, appliances for laundering face coverings are now installed and operable at all of our schools, and we are continuing to purchase more PPE daily. As of today, LUSD has purchased just over \$686K in COVID-related PPE and cleaning supplies. Some of these include face shields, cloth face masks, disposable masks, hand sanitizer, mist foggers, thermometers, portable hand-wash stations, tents, laundering equipment, gloves, aprons, plexiglass barriers, and MERV13 HVAC filters.

This week, we completed pre-construction meetings for the B2-21 gas line replacement project at Clarence Ruth, the B3-21 concrete pad project outside of Cabrillo High's weight room, and the

camera and server project at the Education Center Complex. By tomorrow we will have a start date for B2-21, an estimated four-week project. The Cabrillo High concrete project will begin on or around November 2 and should be complete in early December. The camera and server project, pending receipt of equipment, is expected to begin November 12 and be complete around Thanksgiving. Also this week, we completed a punch inspection of the Cabrillo High evaporative cooler replacement project at the Greenhouse. What we discovered was that in addition to completing all of the work according to the contract, at no cost to the District, the crew rebuilt a rusted table located below the wet-wall.

Below is an update on the status of the construction projects that are now in progress throughout LUSD:

- The exterior LED lighting project has completed installations at Martha Negus, Hapgood, Buena Vista, Los Berros, Manzanita, La Honda, and El Camino. The crew is currently at La Honda and will be moving to Miguelito next.
- The portable classroom occupancy sensor project has completed physical installations at La Honda, Fillmore, Hapgood, Miguelito, Clarence Ruth, La Canada, LVMS, LHS, Los Berros, and Buena Vista. Today the crew is working at Cabrillo High.
- The irrigation sub-metering project has completed physical installations at LVMS, Miguelito, Clarence Ruth, La Canada, and Cabrillo High. The crew is currently working at LHS and expects to be moving to La Honda tomorrow. The work at El Camino will be completed this Saturday as that site requires an approximate 4-hour shutdown of the domestic water.
- The plumbing fixture replacement project has finished installations at Cabrillo, Buena Vista, Vandenberg Middle, Los Berros, La Canada, and Maple High. Punch inspections have been completed and the crew is now at Clarence Ruth.
- Furnace replacement work at Vandenberg Middle school continued this week, and we now expect that site to be completed by Friday, October 30. Beginning on the following Monday, the crew will begin furnace replacements at the Ed Center.

Thank you for your support.

Trevor McDonald
Superintendent of Schools