

Dear LMS Families,

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! It's hard to believe that the first day of school is right around the corner! I hope that this summer has been full of fun and relaxation time with your families!

We would like to welcome the following new staff to LMS this fall!

- Sydney Wycinski—8th Grade Science
- Rachel Hatley—Career Connections
- Kara Caton-Searls, Spanish
- New Intervention Specialist--TBA

Several reminders for this year:

- **School begins at 7:25 am and ends at 2:25 pm.** Doors open at 7:00 am--all students report to the gym.
- During the school day, if you need to pick up your child from the school office, please be prepared to show your ID.
- The bell schedule is enclosed, which includes WIN period. WIN stands for What I Need. This period will be designed to help students get what they need. For some students this will be reading or math intervention, for others it may be enrichment opportunities. Students will have time to work on ICU (missing) assignments and get help from teachers during this time. Spanish and Drama classes will take place during this time and students who will be in those classes will receive a letter with more information.
- **School fees for all students are \$40, payable by end of first nine weeks.** Checks can be made to Lakewood Local Schools or can be paid online at PayForIt.net.

Enclosed in this mailing, you will find your child's schedule. Many factors are considered when building each student's schedule. Student preferences for unified arts classes (completed last spring) are considered, but are not guaranteed. Reminder that all 6th graders are taking PE/Health, all 7th graders are taking Career Connections/Art, and all 8th graders are taking Pre-Engineering, unless in Jazz band. Student schedule changes will be considered for "broken" schedules only. Examples of a "broken" schedule include (but are not limited to) enrollment in a duplicate class within the same school year or a core class is missing from the schedule.

I am looking forward to working with each of you this year. Please always feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Jessica Corum, Principal
jcorum@lakewoodlocal.k12.oh.us

2025-2026 Beginning of School FAQs

When is LMS Open House?

LMS Open House will be held on **Monday, August 18th from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm**. There will be parent meetings in the gym where students and parents will gain information regarding ICU, WIN period, and more. These meetings are at 4:00 pm and 4:30 pm. **We do have a home volleyball game this same evening. Beginning at 5 pm the gym will be in use for volleyball.**

During LMS Open House you will be able to:

- Find your child's locker and leave their school supplies there—put a lock on your locker and practice!
- Walk student schedules
- Turn in meds for your child to the school office
- Pay fees in the school office
- Lancer Locker is available for students who need school supplies or personal supplies in room 802
- Meet your bus driver in the multipurpose room
- Set up student or parent Progressbook accounts in the Library
- Buy a Lancer T-Shirt in the cafeteria
- Learn about clubs and activities at LMS

Open House is not a recommended time to try to talk to teachers about concerns regarding your child. Many of our staff are meeting over 100 students the night of Open House and concerns deserve our full attention. If you have concerns, please email your child's teacher or schedule an appointment to talk to them at a later date.

Where can I find a copy of the LMS Student Handbook?

LMS Student Handbook is available on our website. Please notify the school office if you would like to receive a printed version of the *LMS Student Handbook*. *Note: *LMS Student Handbook* sign off is part of the Final Forms online registration process. When you complete this step, you and your child are acknowledging the Board approved *LMS Student Handbook*.

How does arrival and dismissal work at LMS?

Morning Arrival Guidelines

1. Parents may drop children off starting at 7:00 a.m. Please use the east drive off of Rt. 40 and drive south. The drop off zone is the curb/sidewalk on the east side of the Middle School. This is the only designated parent drop off zone. Students may enter through the back doors of the gymnasium. **Students who arrive prior to 7:00 am should remain in their car until 7:00 am.**
2. Cars should be driven heading east through the driveway between the football stadium and the baseball field.
3. Parents should exit onto Lancers Road. If you wish to exit directly onto State Route 40, please use the parking lot at the Lakewood Athletic Complex to turn around and exit. Be sure to yield to oncoming traffic.
4. Parents who must enter the building during this time should park in a marked space in the lot in front of the school. Please do not block any school exit, entrance, handicap drop off zone, fire lane, or curbed area.
5. For student safety, please yield to the buses when they are pulling in and out of the drop off zone.
6. Please help us observe these safety guidelines.

Afternoon Dismissal Guidelines

1. Parents should enter the east entrance and park in the gravel parking lot of the Lakewood Athletic Complex.
2. For student safety, no car traffic is permitted in front of the Middle School between 2:15 p.m. and 2:35 p.m.
3. At 2:25 p.m. students will exit LMS and report to the gravel parking lot at the Lakewood Athletic Complex. Please do not be in a hurry when "moving" through the parking lot. Think safety first!
4. Please yield to buses and thank you for your cooperation.

How can I expect to receive communication from Lakewood Middle School?

The Middle School Message is a weekly newsletter that comes out every Friday with important information. To ensure you receive this, make sure we have an accurate parent email address. The newsletter also gets published on our webpage, Facebook, and Twitter. Students also have a communication folder that comes home with flyers and important information from staff. To communicate with teachers, we recommend emailing them directly. Teachers or the school office will contact you directly if we have concerns for your child. Any time you have a concern, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or the school office.

How can I check my child's grades or attendance?

At LMS we utilize Progressbook. If you already have a Progressbook login from JIS, this will continue to be the same. If you need a Progressbook log in, you can create one in the library during Open House. After Open House, please reach out to Natosha Harkness, building secretary, nharkness@lakewoodlocal.org and she will be able to get you log in information.

What is WIN period?

WIN period stands for WHAT I NEED. It is a chance every day for students to get exactly that. Some students will be part of reading intervention during this time. There will be time for missing assignments (ICU) and help with homework. Spanish and Drama take place during WIN period (there is limited room in these classes—not everyone who requested them could be accommodated—check your child's schedule). Once a month, club day will happen during this time.

What is this 2a/b, 3a/b, 6a/b, 7a/b split I see on the bell schedule?

At LMS, our English Language Arts (ELA) and Math classes are blocked—meaning that they are one and a half periods. If you look at your child's schedule next to a copy of the bell schedule, you will see that Math may be 1st and 2a, following by ELA 2b and 3rd periods. Some classes are split—so an 8th grader could have a 4, 5a Math class, followed by a 5b, 8 ELA class. In this case the student would attend ELA for 5b, proceed to Band 6th, Lunch 7th, and then return to ELA for 8th period.

Band and Choir are the same period on my child's schedule—how will that work?

6th grade band and choir are 2nd period; 7th grade band and choir are 1st period; 8th grade band and choir are 4th period. Students who wish to participate in both programs will see both classes reflected during the given period. The band and choir teachers will devise a weekly schedule for students who are in both programs. They will communicate this to students each week. The classrooms are located next to each other, so tell your child not to worry about reporting to the wrong class—they'll get it straightened out easily enough.

My child has Drama or Spanish on their schedule for 9th period/WIN

Drama and Spanish are classes that had limited availability and a teacher selection process to be selected into. Students and parents should understand that these classes happen in lieu of a WIN period and that their student does not have the same amount of time during their school day to complete homework and missing assignments. This may require additional work before or after the school day.

What is Club Day?

Club Day is an opportunity for students to build relationship with new staff and new students. Teachers host clubs ranging from Legos to Flag Football, Karaoke to Board Games, and Crafting to Nickle Hockey. Staff select clubs they'd like to host and then students are given an opportunity to sign up at the beginning of each semester. Students are able to rank their top three choices and are then placed into clubs based on those selections and availability. Once a month during WIN, students will report to their club and get to have fun and build new relationships. They will attend the same club for an entire semester and will be reassigned a new club in January for second semester. Club Days will be on September 24, October 29, November 29, December 17, January 28, February 25, March 18, and April 29.

What is ICU?

ICU stands for Intensive Care Unit, and relays the message that missing work is a serious problem.

At LMS, we subscribe to the belief that a zero on an assignment is an easy way out. When students are unable to complete an assignment for any reason (absence, difficulty, choice), the assignment is placed on the ICU list. When this happens the parent receives an email/text alert and the child also receives an email. Students have time during WIN to complete any assignments and get those turned in for credit. Staff is available during this time if your child is having difficulty completing the assignment. Students with five or more ICU assignments may be pulled during their lunch period for additional support to complete their work. Students have the opportunity to purchase and eat lunch during this time. ICU is designed to provide students extra support, hold them accountable for completing all of their assignments, and to keep parents in the loop. A single ICU assignment is not necessarily a bad thing, but students who are consistently on the ICU list are cause for concern. For this reason, we do offer incentives for students who stay off the ICU list. Teachers may also offer blitz days throughout the year when they notice ICU assignments piling up in a particular grade—these are days when the focus shift from instruction to work completion.

How much homework should my middle school child expect?

Most of our staff do not assign much homework. Typically, homework is only assigned when classroom time was not sufficient to finish an assignment. Math classes utilize spiral review (Math Blasts, Great 8, or Simple Solutions) and often assign these for homework. But while your child may not be assigned worksheets or workbook homework regularly, all middle school students have one homework assignment that doesn't change—READ 20 MINUTES PER DAY. We have a library, a book room, and teachers have classroom libraries. There are plenty of books for students to choose from here at LMS. Your child should be reading at least 20 minutes outside of school hours daily. Students can read anything of interest to them—it doesn't need to be a certain level or genre. We want to create a culture of reading where kids find joy in reading—it can be a book, a graphic novel, a magazine, the news—whatever floats their boat! New this year we do have a Homework Expectations document located in your weekly Middle School Message.