



Lafayette Township School District

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to begin this week's update with a thank you to each of our incredible students who have been dealing with the impact of the pandemic and completing their schoolwork via the remote learning experience. While this pandemic crisis has been difficult for all of us, our children have lost so many experiences this year. I know that our children are wishing for normalcy and days filled with school, sports, laughter, and friendship. Those days will come back for our students when we are able, but until that time please let your children know that we are so proud of them! Please know that our faculty and staff are here for your child and your family. If you need support for your child, please reach out to me or any of our teachers so that we may best support your child during this challenging time.

Updated Message Regarding School Closure – School Closed Through the End of the Year

During today's press conference, Governor Murphy announced that he would be closing all schools through June 30th. As a result of this directive, the Lafayette Township School District will remain closed and on remote instruction through the last day of school, which is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2020. Please know that we share your disappointment as we will not be able to end the year together at school. Information regarding pick up of student items that are left in desks and lockers will be sent out over the upcoming weeks.

Remote Graduation Planning Committee – Given the directive from Governor Murphy regarding school closure through June 30th, we will not be able to host our annual 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony at the school. While we all understand the need for health and safety, it does not lessen the sadness that we all feel in our hearts for these remarkable students who have worked so hard to reach this important milestone in their educational journey! Even though we are unable to have a ceremony at the school, it is important that we honor these graduates and provide them with a special ceremony to acknowledge their accomplishments and wish them well as they enter high school.

At this time we have started to brainstorm ideas and strategies to implement a virtual graduation experience for our students. There are a variety of possibilities for this event, and I would like to invite any of our parents (8th grade parents or parents from other grades who would like to help out) to join our staff and administration in planning an amazing virtual graduation experience for these deserving students! I will be hosting our first Graduation Planning Committee Meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 6 pm via Zoom. I invite all of our parents to be a part of this committee and help to

guide the development of our remote graduation! If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email me at jcenatiempo@ltes.org, and I will forward a ZOOM link to your email on Thursday morning.

Update on District Budget – I am pleased to announce that our school district was able to reduce the overall district budget and reduce the cost to the taxpayer for the upcoming 2020/2021 school year. In the face of increased costs and a loss of state aid, the Lafayette Township School District will continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for all students while reducing the tax burden to our community. We encourage everyone to review our budget PowerPoint presentation and User-Friendly Budget located on our district website.

Our budget provides many opportunities for students to continue to learn and develop as young scholars, athletes, and leaders in our school and community! One significant revision to our master schedule will be to include our 5th grade as part of the middle school. These learners will be provided with instruction from our middle school teachers who are each content specialists in their respective areas. The experience will allow students to change classes throughout the day and provide an exceptional 5th grade learning experience that will address all content as outlined in the standards.

Please join us for an Incoming 5th Grade Parent Information Session to be held on Wednesday, May 20th at 6 pm via ZOOM. The purpose of this meeting will be to answer any questions or address any concerns that you may have regarding this revision to the master schedule. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please email me at jcenatiemop@ltes.org, and I will forward you a ZOOM link on the morning of the meeting.

Book Fair – Welcome to the first day of our remote book fair! We are so excited to be able to host this virtual book fair! We will also be hosting virtual spirit days for our students. Please feel free to join in the fun and celebrate our love of reading and school spirit even while we are learning at home.

Lafayette School VIRTUAL Book Fair ~ Monday, May 4th - Friday May 15th

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/lafayetteschoolbookfair>

Although our school is not open, the Book Fair is available for our students, teachers, and parents to get great books and learning tools!

Online shopping starts on May 4th and is available through May 15th, and our school benefits from every online order. All book-only orders over \$25 will ship free to the shipping address that you designate.

So please support our school by participating in a fun-filled week of spirit days and buying new and exciting books for your family!

Virtual Spirit Days

5/4/20 – Mismatch Day – Wear mismatched clothes.

5/5/20 – Tiger Tuesday – Wear black and orange.

5/6/20 – Hat Day – Wear your wackiest hat.

5/7/20 – Themes Day – Grades P-3 – 60s Theme, Grades 4-5 – 70s Theme, Grades 6-8 – 80s Theme

5/8/20 – Pajama Day – Wear your pajamas.

Online Etiquette and Privacy Settings – As we traverse the online educational environment together, we need to support our students with more than just navigating to a web address. It is important that our students also understand that they must continue to demonstrate appropriate school behavior within the remote instructional setting. When your child is engaged in a TEAMS lesson, please remind them to refrain from using the chat feature inappropriately, playing background music, muting one another, or creating content that is unrelated to the classroom. We are working to utilize as many of the Microsoft features as possible to support our students, but there are some features that are left on to facilitate discussion.

Thank you for your dedication to the students of the Lafayette Township School District! Together, we will support every child to reach their greatest potential.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Cenatiempo