



Dear Upper School Families,

We've had a great start to the year. As we've welcomed the largest student body in LCDS Upper School history, we've continued to be able to offer the excellent course options and programming for which LCDS is known by adding additional sections of courses, adding new courses, expanding our service options, and offering a wider array of club options. The changes in staffing and course offerings slightly reduced our core academic class size in Upper School to an average of 12 students per class. I would suggest the positive and healthy changes we've made at LCDS have resulted in students feeling very connected to their school. Our students care about what they are learning and how they are learning.

Let me share one short anecdote to highlight my point. Last Friday, a junior boy and girl spent part of their day speaking with faculty members, a department chair, and then me about the possibility of there being a philosophy course offered next year. The interest stemmed from material explored in World Civilization II, and the students made it clear that there is good interest among other students in having this as a new course option. What is so telling in this example is that while we're just developing a rhythm for the current school year, we have students thinking about their academic interests, looking ahead, and taking action. I couldn't promise them the course would run, but they certainly made a strong case for our looking at how to make it work.

We have also successfully transitioned to CORE and a 1-1 computing environment with iPads. Both will need adjustments and ongoing review, but the benefits are already being seen. Students have indicated an appreciation for the ease of using CORE and the one-stop structure where they see their assignments, course resources, and grades. The iPads have allowed for new ways of teaching and learning. For instance, e-book annotation (and lighter backpacks!), access to excellent supplemental materials both inside and outside of class, the promotion of collaborative work through cloud-based document sharing, and the smooth integration of wireless probes for research and investigations in science classes. (Thank you again to all of you who gave to Children's Challenge last year to support the science department!)

We have also built in time during the school day for grade 10 and 11 students to review the structure of the PLAN and PSAT exams, respectively, and do practice problems and/or tests. LCDS faculty members running these sessions are working to help students understand the tests better and to give them guidance on how to approach different material and types of questions on the exams. Juniors have an optional homework assignment of doing PSAT practice tests 2 & 3. PSAT practice tests 1, 4, & 5 are being done at school. All five

tests will be reviewed in the sessions we've arranged so doing tests 2 & 3 ahead of time is advantageous to a student.

Students have also been having some fun and enjoying the company of old and new friends. Today we welcomed Tamara Allen and Emma Rooney from South Africa. They've joined countryman Elliott Gordan and will be attending school at LCDS until late November. We have an exciting week ahead of us that kicked off with a wonderful rendition of "*Johnny B. Goode*" that was performed by the Jazz Band last week. Jazz Band members are Maddie MacDowell, Navia Flowers, Kyla Spencer, Bailey MacDowell, and Jack Zuckerman. Impromptu dancing was started by Jonathan Zhang(a grade 9 student from China) and well supported by his grade 9 peers...the other grades were a bit shy, but enjoyed both the music and the dancing.



Upcoming Dates of Note

Monday, Sept. 30

"Totally School Appropriate Pajama Day" Day

South African students, Tamara Allen and Emma Rooney, arrive at LCDS

7:00 p.m.

PLAN Meeting for grade 10 students and parents

Tuesday, Oct. 1

"Clash" Day (bonus points for Joe Strummer outfits)

1:30-3:00 Friday Y1/Y2 Classes

Wednesday, Oct. 2

"Hey! It's The 1950's! So, I'm Going To Dress Like That! Because That's When It Is, So That Makes Sense" Day.

Thursday, Oct. 3

"I Support This Athletic Team, So I'm Going To Wear Their Clothing" Day

Friday, Oct. 4 *Homecoming Weekend*

"Class Colors" Day

1:45 – 3:00 US Color Wars Assembly (Activities for today are for US students)

5:30 – 6:30 Cougar Bowl

6:30 – 7:00 Pizza

7:00 – 8:00 Bonfire (Please make arrangements for an 8:00 pick-up)

No New Homework Weekend/Catch-Up Weekend

Saturday, Oct. 5 *Homecoming Weekend*

11:00 a.m. Race for Home to support Habitat for Humanity (LCDS fields)

1:15 p.m. Fall Senior Day Ceremony for varsity senior athletes & parents
Food will be available at the games – free with optional donations to the Cougar Club

2:00 p.m. Varsity Girls' Soccer, Boys' Soccer, and Varsity Field Hockey games

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Homecoming Dance – semi-formal attire (LCDS Courtyard)

Tuesday, Oct. 8

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Gr. 12 – Naviance training

Gr. 11 – PSAT practice testing & guidance

Gr. 10 – PLAN practice testing & guidance

Gr. 9 – Class Forum with World Civilizations focus

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Campus Master Plan – Parent Gathering (MS/US Library)

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Faculty-Parent Social (Courtyard)

Friday, Oct. 11

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Campus Master Plan – Parent Gathering (Room 111)

3:00 p.m. Trimester 1 Midterm

Start of Alumni Weekend

Monday, Oct. 14

4:00 p.m. Trimester 1 Reports and Grades posted

(Note: midterm reports and grades are a “snapshot” of the progress of a student in each course and are not part of the permanent record of a student.)

Wednesday, Oct. 16

PLAN and PSAT testing for grade 10 and grade 11 students

Friday, Oct. 18

Parents-Advisor Conferences (advisors will be contacting parents to sign-up)

- attendance of the student is encouraged, but optional

Monday, Oct. 21

No School – Professional Day for Faculty

Friday, Oct. 25

8:30 a.m. Senior/Kindergartner Halloween Costume Parade

5:30 – 7:15 p.m. Halloween Festival (All parents and student welcome)

Friday, Nov. 1 & Saturday, Nov. 2

A Streetcar Named Desire – Fall Production (Theatre)

I hope to see you out supporting students at many of the events noted above!

Sincerely,



C. Eric Bondy
Head of Upper School
ext. 234

Lancaster Country Day School Mission Statement

The mission of Lancaster Country Day School is to encourage each student’s growth within a challenging and supportive academic environment that inspires enthusiasm for learning, the joy of accomplishment, and commitment to community. LCDS fosters the individual’s thinking skills, physical and emotional well-being, and creative expression with an emphasis on personal integrity, mutual respect, and social responsibility.