



LA FOLLETTE HIGH SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2026

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL THOMPSON

Dear Lafollette High School Families,

We hope this message finds you well-rested and rejuvenated after the wonderful winter break. We extend a **warm welcome back** to all our Lancer students and staff as we get ready to dive into the second semester! We have a lot of things to celebrate and some notable events in January. I would like to begin by acknowledging all of our amazing and talented students. December was an absolutely **spectacular** month for the Lafollette High School Fine Arts program. Our students showcased their dedication and incredible talent across several performances:

- **Band Concert:** The Band, under the direction of Jamie Kember, delivered a dynamic and festive performance that filled the auditorium with Lancer spirit.
- **Chorale Concert:** Our Chorale students, led by Courtney Lindl, enchanted the audience with their beautiful vocal arrangements and harmonious sound. Several amazing solo performances were noted.
- **Orchestra Concert:** The Orchestra, guided by Levi Olson, presented masterful pieces that highlighted the intricate skill and musicality of our string players.

The growth and vibrancy of the Lafollette High School Fine Arts department is so evident. The winter concerts were a testament to this development. Our community is so appreciative of the evident hard work and passion of our students. We could not be more proud of the **incredible performances** they delivered. A huge thank you to the students, staff, and families who made the concert season such a ringing success!

Course Scheduling for 2026-2027

As we move into January, we start planning for the 2026-2027 school year. The first week back after break, our Student Services team will preview with students that course selection will begin on January 14th and run through January 23rd. Presentations on course selection will occur in Science classrooms on two different days that week. Your Lancer will work on their course cards and course registration. If you get the chance, review course options with your student. Here is the [Lafollette High School Course Catalog](#). *There is more information on course selection below in*

our January newsletter. As January unfolds, all of the student course selection data will then work to drive the development of our 2026-2027 Master Schedule.

Finally, as a reminder, we are approaching the end of Semester 1. We encourage you to have a look at your student's academic progress in their Infinite Campus. Please note any missing or late assignments. The Semester ends on January 29th. Our Demonstration of Learning week (formerly final exams) will be on January 27th, 28th & 29th. There will be a modified schedule on those days. The month culminates in a staff ONLY work day for Grading on January 30th. There will be no school for students.

We look forward to an exciting and productive second semester filled with continued growth and artistic achievement. We are so grateful for your ongoing support of Lafollette High School!

Sincerely,

Mathew Thompson
Principal, Lafollette High School

IMPORTANT DATES

- Monday, 1/5
 - MSCR Ski club registration opens for trip #1 & #2
- Wednesday, 1/7
 - AVID Family Night, 5:30-7:00
- Saturday, 1/17
 - MSCR's Saturday Academy in room 1351 from 9:30am-12pm. Free snacks & tutoring!
- Monday, 1/19
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (NO SCHOOL)
- Tuesday 1/27- Thursday 1/29: Demonstration of Learning Days
- Thursday, 1/29
 - Semester 1 ends
- Friday, 1/30
 - Grading Day - NO STUDENTS

Save the DATE - Junior and Senior Prom is April 25th at the Monona Terrace

STRENGTH

ACT PREP/METHODIZE

One way we can demonstrate our academic strength is through our preparation for, and performance on, the ACT exam. The ACT is the gateway assessment for both post secondary options and future financial aid. ALL MMSD STUDENTS have FREE access to an ACT preparation course called “Methodize”. This tool is designed to enhance your student’s performance on the ACT and is very flexible. We have the Methodize [one-pager](#) here for you to review with your Lancer. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING (“DOL”) DAYS

A reminder to review [this communication](#) about “Demonstration of Learning” assessment days at the end of the semester. The [schedule](#) for January 27th - 29th is included.

OPPORTUNITY

MSCR OPPORTUNITIES

- Ski club registration for trip #1 & #2 starts Monday, 1/5. Interested students need to pick up a packet in room 1351 Music Alley. It will explain how to pay & what forms to fill out. Spots are first come, first serve– 25 available for each trip
- Saturday Academy is on 1/17 in room 1351 Music Alley from 9:30am-12pm. Free tutoring, free snacks, & a quiet space to work on assignments. This is a drop in service– students can join & leave when it works best for them

COURSE REQUESTS FOR THE 26-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Starting next week, we will begin the process of course requests for the 2026-2027 school year. Students will be getting their course cards on Monday, January 12th during 3rd period and then have time in their science class to explore options and get support from their counselors.

We strongly encourage families to communicate with their Lancers about the courses they are thinking about taking. Click into this [resource page](#) of all the different ways students can explore their course options for next year.

Your student’s course requests matter, as we determine which classes to run and allocation for staff based on requests.

Key dates to keep in mind:

- Jan. 14th- AP Fair @ lunch- opportunity to talk with Advanced Placement teachers and students to learn more about what it is like taking an AP course
- Jan. 20th- Electives Fair @ lunch- learn more about what electives courses are offered at LHS!
- Jan. 23rd- Course Cards are DUE

UNITY

YEARBOOKS AND SENIOR ADS

Yearbook sales are winding down; pre-ordering is the only way to guarantee that your child(ren) will get a yearbook.

We order only a few more than are pre-ordered. To pre-order, go to www.yearbookforever.com and type in La Follette. The last day to pre-order is January 30th.

Additionally, Class of 2026 Senior Tributes (aka Senior Ads) need to be purchased by **February 28th**. Purchasing a senior tribute is a great way to honor seniors, a group of graduates (such as a soccer team or a group of best friends). You can personalize your own message or request that the yearbook class puts the tribute together. The money raised from this helps us fund an angel fund for students who cannot afford a yearbook and helps pay for trainings for our student journalists.

WINTER DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

Here is the [slideshow](#) of this year’s incredible LHS Holiday Doors! Please enjoy the creativity and SOUL on display.

LEADERSHIP

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

To ensure the safety of our students, please adhere to the following traffic rules:

- Use Designated Zones: Drop-offs and pick-ups must occur only in designated areas. For example, Pflaum Road is not a designated zone for drop-off and pick-up.
- No Early Exits: Students must remain in the vehicle until it has reached the designated drop-off point. Do not allow students to exit prior to the stop sign once turning into our parking lot from Pflaum Road.
- Right Turn Only: Left turns are strictly prohibited at the stop sign. Right turns help keep the traffic pattern moving!

Thank you for your immediate cooperation in keeping our students safe!

GET READY TO FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

As we look ahead to the end of February and beginning of March, we are excited for our upcoming spring musical! This year, our theater program will present the timeless classic: **The Wizard of Oz**. Please mark your calendars now for this spectacular production! Your family and friends won't want to miss our students as they bring this production to life. David Pausch our Theater Director has conducted tryouts for the Musical and our cast is set and already rehearsing. Thinking ahead, here are the performance dates and times.

Date	Time
February 27	7:00 PM
February 28	7:00 PM
March 6	7:00 PM
March 7	7:00 PM
March 8	1:00 PM