



# May 2023 LDMS Student Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting

Amber M. Sessoms, EdD, NCSP  
Founder and Chief Visionary Officer of Natural Inclination LLC

© 2023 Natural Inclination LLC





# My Core Values



## Authenticity

- “[T]he daily practice of letting go of who we think we’re supposed to be and embracing who we are.”
- “Authenticity is a requirement for belonging, and fitting in is a threat.”
- “Authenticity is a requirement for connection, and perfectionism (a type of fitting in) is a threat.”

## Connection

- “[T]he energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.”

## Curiosity

- “[R]ecognizing a gap in our knowledge about something that interests us, and becoming emotionally and cognitively invested in closing that gap through exploration and learning. Curiosity often starts with interest and can range from mild curiosity to passionate investigation.”

### Strengths: What does LDMS do well that makes us unique?

Sports; Extracurriculars (Art Club, summer camp); Social time with friends; Great adults to talk to for guidance; Most teachers are nice and understanding; Most people get along; School projects; Fun and funny; Get to move to different classes; The freedom (get to pick who associate with); Teachers provide multiple ways of learning; Easy to find things around the school; Feelings of safety, understanding, and belonging; Almost feels like home; Teachers that try to help with "raced" comments; Lunch; "Be Kind;" Club Ophelia; When we do school outside; Diverse studies;

### Opportunities: What do we need from LDMS?

Recognize, Address, and eliminate (cyber) bullying; Clear rules; Effective and consistent discipline for racist "jokes" and microaggressions; Push back the schedule by 20-30 min; Decrease amount of going up and down the stairs (8<sup>th</sup> grade stairs); Proper punishment for rude/disrespectful behavior toward teachers, staff, and peers; Accountability for negative ways staff treat students with mental health issues; Discipline/monitoring to prevent peers from getting "touchy" changing in Phys. Ed.; Make school fun; More in-school certified therapists; More compassionate staff; Help students make positive peer connections and coping skills; Placing students in classes with peers they can get along with; Make it warm in the building; Ability to skip pep rallies; Organize special meetings; Give students a chance to explain their side of the story; Check for student academic understanding; Have phones at lunch; Make the lunch rows fair on who goes first and last; Teacher expectation to use phones that don't embarrass students who don't have phones; Stricter dress code;

## LDMS SAC SOAR

### Aspirations: What do we care deeply about (i.e., values)?

Christianity/Religion; Family/Friends; Respect; Equality; Kindness; Understanding

### Results: What are the outcomes we would like to see?

More clubs (engineering, diversity, sport cards, Club Ophelia, mental health, cheerleading, American Sign Language); Advertisement of clubs; More performing arts (dance, musicals, chorus); More curriculum (race, gender, cultures, religion, identities, LGBTQ, wellness); Ability to take breaks or sit outside the classroom; More understanding of students' personal lives; Partner with community-based organizations; More community events; Students being respectful of each other, even with differences; Accept all people so they don't have to hide from who they are; Race and gender inclusivity; Have students make positive posters to hang in hallways; Educate students on differences as good and create opportunities to bring understanding; Less congestion and play in the hallways;



# Aspirations: What do we care deeply about (i.e., values)?



Christianity, Religion



Family, Friends



Respect



Equality



Kindness



Understanding

# Strengths: What do we like about LDMS?

- Sports and extracurriculars (Art Club, summer camp)
- Social time with friends
- Great adults to talk to for guidance
- Most teachers are nice and understanding
- Most people get along
- School projects
- Fun and funny
- Get to move to different classes
- Freedom (get to pick who associate with)
- Diverse studies
- Easy to find things around the school
- Feelings of safety, understanding, and belonging
- Almost feels like home
- Teachers that try to help with "raced" comments
- Lunch
- "Be Kind"
- Club Ophelia
- When we do school outside
- Teachers provide multiple ways of learning

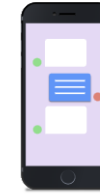


## Join by Web



- 1 Go to **PollEv.com**
- 2 Enter **AMBERS482**
- 3 Respond to activity

## Join by Text



- 1 Text **AMBERS482** to **37607**
- 2 Text in your message

Total Results: 0

Powered by  **Poll Everywhere**



# Opportunities: What do we need from LDMS?

- Recognize, Address, and eliminate (cyber) bullying
- Clear rules
- Effective and consistent discipline for racist “jokes” and microaggressions
- Push back the schedule by 20-30 min
- Decrease amount of going up and down the stairs (8<sup>th</sup> grade stairs)
- Proper punishment for rude/disrespectful behavior toward teachers, staff, and peers
- Accountability for negative ways staff treat students with mental health issues
- Discipline/monitoring to prevent peers from getting “touchy” changing in Phys. Ed.
- Make school fun
- Make it warm in the building
- More in-school certified therapists
- More compassionate staff
- Help students make positive peer connections and coping skills
- Placing students in classes with peers they can get along with
- Ability to skip pep rallies
- Organize special meetings
- Give students a chance to explain their side of the story
- Check for student academic understanding
- Have phones at lunch
- Make the lunch rows fair on who goes first and last
- Teacher expectation to use phones that don’t embarrass students who don’t have phones
- Stricter dress code



Poll is full and no longer accepting responses

## What do we need from LDMS?

“ more room in the halls ”

“ 7th/8th grade lunch split (7th have lunch B and 8th have lunch C) ”

“ I think we should possibly have more time for homework in

Powered by Poll Everywhere



# Results: What are the outcomes we would like to see?

- More clubs (engineering, diversity, sport cards, Club Ophelia, mental health, cheerleading, American Sign Language)
- Advertisement of clubs
- More performing arts (dance, musicals, chorus)
- More curriculum (race, gender, cultures, religion, identities, LGBTQ, wellness)
- Ability to take breaks or sit outside the classroom
- More understanding of students' personal lives
- Partner with community-based organizations
- More community events
- Students being respectful of each other, even with differences
- Accept all people so they don't have to hide from who they are
- Race and gender inclusivity
- Have students make positive posters to hang in hallways
- Educate students on differences as good and create opportunities to bring understanding
- Less congestion and play in the hallway



🌐 When poll is active, respond at **PolleEv.com/ambers482**

📱 Text **AMBERS482** to **37607** once to join

## What are the outcomes we would like to see?

“ bullying stopped, clubs are lasting longer, getting more breaks ”

“ I would like see people express who they are and enjoy them selves ”

Powered by  **Poll Everywhere**

High Contrast OFF ON



Lower D

Home

Schools

Our D

## Equity, Inclusion & Belonging in Lower Dauphin

### Overview

School-Student Problem Identification and Resolution of Issues Together (School-SPIRIT)

### Advisory Groups

[Parent Advisory Council](#)[HS Student Advisory Council](#)[MS Student Advisory Council](#)

provide contact information if they were interested in being part of these groups.

© 2023 Natural Inclination LLC

[Admin Login](#)

in Lower Dauphin | Advisory Groups

ected the Administration to  
and culture in our high school  
nd climate where every child  
es listening, empathy,

need your voice and

p identify strengths,  
upportive school climate. The  
s and solicit their feedback

hold meetings of these

ol students to sign-up and