



LA FOLLETTE HIGH SCHOOL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2026

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL THOMPSON

Greetings Lancer Community!

We are now moving through week #5. The start of the school year is paced so quickly with numerous activities and events. I have been asked numerous times, "Principal Thompson, how is the cell phone approach working?" I want to report to my community that we are off to an incredibly positive start. I want to share an update with you all on our cell phone policy and highlight the encouraging success we are seeing across our campus. With 1,553 Lancers attending school each and every day, maintaining an environment centered on active learning, safety, and personal connection is a top priority. Thanks to the vigilance of our faculty and staff in consistently monitoring phone use throughout the day, our students have adjusted remarkably well. We are seeing vibrant classroom engagement, stronger face-to-face interactions among peers, and a positive school climate overall. Staff have made notable comments to me about what is now happening (once again) in our classroom spaces. A couple of teachers have commented, *"It has totally shifted my conversations with students. Instead of having to start most conversations with 'put your phone away' we can just get to the academic and social emotional learning. I have not seen one cell phone come out in the classroom and it is so very lovely!!"*

Our latest monitoring data highlights the overall success of this approach and underscores our proactive approach. As of September 25th, we needed to separate a phone from 86 students on one occasion. We have 9 students who have 2 instances of needing support with a device and families needed to come to school to pick the device up and meet with an Assistant Principal. While our staff remains firm and consistent in enforcing expectations—resulting in only a small fraction of phone confiscations relative to our total student body—the vast majority of our 1,553 Lancers are making responsible choices daily. This progress reflects both our staff's diligent monitoring, the relationships our staff builds with our Lancers and our students' commitment to their own growth. We deeply appreciate your partnership at home in reinforcing these healthy digital boundaries as we work together for your child's academic and personal goals. The ultimate success of this plan requires strong family support. We are better together.

Our students have also noted the difference. We know and understand that our students are adjusting to this change. Although, somewhat reluctantly, our students also recognize the need for boundaries around device use. I have received comments from students that they are actually appreciating the break from social media. One student told their teacher, *"I feel like without having my phone, especially in the hallway, I can communicate more. I am speaking more in class in discussions than I did before. My relationships are better with my peers."* So in sum, a great start!

Just a reminder that we are now 1 week away from our annual Homecoming celebration. Our Homecoming football game takes place on Friday, October 9th. We play Janesville Craig at Lussier Stadium. Our Homecoming Dance is the following evening from 7:00pm-10:00PM in our Auxiliary Gym. Tickets are \$15 dollars and will go on sale October 5th-10th. On October 10th, we will stop ticket sales at Noon. As a reminder, **ONLY** LaFollette students can attend the Homecoming Dance.

Thank you, Principal Thompson

IMPORTANT DATES

- Saturday, 10/3
 - Lancer Saturday Academy, room 1351 Music Alley, 9:30am-12pm
- Tuesday, 10/6
 - Multilingual Family Night, 1353 Music Alley, Study Hall room, 6:30 to 8:00pm
- Saturday, 10/10
 - Homecoming Dance, LHS Auxiliary gym, 7:30-10:30pm
- Wednesday, 10/21
 - FAFSA Completion Event, LaFollette High School, 6:00pm
- Wednesday, 10/21
 - Fall Festival, LHS Parking Lot, 5:00 - 6:45pm
- Friday, 10/30
 - Día de Muertos, TBD, 12:00 to 3:37.

STRENGTH

LANCER SATURDAY ACADEMY

We've got our first Lancer Saturday Academy of the year on 10/3! This is a **GREAT** opportunity for students who need extra academic help or just a quiet space to get work done. It is open to **ALL** students. It is a drop-in space meaning students can join & leave when it works best for their schedule & snacks will be provided.

Details: 10/3/26

- 9:30am - 12pm
- Room 1351 Music Alley-- use Art District entrance
- Free tutoring from LHS teachers & a quiet study space to get assignments done
- Snacks are provided
- This is a drop-in service-- students can come & leave when it works best for them

Future dates: 11/7, 12/5, 1/16, 2/27, 4/3, 5/22

OPPORTUNITY

AP TEST REGISTRATION -- STEP 1 DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 18

On September 22nd, over 500 AP scholars joined our AP Leadership Team in the auditorium to hear about the benefits of taking the AP test. We walked students through the process of completing step 1 of AP test registration. As a school, our goal is that 100% of our AP scholars take the AP test for each AP course they are enrolled in. At this time, we are 85% of the way to our 100% goal when it comes to completion of step 1 of the process.

If your student has yet to complete step 1 of the process, please review these [directions](#) and direct them to this [website](#). AP teachers, counselors, and our AP leadership team will be following up with students and families so that they can complete step 1 before the October 18th deadline. Then, AP teachers will help students complete step 2 of the process on October 26 in their AP classes. Please continue to follow Parent Square communication to ensure that your student is on track to take their AP exam(s) and potentially earn college credit!

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION- YOU'RE INVITED!

We are thrilled to invite you to the Friends of MSCR Centennial Celebration on Thursday, Oct. 15th, at the Tinsmith. This is an event to raise funds & celebrate 100 years of MSCR programming in Madison! Click [here](#) for more information & to get your tickets.

FAFSA IS OPENING SOON! JOIN US FOR FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT

The 2027–28 FAFSA opens **October 1!** Completing this free form is the single most important step to unlock grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans for your student's college or trade school plans.

Don't tackle it alone—join the La Follette Counseling & ACP Team for expert, step-by-step help to get it submitted in one sitting!

- **When:** Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM
- **Where:** La Follette High School
- **What to Bring:** Your FSA IDs, 2025 tax returns, W-2 forms, and asset records.

Before You Arrive:

1. **Get Your FSA ID:** Create a username and password at **StudentAid.gov** (both student AND parent need separate accounts before the event).
2. **Gather Documents:** Round up your 2025 financial records.

Remember: The FAFSA is always 100% free at StudentAid.gov. Submitting early ensures your student gets priority for limited grant funds!

Questions? Contact your student's counselor or Kelly Knueve at kjknueve@madison.k12.wi.us.

COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING AT LHS

We are in full swing of College/Career Planning here at LHS. Last week we had a great time welcoming in our Class of 2030 and discussing with them the importance of earning credits, getting involved, and making the most out of High School. Keep your eye out for an email with more information and your student's summary page from this event!

This week we are starting Future Planning with our Seniors! We will be supporting Senior English classes once a week (Wednesday) over the next four weeks. We will be communicating out more details as the month goes on pertaining to your students' chosen path.

Finally, the College and Career Center is jam packed with supports and events. Check out more information on supports [here](#). This is the time in the school year where we have the MOST colleges visiting. If your student is thinking of a 2 or 4 year college, please encourage them to attend some of our upcoming visits!

UNITY

HOMECOMING

We are celebrating Homecoming ALL week with a [Spirit Week](#)! The theme for this year's dance is Y2K HOCO Glow. The dance will take place on Saturday October 10th from 7:30pm-10:30pm in the auxiliary gym. There will be **no entry after 8:30pm** so please make sure your Lancer arrives on time for this special night.

Tickets are **\$15 (non-refundable)** and will be **on sale October 5th through noon on October 10th**. Please use the GOFAN app, scan the QR code on the posters around the building, or visit the [GOFAN website](#) to purchase your ticket. The "access code" to purchase a ticket is your student ID#. Each student ID# may purchase one ticket. There will be no guests allowed at the Homecoming dance; you must be a **La Follette Student** to attend.

If your Lancer is looking for something to wear, our amazing Boosters and social work team have worked hard on getting donations of dress up clothes for this big event! Please encourage your students to stop by their Neighborhood office and connect with their social worker if they are in need of attire for the dance.

If you would like to help set up the morning of or work the coat check please contact Boosters.

MULTILINGUAL FAMILY NIGHT

We invite all interested families to get together to learn ways in which you could collaborate with the school to support your students. In particular, we will cover how to use Parentsquer and Infinite Campus, community events and volunteer opportunities, and any other topics that might be of your interest. Food and child care provided. Join us on Tuesday, October 6th in La Follette's Study Hall (1353 Music Alley) from 6:30 -8:00 PM.

YEARBOOK PURCHASING & SENIOR PHOTOS/ADS

*To avoid missing out on the 2027 yearbook,, **you must preorder**; we only guarantee yearbooks for those who have*

ordered them by the end of January.

You have two options:

1. Purchase at our [GOFAN link](#)
2. Bring a cash or check written to La Follette High School to the main office or to 1270 Elvehjem Way (Ms. Poquette's room) through January 31st.

Senior Pictures are due Friday, December 11. Email them to lafolletteyearbook@gmail.com.

Senior Ads are due on Friday, February 26th. More information can be found [here](#).

LEADERSHIP

FALL FESTIVAL

La Follette is hosting our 🍁 5th Annual Fall Festival 🍁 from Wednesday, October 21st from 5:00 - 6:45 PM. The event will take place this year at **La Follette** towards the green space by the back of our parking lot. We invite ALL the elementary and middle feeder schools that feed into La Follette High school to this event. Check out this [flier](#) for more details.

How our LHS students get involved in this event:

We encourage sports teams, clubs, and classes to participate by decorating the trunk of a car for fun "Trunk and Treat" activities for the kids to do.

How you can help support this event:

Our High school students love handing out candy to the little ones and oftentimes give more than one piece of candy, and we run out. We could always use more candy for this event! Plus we know teenagers love candy too. If you are able to drop off candy to the Welcome Center the week of October 3rd-9th, we would greatly appreciate it.

LEYENDO Y ESCRIBIENDO JUNTOS -- READING AND WRITING TOGETHER!

A group of 32 bilingual students will engage in a series of Biliteracy exchange with 3rd Graders at Nuestro Mundo. Our Lancers have sent introductory letters to elementary students and they will visit them on October 7th. After that, they will engage in the writing of poetry to tell their stories, which will end up with published Anthology and a community celebration.