



LA FOLLETTE HIGH SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2026

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL THOMPSON

La Follette Families:

I hope this communication finds you and your family well as we already move into March! As your Principal, I have one foot finishing this year and one foot in planning for next school year. As many of you are aware, we will be navigating around **Wisconsin Act 42**, which mandates that all school boards adopt a policy by July 1, 2026, prohibiting wireless device use during instructional time. As of now, we do not fully understand how this will take effect, but I am deeply concerned about our Lancers. I have spent considerable time in our classrooms this year.

Your teachers are pleading for a firm approach to cell phones and frankly, I agree. ***Your student is significantly impacted by constant and continuous access to personal electronic devices.*** I'm not sure we can have a fully cell phone free school day, but schools I have examined who have done this have seen improvements in both academics, classroom engagement, cooperative learning and a reduction in disruptive disciplinary behavior. At minimum, Act 42 requires a ban during **instructional time**, but allows districts to be **more restrictive** (e.g., "bell-to-bell" ban).

I have 3 thematic buckets of questions for your consideration: (1) The "**Why**" behind significantly limiting cell phones. (2) The "**How**" the legal mandate of Act 42 and (3) The "**What**" of a cell phone policy that demands a disciplinary response and student-parental/guardian accountability.

Below is a survey. I am asking that you take a moment to complete this open ended response form. Your input is valued as we move forward with creating a plan. We must get to a point where cellular phones and all other technology (headphones, earbuds, smartwatches) are not interfering with the teaching and learning process.

[Lafollette Families: Cell Phone Survey](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

- Monday, March 9th
 - **No School** - Staff Development Day
- Tuesday, March 10th
 - ACT (11th grade only)
 - No School Grades 9, 10, 12 - **virtual attendance taken**
- Friday, March 13th

- Community Resources Fair at East High School - 6:00 to 8:00 pm
- Saturday, March 14th
 - MSCR Saturday Academy
- Thursday, March 19th
 - Multilingual Family Night - 6:00 to 7:30 pm
- Monday, March 23rd – Friday, March 27th
 - **No School** - Spring Break
- Monday, April 6th
 - **No School** - Staff Development Day
- Wednesday, April 15th
 - Pre-ACT (9th & 10th grade only)
 - No school Grades 11 & 12 - **virtual attendance taken**
- Saturday, April 25th
 - Prom @ Monona Terrace: 7:30-10:30pm

STRENGTH

ACT ON MARCH 10

Juniors will take the ACT on Tuesday, March 10. We will be serving a pancake breakfast starting at 7:30am. All juniors should bring their fully charged Chromebooks and charger. Please encourage your students to show their academic **STRENGTH** and to do their best. ACT scores are important for college admissions and scholarships, college course placement, and trade schools as well. This is a No School day for Grades 9, 10, and 12, but virtual attendance IS required (see communication sent on 3/2 for more details).

Juniors and families of juniors: reference the specific communication around ACT sent on 2/27 for more details!

OPPORTUNITY

MSCR

- **Saturday Academy:** 3/14 from 9:30am-12pm in 1351 Music Alley. Free tutoring from LHS teachers & snacks. This is a drop-in service which means students can join & leave when it works best for them
- **Summer high school clubs** (open to current 8th graders through seniors of 25-26 school year)
 - Clubs open to all students in the city: [click here](#) to check them out on our website
 - LHS-specific summer clubs: [click here](#) to check out LHS' summer club schedule (non-hyperlinked clubs are only open to incoming & current LHS students)

ATHLETICS

- **Free Sports Physicals at La Follette:** On Friday, March 6th and Monday, March 9th, our School-Based Health Center will be offering free sports physicals for student-athletes who need a physical before participating in sports. Please check in with Ms. Lindsay Lyons lelyons@madison.k12.wi.us to sign up for a time between Noon

and 4pm.

- **Spring Sports are Starting:** Please take a look at this link to find out how to get signed up and when your sport starts. If you have questions, feel free to contact Athletics: spswanson@madison.k12.wi.us and lelyons@madison.k12.wi.us.

COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING

Check out the [Future in Five](#) for the month of March. We are looking forward to a busy spring in the college/career center. Many colleges and summer opportunities (internships, jobs, FREE campus experiences) will be highlighted in the center over the next few months. If your scholar has NOT yet taken advantage of the *OPPORTUNITIES* to connect with guests in the center, please encourage them to do so. We do post each week on the LHS Instagram and Facebook page the upcoming events happening in the center for the week.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOP

Is your student thinking of entering the workforce? Is your student already working? We are offering a workshop for students to attend on March 11th from 10 to 12, location tbd. Questions to Ms. Bravo, Ms. Vero, Ms. Jenny, or Mr. Pan.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FAIR

East High School is hosting a Community Resources Fair open to all public and MMSD families. March 13th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, take a look and go see what is available for you in our community!

UNITY

PROM 2026 - "NIGHT AT THE BAYOU"

- Saturday, April 25th from 7:30 - 10:30 PM @ Monona Terrace
- Please see our Prom [web page](#) or this [doc](#) for all the important details.
- Tickets on sale for \$25 each via [GOFAN](#) from April 13 - April 24 until 4:00pm.
 - Your "access code" to purchase a ticket is your Junior/Senior ID number, limited to one ticket each.
 - Lancers may host one approved guest, and must arrive together.
 - [Guest forms](#) Guests (non-La Follette students) must be registered with their Neighborhood office by 4:00pm, Thursday April 23rd. Guests must be a current high school student or have exited high school within one year or less. No middle school students.
 - Lancer Freshmen and Sophomores may attend if they are invited by and attending with an upperclassman. No guest form needed. Stop in your neighborhood office to register for guest code.
 - Guest code for ticket purchase provided once the guest registered and approved.
- If you are interested in volunteering for this event or have any questions, please email [Madi Estkowski](#) or [Alissa Nelsen](#).

MULTILINGUAL FAMILY NIGHT

Join us on Thursday, March 19th, from 6:00 - 7:30 PM for a Multilingual Family Night in La Follette's Multicultural Center, with food and childcare provided. In this session, we will be covering attendance and tardiness policies and bringing some community resources. Virtual attendance is also available. Info here:

- Google Meet joining info
- Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/gic-ftdh-ovm>
- Or dial: (US) +1 208-718-1743 PIN: 410 705 542#
- More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/gic-ftdh-ovm?pin=6734797673100>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Bravo at 608-345-0126 or at pabravovalen@mmsd.org

YEARBOOKS

Pre-orders for the yearbook are closed. We will have some for sale at the end of May for those that did not pre-order.

LEADERSHIP

ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

At the end of February, 20 of our juniors went to the Ethics Symposium at Monona Terrace. This event is put on annually by the Rotary Club of Madison. Over 160 high school students attended this event, where they learned about and put into practice ethical decision-making. Our Lancers showed their LEADERSHIP and used their voices at this event, which required critical thinking, collaboration, and a willingness to connect with people from a variety of backgrounds.



THE CULTURE I BRING WITH

A group of about 30 immigrant students has been participating in this workshop every three weeks, organized in conjunction with HEX from the University of Wisconsin. Led by Ms. Bravo, Zaira Magana, Ms. Jenny, and Ms. Vero, students have had the opportunity to build community and a sense of belonging and to enhance their civic literacy skills. Students will finalize their experience by co-creating a mural/collage that responds to the question *What does it mean to be a Latin American youth in the US?*