



LA FOLLETTE HIGH SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2025

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL THOMPSON

Greetings from La Follette High School!

Our Fall Break is now in the rearview mirror. I hope you had the chance to celebrate the holiday with family and friends in the spirit of thankfulness and gratitude. Every chance I get, I want to emphasize my deepest gratitude to this community. Our families, students and stakeholders have been so supportive of La Follette High School. I am also deeply appreciative of your ongoing support of our staff and my leadership. In our last newsletter, I discussed at length the ways in which we worked together to launch the school year. We have now firmly established our Universal Expectations and ways of being as students.

As you know and most likely have heard through my other communications, we as a district at the high school level, are moving fully towards standards-based learning. We are working towards a grading system that is more pure and purposeful. A standards-based assessment and grading system allows us to more accurately share what your student is learning, what they are able to know and demonstrate. The days of folding in student characteristics, soft-skills, perceived “effort” and extra credit are no longer reflective of and embedded within the grade a student receives. For each content area, your staff at every Professional development day both this year and portions of last year, have been developing Rubrics to accurately assess your student’s progress toward each standard found with content areas. As we flesh these metrics out, you will get a more accurate picture of your student’s learning in each one of their subject areas. I hope you find this both exciting and noteworthy as I do.

Your staff has also been working on “what it means to be academically engaged” and what attributes are required for your student’s success. We also want to enlist your support. As a parent and/or guardian, you can make a huge difference in supporting the learning of your student. There are characteristics of the learner-the habits of learning that impact student achievement. This is where parents/guardians can make connections and conversations with their Lancers. At the dinner table, in the car, on the bus, sitting on the couch, I ask that you challenge your Lancer to think about what reflections they had in a particular class regarding the vocabulary they learned, what concepts were discussed and what skills were introduced or reviewed. Ask your Lancer what goals they set as a new unit is introduced or as a new quarter begins. Finally, talk with your Lancer about connections they made from what they are

learning to their worlds or previous skills they have learned in the class. Ask your student to reflect on what they have learned and what is their next move to grow.

I finish with these thoughts because your partnership *in the learning* is essential to the growth and progress of your Lancer. I tell all of my stakeholders that school improvement and student learning is contingent upon the 3 strands of engaged students, a dedicated and skilled educator and involved parents/guardians.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Principal Thompson

IMPORTANT DATES

- Saturday, December 6th
 - Lancer Saturday Academy, 9:30 - 12:00
- Friday, December 13th
 - Senior Pictures are due to lafolletteyearbook@gmail.com
- Friday, December 19th
 - Pep Assembly Schedule
- Monday, December 22nd - Friday, January 2nd
 - Winter Break - No School
- Monday, January 5th
 - School Resumes

STRENGTH

DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING (“DOL”) DAYS

On Wednesday, December 3rd, you received [this communication](#) about “Demonstration of Learning” assessment days at the end of the semester. The [schedule](#) for January 27th - 29th is included in that communication. Please refer to this as you schedule appointments and plan transportation for your Lancer. More info to come after Winter Break!

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, LHS offers a number of local scholarships to graduating senior students bound for two year or four year colleges. The La Follette Local Scholarship Application opened December 1st, 2025 and closes January 30th, 2026 at midnight. The link to the online application can be found [HERE](#). It has also been posted to the LHS Class of 2026 Google Classroom. Recipients are selected by the La Follette Local Scholarship Committee, which meets in mid April. If you are selected to receive a scholarship, you will be expected to attend the La Follette Local Scholarship Awards Night on May 13th, 2026 at 7pm. Please save that date. Please see your school counselor with any questions or concerns about the LHS Local Scholarship Application or criteria for eligibility.

OPPORTUNITY

LA FOLLETTE CAREER FAIR

We welcomed over 60 businesses on Nov. 19th to engage with our 10th grade classes, along with a handful of 11th and 12th grade students. Our College/Career goal for 10th grade is EXPLORATION, so what better way to help them think about careers in the future than exposing them to a wide variety right here at school. Students prepared questions and reviewed each business one pager the day before within their English class and then had the opportunity to visit the fair on the 19th.



We received raving reviews from our community partners on how the students networked and the questions they asked. We look forward to next year's fair and welcome you all to join in the fun!



MSCR LANCER SATURDAY ACADEMY

Lancer Saturday Academy is this **Saturday, 12/6 from 9:30 am - noon in 1351 Music Alley– use the Art District entrance.** Students who attend will receive tutoring from LHS teachers & a quiet study space to get assignments done. This is a drop-in service that is open to all students. Students can arrive and leave whenever is best for them. Snacks are provided!

MSCR BASKETBALL SIGN UPS

[Here](#) is the student sign up form. This league is open to all LHS students not on a WIAA school team. Students need to be signed up by Monday, 12/15. Check out the sign up form for more information.

YEARBOOK SALES & SENIOR TO-DO'S

If you'd like to purchase a yearbook for your student(s), you have 2 options: (1) purchase through the IC portal through December 19, (2) bring a cash or check made out to La Follette High School to the main office by December 19, or (3) purchase a yearbook at <http://yearbookforever.com> through January 31, 2026. **Only students who preordered are guaranteed a yearbook.**

Senior To-Dos:

1. Submit senior photos to lafolletteyearbook@gmail.com by December 13th.
2. Students should watch the Class of 2026 Google Classroom, the class's social media accounts, and their emails for information about senior quotes and senior superlatives.
3. Purchase a senior ad to honor your senior, a group of friends/family, and/or a shout-out to a team at yearbookforever.com by February 27.

MMSD'S MAD FOR READING

Check out [these slides](#) to get reading with the Mad for Reading app. Students can earn badges, prizes and grow a love of reading!

UNITY

DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

In an effort to spread winter holiday cheer and bring our school community together, we are thrilled to announce the 3rd Annual Holiday Door Decorating Contest at La Follette High School! Stay tuned for pictures of our winners in the January newsletter.

LHS SPIRIT WEEK

The votes are in! [Take a look](#) at what our students decided for each of the spirit days for the week leading up to Winter Break. BONUS: we will have our prize wheel out at lunch. Any student who participates in the assembly that day **OR** in the spirit day can spin the wheel for the chance to win a prize.



ATHLETIC EVENT REMINDERS

1. No bags or outside food/drink.
2. ID is required. Students must have an ID to enter the game.
3. **No re-entry and no entry after halftime.**
4. Students on the No Admit List will not be permitted entry to the game. Students and guardians receive notification if they are on this list weekly on Friday afternoons. The list is also posted (by ID#) outside of Neighborhood Offices.
5. Middle school students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. This person cannot be an 18 year old student. Guardians must be present for the duration of the game.
6. No loitering. It is assumed that upon entering the game, a person is there to watch the game. No loitering by concessions, cafeteria, hallways, or bathrooms. Those observed loitering are subject to being dismissed from the game.

LEADERSHIP

LANCER WELLNESS TEAM SUPPORTS SCHOOLWIDE LESSON

Quarterly, we have a schoolwide “SOULtime” lesson around various relevant topics connected to mental health and wellness for your teen Lancer. Next week, on December 9th our schoolwide lesson focuses on how social media impacts body image. A student group, the Lancer Wellness Team, has informed much of the content of these lessons. We even have 2 members of the team who are helping deliver the lesson! We encourage you to continue these conversations with your Lancer and ask them about the social media accounts they follow and how much time they spend on social media.

