

November 2020

FOCUS on Education

First Weeks of School | BOE Presentations | Curriculum Corner | Facility Facts | Focus on Faculty

Dear Members of the Lyme-Old Lyme Communities,

As we write this, we have completed six weeks of full in-person learning while keeping everyone on campus safe and healthy. Thank you to our community, teachers, students, and staff for their collective commitment to this effort.

Adherence to wearing masks, washing hands, physical distancing, daily symptom-checks, and other measures have, and will continue to play, an important role in a successful school year. It has been uplifting to see students in the halls, on the fields, and with friends talking to one another, despite the physical distance between people being further than usual.

Should conditions change, and we need to adapt to short- or long-term remote learning, we have complete confidence in our teachers, students, and staff to be able to do so with their usual dedication and commitment.

Sincerely,

Ian Neviasser
Superintendent of Schools

Diane Linderman
Chair, Board of Education



Lyme-Old Lyme Schools

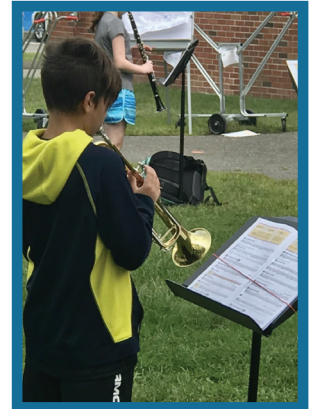


: lolschoolsct



: lymeoldlymeschools

FIRST Weeks of School



Please join our Board of Education for the following PRESENTATIONS

DECEMBER

02 | 6:30 pm Special Education Update

JANUARY

06 | 6:30 pm Technology Update

13 | 6:30 pm Elementary, Middle, High School and Curriculum Budget Presentations

20 | 6:30 pm Special Education, Facilities, Technology, Operations and Central Services Presentations

FEBRUARY

03 | 6:30 pm Budget Forum

Meetings are held in the Board of Education Conference Room

Center School
49 Lyme Street
Old Lyme, CT

Agendas, links to live-streams of meetings, and links to recordings of previous meetings are available at www.region18.org

CURRICULUM CORNER: Diversity & Inclusion

Lyme-Old Lyme Schools seeks to be a place of respect and inclusion, a place where every student in our schools feels comfortable and valued. In light of increasing political divide and social unrest, we have undertaken efforts to ensure that our culture and systems are ones that promote acceptance and to look for areas where we can improve.

This summer, many of our teachers/departments reviewed course content with an eye for incorporating different perspectives and diverse voices. Our library media specialists added books to reflect our multicultural global society. At the start of the school year, professional development opportunities were provided for all district staff that included a panel on diversity comprised of students and community members, followed by individual breakout sessions.

Professional development in this area is ongoing with additional activities and focus groups planned on this topic later this year. An area of emphasis is on helping teachers facilitate difficult, often emotionally charged, conversations. It is of great value for our students to learn how to have respectful discourse that encourages understanding, empathy, and differing viewpoints.

All public schools are bound by strict non-discrimination policies. That is not to say our efforts stop with enforcing policies, but as public employees, teachers and staff are required to remain neutral and refrain from sharing their personal opinions.

Our work on diversity and inclusiveness is not new, but we are engaging with this work in fresh ways and with a strong commitment to all of our students.

FACILITY Facts



TENNIS COURTS

The six tennis courts at the central campus were renovated over the summer and are being used by students and community members alike. Post tension concrete courts were placed over the old courts. The new courts are extremely durable and provide excellent surface quality. The renovations included the addition of two new bleachers and new wind screens.

HIGH SCHOOL GYM FLOOR

The gymnasium floor at the high school was sanded down to bare wood and renovated with new paint and an updated logo.

LYME SCHOOL GYM FLOOR

The gymnasium at Lyme School is in the final stages of renovation. The final step in the process is to pour the new floor which is planned for the near future.

FOCUS on Faculty



Jonathan Goss is Lyme-Old Lyme Schools' Teacher of the Year. In his 24 years of teaching high school tech-ed, Goss has continually reimagined the curriculum. Classes such as alternative energy, outboard motors, and electrical wiring ensure students learn skills that will be of value in the future. Goss teaches his students how to use sophisticated machinery and tools, as well as to be safe and to respect the equipment. Goss also co-leads the award-winning robotics team, the Techno Ticks.

Known for his dedication to his work, Goss has an incredible ability to connect with each student, holding them to a high standard. His quiet demeanor, unflappable character, and thoughtful approach is admired and respected by colleagues and students alike.



Ray Belval, campus security, is Lyme-Old Lyme Schools' Employee of the Year. Belval joined the district in 2019 quickly becoming indispensable. Belval is known for his cheery disposition, willingness to jump in wherever needed, and ability to bring new ideas to the table.

Belval was instrumental in implementing the Stop the Bleed program across all schools. This program trained our teachers and older students how to identify and control life-threatening bleeding while waiting for emergency responders. When schools shut down in March, Belval was an integral part of the success of the food distribution program. He helped to organize the set-up and warmly greeted people as they came by for food, seemingly knowing everyone's name and always with a smile on his face.

The Regional School District 18 Board of Education prohibits harassment and discrimination in educational programs, activities, services, or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, military or veteran status, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, genetic information, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or disability in accordance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and appropriate state laws.