



# LGPS CARDINAL CONNECTION

Sunday, January 26, 2025



## Principal Message

Dear LGPS Families,

As part of our commitment to student and staff safety, we will hold a **Code Red Drill in the coming weeks.**

These drills are an essential part of our safety plan and are conducted with care to prepare our school community for emergencies.

Please save the date for **Parent-Teacher Conferences on Friday, February 14th.** This is a great chance to meet your child's teacher to discuss academics, social skills, behavior, and attendance. Show your love for your child's learning by partnering with us to support their success!

Thank you for your continued involvement in our school community. Together, we make a difference!

Warm regards,  
Mr. Finger, Principal

## School Attendance Update

Our goal is to keep school-wide chronic absenteeism below 9% this year, but we are currently at 12%. Chronic absenteeism means missing 10% or more of school days, which impacts both short-term and long-term success. Let's work together to build positive attendance habits that help our students thrive. Thank you for prioritizing regular and disciplined school attendance!

## Home Resources

Learning begins and ends with our childrens first and most important teacher; their family. We are so pleased to partner with you in your child learning and development.

### Reading

#### Stretch & Bend

Help K-2 students practice blending by stretching out the sounds in a word while moving your hands apart (e.g., /c/ /a/ /t/), then bringing your hands together as you say the word quickly ("cat"). Encourage students to mimic the motions as they blend the sounds themselves. The physical movement reinforces the blending process, making it engaging and multisensory!

### Math

#### Number of the Day Challenge

Choose a "Number of the Day" (e.g., 10) and explore it with your child by breaking it into parts ("What two numbers make 10?"), comparing it ("What's bigger or smaller than 10?"), or relating it to objects around the house. This builds flexible thinking and makes math part of everyday life!

- 1/27 @ 7:00 PM - OCPS School Board Meeting - First Presentation of Budget to School Board
- 1/29 - PTA Dine & Donate at Bella Cucina 5:00 - 9:00
- 2/3 - American Heart Association Assembly
- 2/3 - Yearbook Cover Contest Entries Due to Homeroom Teacher
- 2/5 - PTA VAentine Gram Form Due
- 2/6 - Interim Reports Go Home with Students
- 2/10 - 2/14 - Virginia Kindness Week
- 2/13 - Student Two Hour Early Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences on 2/14.





# YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST

We are inviting Locust Grove Primary students to design the cover of our yearbook. This year's theme is:

## STRONGER TOGETHER

### Requirements:

- \*8.5 X 11 sheet of white paper
  - \*Vertical Orientation (up & down-not side to side)
  - \*Must include our school name: Locust Grove Primary
  - \*Must include the school year: 2024-2025
- \*Write your name and teacher in light pencil on the back of your drawing.  
(Entries that do not meet these specifications will not be considered)

**Submit entries to your teacher by  
February 3rd**

**WINNER WILL BE SELECTED BY THE LGPS STAFF MEMBERS!  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING OUR CARDINAL ART.!**

PLEASE EMAIL MS. MARCH WITH ANY QUESTIONS

[cmarch@ocss-va.org](mailto:cmarch@ocss-va.org)

**LGPS WILL CELEBRATE  
KINDNESS WEEK  
FEB. 10-14**



**Virginia's Kindness week sponsors are selling the above t-shirt and proceeds will go to support those impacted by Hurricane Helene. This is an optional purchase we wanted to make available to interested families.**

**[CLICK HERE if you wish to order a shirt.](#)**

The link will take you to an outside vendor supporting the week. Orders will sent directly to family homes. The school is not coordinating delivery or shirts.

# Promoting Good Attendance

## All Winter Long



Every winter, bad weather — snow, slush, freezing temperatures or even heavy rains — can present challenges to getting children to school. So do the illnesses such as colds, flu, fevers and earaches that often come with the winter months. Students might also have to stay home due to Covid-19.

### 1. Develop back up plans for getting your children to school in bad weather.

- a. Check to see who can give your children a ride to school if you aren't able to take them or the bus doesn't arrive.
- b. Talk with your school about forming a "walking school bus" with other families to get students to school safely.
- c. Contact your local government if roads to school are not regularly plowed.
- d. Join other families to clear snow from the sidewalks closest to the school.
- e. Tell school administrators about transportation challenges, including safety, and ask if they have plans for transporting students.

### 2. Keep your children healthy.

- a. Maintain a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- b. Ensure students eat a good breakfast every morning or check to see if your school serves breakfast.
- c. Ensure your children visit their medical provider and have received their vaccines, including flu and Covid.
- d. Stress hand washing, particularly before and after eating, and after using the restroom.
- e. Reinforce the importance of avoiding close contact with individuals who are sick, and not sharing cups and/or utensils with others.
- f. If your children seem anxious about going to school, ask teachers, school counselors, your medical provider and parents for advice on how to make your children feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- g. If you are concerned your children may have Covid, call your medical provider or school nurse for advice.

### 3. Keep your children engaged in learning if they cannot attend school in person.

- a. Ask your teacher or school for resources that you can use at home to keep your children learning, including computer tablets, internet access and online learning platforms.
- b. Identify who can support your children's learning at home, especially if you must go to work.
- c. Encourage your children to call classmates and stay connected to the teacher to find out about what they missed.

## WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?



Unsure? Call the LGPS school nurse

540-661-4420 x 4010



### SEE YOU IN CLASS

- Runny nose or a mild cough but no other symptoms
- Temperature below 100.4 and no fever reducing medicine in the last 24 hours
- No throwing up or diarrhea in the last 24 hours

### BEST TO STAY HOME

- Fever of 100.4 or higher in the last 24 hours, with or without fever reducing medicine
- Persistent Cough
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Instructions from a doctor to isolate from others

#### Heading to school! What should I know?

- By coming to school every day they're not sick, your child is:
- Building positive habits and a solid foundation for success
- Staying engaged in learning and on track for graduation
- Gaining valuable social skills
- Less likely to feel stressed and anxious
- Supporting the success of all

#### My Child is staying home. What should I do next?

- Notify the school by phone or email at 540-661-4415 [lindahopkins@ocss-va.org](mailto:lindahopkins@ocss-va.org)
- If possible let us know before 9:30am on the day of the absence
- Repeat this checklist every morning.
- We hope to see your student in class soon!!

# Please use this guidance to help you decide if we should see you in class or if your child should stay home.

We want you to get better when needed but need you in school as often as possible.



¿No estás seguro? Llama a las enfermeras de la escuela.  
540-661-4420 x 4010



### TE VEO EN CLASES

- Secreción nasal o tos leve pero sin otros síntomas
- Temperatura inferior a 100,4 y sin medicamentos para reducir la fiebre en las últimas 24 horas.
- Sin vómitos ni diarrea en las últimas 24 horas.

¿De camino a la escuela!  
¿Qué debo saber?

Al venir a la escuela todos los días y no estar enfermo, su hijo:

- Desarrollar hábitos positivos y una base sólida para el éxito
- Mantenerse comprometido con el aprendizaje y encaminado hacia la graduación
- Adquirir valiosas habilidades sociales
- Es menos probable que se sienta estresado y ansioso.
- Apoyando el éxito de todos los estudiantes

### LO MEJOR ES QUEDARSE EN CASA

- Fiebre de 100.4 o más en las últimas 24 horas, con o sin medicamento para reducir la fiebre.
- Tos persistente
- Vómitos o diarrea
- Instrucciones de un médico para aislarse de los demás.

Mi hijo se queda en casa.  
¿Qué debería hacer después?

- Notifique a la escuela por teléfono o correo electrónico al 540-661-4415 [lindahopkins@ocss-va.org](mailto:lindahopkins@ocss-va.org)
- Si es posible, avísenos antes de las 9:30 a. m. del día de la ausencia.

Repita esta lista de verificación todas las mañanas.

¡Esperamos ver a su estudiante en clase pronto!

# BUDGET DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR



**Superintendent's Budget Roundtable**  
6:00-8:00 PM



**Public Comment Dedicated to FY2026 Budget**  
Regular Board Meeting



**Presentation of Superintendent's Budget Priorities**  
Board Work Session



**Public Comment Dedicated to FY2026 Budget**  
Regular Board Meeting



**Presentation of Superintendent's Proposed Budget**  
Board Work Session



**Public Hearing on FY2026 Budget**  
Regular Board Meeting



**Tentative Approval of Proposed Budget OR Budget Work Session** (as needed)



**Tentative Approval of Proposed Budget OR Budget Work Session** (as needed)