

PTA General Meeting

12 Sept 2019 / 6:30 PM / LHMS Cafeteria

6:35 pm Meeting CALLED TO ORDER by LHMS PTA President Katie McClain

Meeting Minutes

Principal's Remarks -- Aimee Monticchio

- Middle School 101 is the topic for tonight
 - We appreciate our PTA & encourage you to join
 - School renovations underway; effectively a brand new school in Fall 2021
- What makes LHMS Special
 - Our community & staff
 - IB Program
 - International benchmark for education
 - Students learn to be critical readers & writers
 - All LHMS participate automatically (this changes at the high school level)
 - Administrative team
 - 3 APs
 - Student Services Staff
 - Counselors -- should be a parent's first point of contact; helps parents reach out to all the teachers if needed
 - You can find your student's assigned counselor in ParentVue or call main office
 - New things for Middle Schoolers
 - Block schedule
 - Variety of electives
 - Next level of instructional challenge
 - Gradual release to new levels of responsibility
 - Expect about an hour of homework per night
 - Changes in friendships; becoming a teen
 - After school programs

- Late buses available on Monday/Wednesday/Thursday
 - Can stay late with a teacher as well
 - Homework club is another option
 - South Lakes National Honor Society Students tutor
 - Mr. Franklin is the point of contact for after school matters
- Return to Learn
 - 30 minutes; 3 days per week
 - Allows students to catch up & reinforce material with a their teacher
 - No new material covered during this time
- Connections
 - Mondays & Fridays
 - Community learning time
 - Also a time for recognitions & awards ceremonies
- Digital Learning
 - Blackboard
 - Parents have their own pathway for access
 - Google Classroom
 - Parents must use their student's pathway to access
 - Allows students to write/submit work online
- Please OPT IN for the News You Can Choose
 - PTA update on Wednesdays
 - Main office update on Fridays
 - Best way to stay in touch with what is happening at LHMS
- POWER
 - LHMS initiative to recognize & promote "Ready to Learn" behaviors
 - Soft skills for futures success & employment
 - Punctuality; Ownership; Welcoming; Engaged; Respectful
- Away for the Day
 - Cell phones/devices
 - Started last year
 - Devices should be silent/away/off during the school day (except at lunch); Unless a teacher asks students to use their device for instructional purposes
- Laptops
 - Teachers have access to carts with laptops for instructional purposes
 - Students do not need to bring their own laptops

- LHMS does not provide 1-to-1 laptops as is done at the high school level

PTA General Meeting

- Minutes from May 2019 read by LHMS PTA Secretary Ellen Harr
- President's Report -- LHMS PTA President Katie McClain`
 - Encourage all attending to join the PTA
 - Lower time commitment than elementary school
 - Need 7th grade parents to provide continuity for next year
 - Email the best way to reach PTA president
 - You can visit the PTA website & join online
 - Spirit wear
 - Orders due by Sept 30th
 - Will go to your child's 3rd period teacher
 - More spirit wear will be ordered in January
 - Meeting dates/times/topics on the website
 - Volunteers are always welcome
- Treasurer's Update
 - LHMS PTA Treasurer Karen Hottle absent; Katie introduced the proposed budget for 2019-2020 school year & led the discussion
 - Motion to approve the 2019-2020 LHMS PTA Budget was **approved unanimously**
- Mini Grants
 - LHMS Mini Grant Chair Liz Falcone was absent; Katie summarized mini-grants submitted & approved prior to the September 2019 PTA meeting
 - Science 8 mini-grant request --
 - \$500 for materials and supplies for electric cars for the Engineering Design Unit project for all Science 8 students
 - POWER mini-grant request
 - \$480 for recognizing & celebrating success as part of the POWER initiative
 - English 7 prizes for summer reading
 - \$50 for to recognize student accomplishments in the summer reading program
 - LHMS Library Staff request for supplementary book funds
 - \$400 to supplement the library book collection with books that will appeal to LHMS students
- Principal's Update

- November 14th will be a meeting for the PTA & community to discuss security cameras for LHMS
 - Cameras are now standard at the high school level in FCPS
- Open to topic ideas for future meetings -- please feel free to submit your ideas
- Volunteers are always welcome
 - Career Day -- Oct 25th
 - 8th grade chaperone for Finance Park Field Trip
 - 7th grade chaperones for Watershed Field Trip
- Q&A period for principal from PTA members

Meeting ADJOURNED by LHMS PTA President Katie McClain at 7:50pm