



LA FOLLETTE HIGH SCHOOL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2026

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL THOMPSON

I want to take a moment to **reflect on a phenomenal year**. As we approach the finish line of this academic year, I am filled with thankfulness for the incredible successes we have shared. This has been a truly positive and vibrant year at La Follette High School. This could not have happened without our entire community. I want to extend my deepest, most sincere thank you to our parents, guardians, and community members for your unwavering support of La Follette.

A successful school year does not happen by accident; it rests squarely on the shoulders of our dedicated group of teachers and supporting staff. The sheer skill, professionalism, and instructional acumen of the educators at La Follette are second to none. Every day, this group of educators brings their passion and expertise into our classrooms. Our students are continuously supported, challenged, and inspired.

As we look toward the horizon, we are committed to continually refining how we serve our students. To that end, our staff will continue our vital work with **Standards-Based Learning (SBL)**. We view our SBL initiative as a profoundly positive step forward for progress reporting and grade purity. Our ultimate goal is simple and transparent: we want our report cards to accurately reflect exactly what your Lancer knows and is able to do within a specific content area, free from external variables. This ensures that grades are a true, equitable measure of academic mastery and growth.

To support this deep focus on learning, we must also ensure our environment minimizes distractions. Looking ahead to the upcoming school year, we want to bring early awareness to a more stringent approach regarding student cell phones. This shift is aligned with recent state guidelines under **Wisconsin Act 42**, which emphasizes reducing digital distractions in the classroom. I have been meeting with groups of teachers and students to develop a system to support cell phone use in the school. It is my hope that this collaboration will result in a school policy that we can all own and support. By sharpening our focus on Standards-Based Learning and establishing clearer, firmer boundaries around cell phone use, we are working hand-in-hand to build and develop a much stronger culture of student learning and engagement.

I close this year with excitement for what is in store for the 2026-2027 school year. La Follette High School is on an incredible, ongoing positive trajectory. Our school community is growing stronger, our academic focus is sharpening, and there are truly great things on the horizon for our students. ***Thank you for partnership, your trust, and your dedication to making La Follette a wonderful place to learn and grow.***

Have a safe and wonderful summer, and as always—**Go Lancers!**

Principal Thompson

IMPORTANT DATES

- Monday, June 8th - Wednesday, June 10th
 - DOL days (see [schedule](#))
- Thursday, June 11th
 - Class of 2026 graduation rehearsal @ 10:30 AM (LHS SOULful Square)
 - See below for more details
- Friday, June 12th
 - Graduation LHS Class of 2026 at 7:30 pm (students need to arrive by 6:30 pm) at the Kohl Center
- Monday, June 22nd
 - MSCR high school clubs start! Location & times vary— check out the detail below in “opportunity”

STRENGTH

CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATION

There will be a graduation rehearsal at LHS on Thursday, June 11th @ 10:30 AM. Students should wear their gown and report to the SOULful Square. After the rehearsal, there will be a BBQ for our Class of 2026 (students only).

Graduation for the La Follette Class of 2026 will be Friday, June 12th at 7:30 pm at the Kohl Center. Students must arrive by 6:30 pm. Please see the links for more information: [Important 2026 Graduation Information](#) & [LHS Class of 2026](#)

DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING (DOL) DAYS

You received a separate communication earlier today with all you need to know about our Demonstration of Learning days. Take a look!

OPPORTUNITY

MSCR HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CLUBS

All high school clubs start June 22nd and end August 7th. Everything is FREE!

- [La Follette specific clubs schedule](#)— open to incoming 9th graders through outgoing seniors
- [Website for clubs open to all 8-12th graders across the city](#)

LA FOLLETTE ATHLETICS

- [Registration is OPEN for the 26-27 school year](#)

- [Registration is OPEN for Summer Sports Performance](#)

SUMMER BUS ACCESS FOR STUDENTS

The Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) and the [City of Madison's Metro Transit](#) are partnering again to provide free summer bus access for students in grades 6-12, including recent high school graduates. The [Summer Youth Pass program](#) helps students stay connected to jobs, summer classes and community activities at no cost. Additionally, students that already have a physical district-provided bus pass may continue to use it throughout the summer until they receive a new bus pass for the 2026-2027 school year (if eligible).

UNITY

CAP & GOWN PARADE

On Friday May 29th we had the pleasure of parading through our MMSD feeder pattern schools with a record high number of soon to graduate Lancers. This much loved tradition promotes the importance of graduation with our littlest Lancers and also gives our students the opportunity to thank the teachers who supported them before their time at LHS! It was a great morning for all and a true beginning of the celebration season for the Class of 2026!



YEARBOOK

Our yearbooks are here! Distribution Day was on Thursday, June 4th. Students who preordered were given passes to pick up their books during the school day. If your student pre-ordered their yearbook but was unable to pick it up on Thursday, please contact Darcy Poquette (dmpoquette@madison.k12.wi.us) before the end of the school year. Those not picked up before the last day of school will be held onto until the fall.

Pre-orders for **next year's** yearbook can be made **NOW** at yearbookforever.com or through Infinite Campus during fall registration. You can also get a jumpstart on senior ads already - those can also be purchased on the yearbookforever website.

THE CULTURE I BRING WITH

A group of about 40 newcomers has been working throughout the school year on the meanings of being a Latin American youth in the US, with the purpose of building a strong sense of belonging and civic literacy. This workshop is ending with the unveiling of a mural that will be hung at LHS.

DLI GRADUATION 2026



On Wednesday, June 3rd, we celebrated our bilingual scholars and their achievements!

Students received their DLI diplomas, honor cords, and Seal of Biliteracy recognition. For the third consecutive year, we also presented the Ivan Herrera Scholarship to two deserving students. Additionally, we recognized our Union Latina seniors and leaders, and acknowledged the three students selected for the Luz Celedon Scholarship

LEADERSHIP

INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS IDEA FAIR @ LHS

Recently our students in English 2 held a Innovative Schools Ideas Fair-Design Thinking Event in the LMC. We had MMSD School Board members, community members and staff from our Central Office attend. Students worked in groups and conducted research on an issue or problem they noticed in our school. There were many thought-provoking presentations on student perception of our behavior response, hallway wandering, vaping, bathroom safety, passing times, and engaging classrooms. If you have a 10th grader in English 2, ask them what they presented and what they heard from their peers.

