



LA FOLLETTE HIGH SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2026

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL THOMPSON

La Follette Families:

I hope this message finds you well. We have just wrapped up our first semester of the 2025-2026 school year. Even after 31 years in MMSD, I am still astounded at how quickly the school year unfolds. We had an incredibly strong start to the school year and our momentum continues. I am extremely pleased with how our students, staff, and community have responded to our increased expectations.

As I reflect on the last couple of years, we are seeing a notable shift as we work together to build a stronger culture of learning. Our students are taking pride in their beautifully updated school. There is a renewed sense of ownership as students are more actively engaged in clubs, affinity groups, and extracurricular activities that reflect their interests and passions. Their involvement is not only helping them grow but is also fostering a more inclusive and vibrant school environment.

This staff has been amazing. They have been working diligently to support this momentum by developing positive relationships with students, setting high expectations, and ensuring that every student feels both challenged and supported. Together, we are creating an atmosphere where academic success, ownership of the school and personal growth go hand in hand.

As you know and most likely have heard we 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 students are 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 the grade a student receives. For each content area, the staff at every Professional development day both this year and portions of last year, have been developing Rubrics to accurately assess student’s progress toward each standard found with content areas. Ultimately, this will provide a more accurate picture of learning. I hope you find this both exciting and noteworthy as I do.

As we dive into the second semester we have a lot of things to celebrate. I wanted to “set the stage” for our upcoming Spring Musical, **The Wizard of Oz**. You are all invited to attend these performances. Our Musical performances are on the following dates: *February 27th, February 28th, March 6th, March 7th and March 8th. All performances begin at 7:00pm except for the March 8th performance which will begin at 1:00pm.* I want to stress again that the community is invited and I would love to see the Auditorium packed.

Lafollette High School is a cornerstone and longstanding fixture on our far east side. Strong public schools supporting a beautiful and diverse community are critical to all of our success. As stakeholders your investment and involvement matter. I want you to know that this community is always welcome at Lafollette. If you are ever interested in a tour and want to see the school, please contact me at [methompson@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:mathompson@madison.k12.wi.us). I am encouraging this community to get involved with our LHS Booster Club. The Boosters work to support all students of our school around academics, fine arts, clubs and athletics. The Boosters have provided a total of \$32,000.00 this year that directly impacts our students and staff. They raise funds old-fashioned way-selling concessions at games and BDL tournaments. Please consider helping to take a shift at an upcoming event. Please have a look at the [Lafollette Booster page](#) and follow the “volunteer” link. There are a number of upcoming events where we could use your help.

Thank you so much for your support!

Mathew Thompson, Principal Lafollette High School

IMPORTANT DATES

- Saturday, February 7th
 - ACT Saturday Session: Science, 10am-12pm
- Saturday, February 14th
 - ACT Saturday Session: English, 10am-12pm
- Friday, February 20
 - No School (PD Day)
- Saturday, February 21st
 - ACT Saturday Session: Reading & Writing, 10am-12pm
- February 27
 - Deadline for senior ad tributes in the yearbook (unless we run out of space sooner!)
- February 28, 29 & March 6, 7, 8
 - Spring Musical Wizard of Oz - Auditorium
- Saturday, February 28
 - Lancer Saturday Academy
 - ACT Saturday Session: Math, 10am-12pm

- Thursday, March 5
 - Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences – 4:00–8:00pm
- Friday, March 6
 - Daytime Parent/Teacher Conferences – 8:00am-4:00pm
- Monday, March 9
 - No School (PD Day)
- Tuesday, March 10
 - ACT (Juniors Only)

STRENGTH

ACT SATURDAY SESSIONS

Time to strengthen that test-taking muscle! MSCR is hosting ACT Saturday sessions each Saturday in February, open to all juniors. Students need to register ahead of time [here](#) if they'd like to join any of the sessions. All sessions are 10am-12pm. Check the registration link for more information.

OPPORTUNITY

LANCER SATURDAY ACADEMY

MSCR's Saturday Academy is on 2/28 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!

ADDITIONAL ACT PREP- ASYNCHRONOUS

Juniors had a [lesson](#) in their English class in which we talked through some ACT prep. If you would like some additional ACT prep to do at home, click into the [ACT Choice Board](#) for FREE ACT prep materials. We strongly advise students to take the OPPORTUNITY to practice for the ACT to support them in knowing the format and online tools provided. You can learn more about the ACT on our [district website](#).

COLLEGE AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Check out what is [happening in the Month of February](#) in the college and career center. If you are thinking Summer already, take a look at our [Internship Hub](#) where we link in all internship opportunities open to our Lancers!

EARLY COLLEGE APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2026 DUE MARCH 1ST

11th and 12th grade students can apply to take college classes in the Fall of 2026 through the Start College Now and/or Early College Credit Program. MMSD pays for the cost of these classes; the only cost to families is transportation. For more information and to apply online, please read our College Credit Programs: Student and Family Information sheet in [English](#), [Spanish](#), or [Hmong](#). IMPORTANT: 11th and 12th grade students who wish to take the Nursing Assistant (CNA) class at La Follette next semester MUST submit a Start College Now application by March 1 to be considered. Please contact your student's counselor with questions about early college opportunities.

ATHLETICS

Spring sports are just around the corner. Sign-Up Information can be found [here!](#)
Stay up to date with the most up-to-date [sports schedules!](#)

SENIOR ADS/TRIBUTES IN THIS YEAR'S YEARBOOK

If you'd like to purchase a senior ad for your senior, a team, or a group of senior friends, time and space are running out. We will close orders on Friday, February 27 or sooner if we run out of space in the yearbook. Details to order are [here](#).

UNITY

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday March 5th, from 4:00pm-8:00pm and Friday March 6th, from 8:00am-4:00pm. We are continuing our system of scheduling interpreted and high-need group conferences first. On Wednesday, February 25, ParentSquare appointment sign ups go out to all families to fill any remaining spots. We appreciate your partnership as we help your students find academic success and social-emotional wellness at La Follette High School.

LEADERSHIP

NO TARDY PARTY!

This week, we celebrated the 153 Lancers who went the entire semester with zero tardies. That means they were on time 581 times! We had fun playing cards, enjoying the open gym, winning raffle prizes, and just hanging out. Thanks to our amazing Boosters for providing freshly popped popcorn and refreshments!