

September News

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!!!

Here at LIS, we have successfully completed the first few days of school. Students and staff are so happy to be back in school. Yes, we are learning new ways of walking through the day, keeping in mind social distancing, washing our hands and wearing masks.

Things are going very well. I see students and staff adjusting very well to our new ways of interacting and learning. As we progress through the coming days, I think it will become routine and our new, hopefully temporary normal.

Having been in education 40 years, I am continually struck by how quickly events in our world can dramatically change us, sometimes temporarily and sometimes it impacts our lives for a lifetime. Looking back, I remember many events where I could tell you exactly where I was and what I was doing when the news broke. Things like, the Space Shuttle Challenger accident and the 911 Tragedy, will forever remain very clear and profound events in my life as a teacher. Kind of makes you realize how very old I really am!

What I want to say to all of you is this... I truly believe that everything we walk through, though we may not understand the reason, does and can, impact our lives in very positive ways. I know this to be true in my professional and personal life. If we choose, it can make us stronger, more resilient and flexible to push us out of our comfort zone and remind us what is truly valuable and important in our lives.

During the recent Covid shut down, many people worked on becoming more healthy, better connected to their families, pursued new hobbies, took time to meditate and practice self-care and reprioritized their lives. Choosing to do positive things and stretching ourselves to grow, can help us when anxiety and fear of the unknown could cripple us. We cannot control all the things that happen to us, but we can control how we choose to respond. Here at LIS, we are going to respond in ways that always put our students first and do what is best for them.

I look so forward to meeting all of you and I love getting to know the students that are in attendance at school. It is wonderful to back!

MILLIE

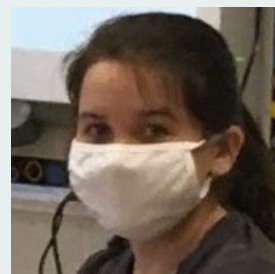
Students have been so excited to meet Mr. Diaz's sidekick, Millie. Her picture is in the upper right hand corner of the newsletter. She is a sheepadoodle, hypoallergenic and does not shed. She is very affectionate and mild tempered. She loves seeing the students, but she is very tired by the end of the day. I love seeing the students respond to her and she to them. What a source of comfort & joy she brings to our school! She will be here on Monday and Tuesday and half a day on Friday when Mr. Diaz is scheduled here in the building.

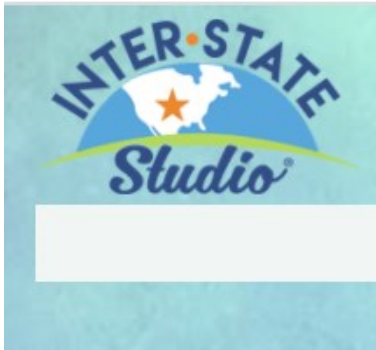


**Millie—Our LIS
Therapy Dog!!!**

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SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

There will be two days scheduled for our school picture day. One for the Gray cohort and one for the Scarlet cohort.

September 25th, will be the picture day for the Gray Cohort.

September 28th, will be the picture day for the Scarlet Cohort.

We will not be sending home order flyers with students.

We will be using parent email addresses to send picture day reminders with links to order online before picture day and later you will receive the student's digital image and a link to order online, shortly after Picture Day. If you do not have your email currently listed in our database, you can sign up for Picture Day reminders at

Inter-state.com/kiosk

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Aesop

GIANT EAGLE

APPLES TO APPLES

After 30 years, Giant Eagle is discontinuing the Apples to Apples Program and redirecting their funding to support feeding students across our communities.

In the coming days, they will be contacting us as to how moving forward they are re-committing their funding to provide support parents and schools in their efforts to keep students fed.



CONTACT LESS LUNCH

Our first few days of lunch have gone very well. If you saw the pictures on Drumd or Twitter, you can see our student's smiling faces!

Just a reminder that students are using a lunch card that will be scanned rather than entering their student ID number.

If you pay for lunch, do not send money to school but use the PaySchool account that you can access through our website.





First Day Lunch

PERMANENT PICK UP

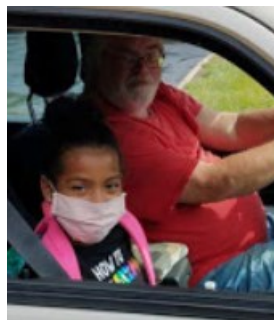
Permanent Pick Up is going really well. We are loading and unloading students at LIS both at the beginning and end of the day in front of the LIS office.

Parents can fill out the Google form that was sent out in a group email or stop in the office and fill out a paper form. You will be given a rear view mirror card (2) to display on your mirror or hold up at the end of the day. It has the names of your children on the bottom.

We will be checking your ID if you are new to our district or if someone new is picking up students. You do not need to come in and sign out your students, we will be walking them out through the high school office and down the sidewalk, where they should enter

the passenger side of your car.

If you among the first to arrive for permanent pick up, you should pull forward to the high school office entrance. Please make sure that you close the gaps in the parking line so that we have cars close together to make our loading go very quickly and efficiently. Thank you for adjusting to this new routine.



CHROMEBOOKS

We have had some call from families for Chromebooks. Arrangements have to be made through the Board Office.



MASKS:

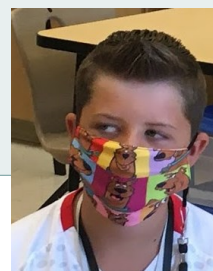
Students were all given a LaBrae School Mask. They also have a lanyard to attach the mask.

Please make sure that you are washing those masks frequently.

Students probably need to have several masks so they can trade them off and have a clean mask to wear.

While gators are permitted by the health department, it should be noted that they are the least effective type of masking.

Remember they cannot come into the building or get on the bus without a mask.



GOOGLE CLASSROOM & REMOTE DAYS!

The best way to get assistance for Google Classroom on your child's remote days is to contact the teacher.

I will send out an attachment accompanying this newsletter that is a Student Cheat Sheet for Google Classroom. This may help answer some questions you have about how to maneuver through Google Classroom.

If you do contact the teacher either through Remind or email, please be patient as teacher's are teaching the other half of the students.

They will get back to you in a timely manner.



RECESS

We have scheduled recess for our students at LIS. The students are partnered with another class so that two classes at a time are on the playground with two staff persons. Because of the social distancing, students will may not be scheduled everyday but will have a recess break in their classrooms. We are very conscious of the needs that students have to physically move and have a time outside, so we are making every effort to include that time in our school day, while also be very conscious of social-distancing protocols, sanitizing and safety. As things change throughout the year, the recess frequency and format may be adjusted.



REMOTE DAY ASSIGNMENTS

As mentioned in our meet the teacher and Open House presentations, we suspended traditional homework assignments for the time-being. Students will be responsible on the remote days for completing assignments, spending time on our digital programs and working in Google Classroom.

Teachers have eased students into this new platform of learning this week by giving very brief and simple assignments. Now as we move forward, students will be responsible for completing work on the remote days. Work on remote days is not **optional** but counts towards attendance and grading. It is important that our parents partner with us to supervise and monitor at home assignments and foster responsibility and accountability in our students.

STUDENT PASSWORDS

Over the past few weeks, we have partnered with Bascom and Mrs. Kowach to update our digital programs so that students have the same passwords for multiple programs. It took a great deal of time, but we have updated I-ready, Think Central, Reflex Math & Lexia so that there is consistency in the student's username and password. This will make it easier when they are not in school to remember their passwords.

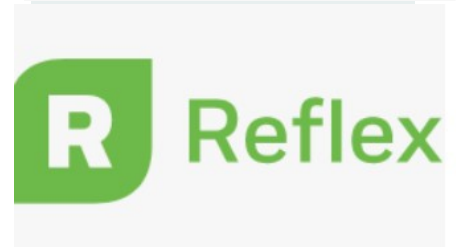
Many of the classes are also loading slides into Google Classroom that will keep the student's login information accessible whenever they open Google Classroom.

BENCH MARKING & DIAGNOSTICS

We have started in the initial days of school to begin assessing and benchmarking students in Reading & Math so that we can best align our personnel and resources in the coming days to really target what students' need. When we use multiple pieces of data, it can give us a very clear picture of student strengths and areas of focus for intervention.

We want to target our instruction to work on gaps that likely increased because of our spring closure and the extended time that students were not in school for direct instruction.

We have some very gifted interventionists that will be working on phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency & comprehension in small and individualized groups.



*"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself."
George Bernard Shaw*

STUDENTS MEET THE PRINCIPAL

After the first two days of school, I visited each classroom to meet the students so they could get to know a little bit about me personally and professionally. I also wanted to start to get to know each one of them and begin learning their names.

We talked about important things to focus on this year like health and safety; respectful and responsible behavior and focusing our time and energy on learning.

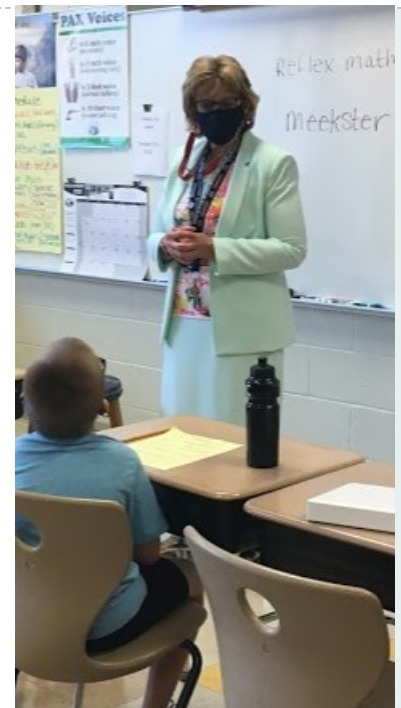
I stressed to each of the classes that as their principal, I have two very different responsibilities. It is my job to make sure that they understand what is expected of them, hold them accountable for times when they don't always make the best choice and then make sure that the consequences for those choices are clear and consistent. All of us will make mistakes; we learn

from them; we then accept the consequences and graciously move on. Each new day is a new day to start over and do something better than the day before.

I also wanted our students to know that besides that very clear focus of discipline and accountability, I deeply care about them. The principal's office can and should also be a place where we go to celebrate good things.,

Our staff is committed to do the very best we can for your children and we are here for them. Yes, we care about how they grow academically, but we also want them to become healthy, whole, happy and successful people.

Thank you for partnering with us and trusting us with your child, your most precious treasure, especially during this unprecedented time in education.



**(LIS) LABRAE
INTERMEDIATE
SCHOOL**

**LaBrae Intermediate School
is part of the LaBrae School
Complex for grades 3-5**

Principal:

Mrs. Kay Suzelis

Secretary:

Mrs. Carrie Guesman

School Counselor:

Mr. Jason Diaz



Contact Information
LaBrae Intermediate
School

1001 N Leavitt Rd
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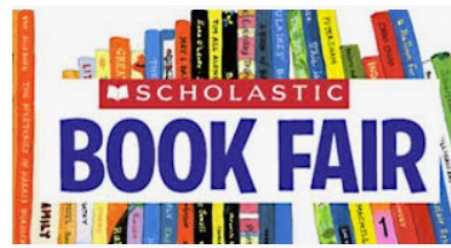


BOOK FAIR

Scholastic Book Fair

October 5th-18th

Our traditional Book Fair will continue. It will be a digital fair with ordering on line. Parents will be receiving flyers and a website link to order books and LIS will still be getting credit for the sales. The Book Fair will run for a two week period. Thanks to Mrs. Shan-ower for continuing to organize and manage this important event.



CONCLUDING REMARKS

It has only been a few days since we started school and our staff was remarking that when we look back to Monday, which was the first day of school, how it seems OH SO LONG AGO!

Certainly, the extended preparation in August that included so many new ways of planning for safety and learning, made this start of the school a much more apprehensive time for all us. Couple that with the fact that all of us have been out of our established school routines for nearly half a year, clearly makes this year's start of school a very unique one.

We so wanted things to go well for your children's reentry into school, and I think both staff and students did a phenomenal job adjusting extremely well to our new routines and practices. Our students are happy to be back in school and learning. It has been a joy to begin to get to know them and begin building the relationships that make LIS and the LaBrae School District a place that is like family. Over the last few months as I have stepped into this new role, I clearly see how strong, how committed, how determined, and how competent the administration and entire staff is to doing the best we can for our students, not just because it the right thing to do, but because we care. KAS