

“In Laconia Schools...”

November 8, 2021

Good Day, Laconia School Community.

Though the temperatures are dropping and the amount of daylight is declining, we continue to enjoy sunshine and wonderful weather. I hope this communication finds you happy and healthy. It is hard to believe that this Friday, November 12th, marks the end of the First Quarter. Report cards will be issued on November 22nd.

Here is a snapshot of what I have included in this newsletter:

- Veterans Day
- Covid-19 Vaccine Update
- Performance Assessment
- Portrait of a Graduate Advisory Board
- LHS Principal Robert Bennett
- Laconia Mayor Ed Engler
- New Staff Induction
- Job Opportunities
- Last Words

Veterans Day

There is no school on Thursday, November 11th to honor those who have served our nation in the Armed Forces. On other days this week, there will be experiences in our schools to teach our students in Laconia about the importance of this day and to honor veterans. Of this day, President Dwight Eisenhower said: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose." Please take some time to honor and remember those who are served and sacrificed as well as those who are currently serving in United States military. To all of you who are veterans, thank you for your service to our great nation.

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE COMPETENCIES

Students in the Laconia School District will be able to effectively:

- **Communicate:** Effectively communicate for different purposes and varied audiences using appropriate media.
- **Collaborate:** Work effectively with and learn from others in a variety of situations, in school and beyond.
- **Create:** Create and refine a unique product or performance that reflects an individual's values, goals, and expression
- **Persevere:** Persevere by overcoming challenges and the fear of making mistakes.
- **Self-Direct:** Set goals, plan for achievement, independently manage time & effort, and reflect on one's progress.
- **Problem-Solve:** Define the problem, identify the issues and interests, initiate a plan, execute it, and evaluate the reasonableness of the solution.

Covid-19 Vaccine Update

The Laconia School District is working with the Winnepesaukee Regional Public Health Network to provide Covid-19 vaccines for students who are ages 5 to 11 years old after the recent emergency use authorization for the Pfizer vaccine by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. These vaccines will be administered at Elm Street School, Pleasant Street School, Woodland Heights Elementary School, and the Laconia Middle School. Laconia School District staff will have the opportunity to receive a Covid-19 booster at any of these four (4) schools at scheduled times. More information will be communicated to the school community soon.

Performance Assessment

A performance assessment requires students to apply skills that they have learned in a real-world, authentic way. When our students know and understand in our classrooms, their learning experiences are richer. Our students are still assessed using traditional assessment tools such as exams. However, our teachers continue to

develop and revise performance assessments for students. In order to prepare for the “performance” at the end of a curricular unit, students engage in learning and are given feedback on what are called *formative assessments*. The goal is for the student to be ready to “perform” on the assessment by demonstrating their learning at the end of a unit of instruction. Our staff has done some incredible work to make assessment an engaging and enjoyable experience for students.

On our last professional development day on September 14th, our staff worked on developing performance assessments using the components from a framework called GRASPS:

- G: Real-world **GOAL**
- R: Real-world **ROLE**
- A: Real-world **AUDIENCE**
- S: Real-world **SITUATION**
- P: Real-world **PRODUCT** or **PERFORMANCE**
- S: **STANDARD(S)** for success

Portrait of a Graduate Advisory Board

The Portrait of a Graduate Advisory Board continues to meet to share information about careers in the Lakes Region with the goal of supporting pathways for students to these opportunities. This board has reviewed New Hampshire and regional employment data, developed career clusters based on Lakes Region businesses, and examined an assessment where Portrait of a Graduate skills are taught and assessed. We are currently finalizing work groups to represent each career cluster so that we can better understand more about careers and opportunities in the Lakes Region. The six (6) work groups based on these career clusters are below:

- Engineering and Manufacturing
- Health Care
- Hospitality and Retail
- Human Services
- Professional Services and Business
- Technical / Skill Trades

LHS Principal Robert Bennett

Two week ago, I informed the school community of the passing of LHS Principal Robert Bennett after losing his battle to cancer. Hundreds of people from the school communities of Kearsarge and Laconia as well as people from all over the state of New Hampshire paid tribute to a person who made a tremendous impact on students and families in a career that spanned almost three decades in New London last week. A few of his close friends and colleagues spoke of his passion for educating students, his humor, and the love that he had for his family. In his honor, there will be a scholarship awarded to an LHS senior next spring from funds that were raised by staff members at LMS and LHS and the Laconia School District Administration.

Mayor Ed Engler

Last week, we received news of the passing of Mayor Edward Engler last week. Mayor Engler was a fixture in this community for many years and capped it off by serving as Laconia’s Mayor for three (3) terms, ending in 2019.

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE ADVISORY BOARD

- Andrew Hosmer, Mayor
- Laura Dunn, Laconia School Board
- Dr. Larissa Baia, President of Lakes Region Community College (and Patrick Cate)
- Karmen Gifford, Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce
- Justin Slattery, Executive Director of the Belknap County EDC
- Michael Seymour, Vice President of the Bank of New Hampshire
- Kerry Dubois, Eptam Precision
- Steve Tucker, Superintendent
- Jim McCollum, LHS Interim Principal
- Alison Bryant, LMS Principal
- Dave Warrender, Director of the Huot Technical Center
- Christine Gingerella, Director of the Office of Extended Learning
- Mollie Greeley, Director of School Counseling
- Ken Martin, Huot Technical Center Teacher and ELO Coordinator
- Derek Colquhoun, LHS Science Teacher
- Leanne Keller, LMS Science Teacher
- Monica Sawyer, LHS Student Learning Coordinator
- Nicole Brady, LMS College and Career Exploratory Teacher
- Kendora Harper-Cartier, LHS Student
- Paul Ganchi, LMS Student

Mayor Engler was passionate about improving the lives of residents in this City and was really focused on making Laconia a user-friendly place for businesses to locate and grow and a family-friendly destination for people to live and raise their children. The renovation of The Colonial Theatre stands out as one of his major accomplishments. He was a great supporter of our schools, a leader, and a person who left an enduring imprint on our Great Little City.

New Staff Induction

For years, the Laconia School District has sponsored an induction to connect our new teachers with the Laconia school community, share experiences and to engage in professional development. After meeting together as a group for the first time in August, our new teachers will meet quarterly. I continue to be impressed by this class of new teachers in their work with our staff, each other, and our students. If you have not done so already, please take the time to reach out to our new staff and welcome them to the district.

Job Opportunities

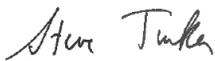
We have some openings for substitute teachers and paraprofessionals. These positions are great for people who want to make a difference in the lives of children, choice, and flexibility. If you have any interest in being a substitute or a paraprofessional, please call the SAU at 524-5710 or any of our schools for more information or to find out how to apply.

Last Words

Our school community is made up of Tigers at Elm, Panthers at Pleasant, Wildcats at Woodland, and Sachems at LMS and LHS. In the end, we are all Sachems in Laconia. Thank you for a great First Quarter and for all of your support for our schools and our kids.

I hope you a wonderful week.

Sincerely,



Steve Tucker
Superintendent
Laconia School District

The mission of the Laconia School District is to ensure success with every student, every day, in every way.

The vision statement of the Laconia School District is as follows: Learning transfers to life beyond the Laconia School District experience so students have the confidence to lead, to follow, and to grow in order to be responsible citizens who own their future.