

Good Afternoon LC Families,

Welcome Back to School and to a new school year! We are so excited to have both the kids AND our families back in the building! I hope you are all ready for school next week!

As you all know we have changed our information system from "Q" to Infinite Campus. Transferring information has not been as easy as we had hoped; therefore, communication from the school has been slower than usual, and in some cases non-existent at times. Please know the secretaries, teachers and myself are learning to use this new system as fast as we can, but we anticipate to have some continued challenges for the next few weeks. If you are missing information or have questions, please call the school. I will also be posting all newsletters to the Lewis & Clark website until we have all families connected to the new system.

The building had a few renovations over the summer to include transforming the 'Learning Street' area to a classroom. Profe Sloen-Slater will be teaching Spanish there this year. The PTA bought the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC) and the playground some new benches, and they will be installed in a few weeks (THANK YOU PTA families!). The ODC also has a new sprinkler system, and the plants and trees are getting some much-needed water. Mrs. Swanson, our Art teacher, painted one of the stairwells...check it out! Our gym has new paint and is now our school colors, and repairs to the roof are coming this week. Our amazing custodial staff, teachers and support staff have been working very hard this summer in preparation for the kids! The school is looking amazing!

Tomorrow, **Monday, August 30th** is the first day of school for our **kindergartners**. We will begin at 8:15 meeting teachers on the playground where they line up. Staff will greet students and take them on a tour of their classroom and the school, while K teachers meet with families for the first 45 minutes. Students will then spend time with their teacher doing a fun activity and learning about their classroom, before going to the cafeteria for lunch, and ending their day at 11:30 where they will meet their family on the playground.

**Tuesday, August 31st** is the first day of school for **all students K-5**. The school bell will ring at 8:13 for students to line up and come into the building. The tardy bell will ring 8:15. The school day ends for ALL students at 3:15 each day. Thursday, school will be 8:15-2:30.

Student safety is our priority as we begin the new school year while still experiencing the pandemic. The MCPS Board of Trustees voted for use to begin the school year wearing masks and following mitigation strategies to reduce transmission of COVID. This decision will be revisited in 6 weeks. If you have specific questions or concerns, please call or email me. This year will come with some challenges again, and I appreciate your feedback, collaboration, and support.

I look forward to seeing you this week! Happy first week of school!

Alanna Vaneps  
Principal  
Lewis & Clark

### **Beginning of School**

- **Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

- Kindergarten ONLY; half day orientation – no bussing
- 8:15 – 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>
  - ALL students K-5; full day
  - 8:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
- School day hours --- NEW!!
  - Mon-Wed, & Fri -- 8:15 – 3:15 ALL students K-5
  - Thurs (early out) -- 8:15 – 2:30 ALL students K-5

### **Where do I line up?**

- Please see the teacher line up diagram ATTACHED below

### **Supply Lists**

- Supply lists are posted on the [Lewis & Clark Website](#)
  - Scroll down and there is a link to *School Supply Lists*
  - On the left-hand side are rectangle boxes by grade level, click on the particular grade for your child(ren)'s list

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band and Orchestra**

- Over the first couple of weeks of the year, the band (Mr. Z) and orchestra teacher (Mr. Belski) will join music classes at Lewis & Clark to introduce a variety of instruments to 5<sup>th</sup> graders. (Typically, this is done in the spring when students are in 4<sup>th</sup> grade).
- About 3 weeks into the year, Mr. Z and Mr. Belski will provide information about both programs and have students sign up for band or orchestra if they would like to. At this time, they will also share information about renting or purchasing instruments, and what the programs will entail for the 2021-2022 school year.

### **PTA Volunteer Sign-Up**

- If you are interested in joining the Lewis & Clark PTA or helping to volunteer with events, please contact the PTA at [lewisandclark.pta.missoula@gmail.com](mailto:lewisandclark.pta.missoula@gmail.com)
- They will be sending out a volunteer sign-up form soon

### **After School Care**

- Campfire – in the Lewis & Clark cafeteria
  - Runs after school Mon – Fri until 6:00 pm
  - Phone: (406) 542-2129
- Boys & Girls Club – picks up at LC
  - Phone: (406) 542-3116
- YMCA – picks up at LC
  - Phone: (406) 721-9622
- Parks & Rec – picks up at LC
  - Phone: (406) 721-7275

### **Lunch/Breakfast**

- ALL student meals will receive FREE breakfast and lunch at Lewis & Clark again this year. We had a grant that extended one more year to offer this for all of our students.

- Students will need to pay for milk with a cold lunch, as they did last year. This costs \$0.60 and students must have funds available in their account.

### **Masking Requirements**

- All buildings K-12 will begin the first 6 weeks of school in Phase 3 with the following guidelines.
  - Elementary buildings will most likely continue to wear masks until our students are able to be vaccinated (this will be decided by the MCPS School Board).
- Masks are required for all students, staff, and volunteers, regardless of vaccination status.
  - We are excited to have parents, families, and volunteers return to the building!
- Staff will continue protocols for handwashing, sanitizing, and cleaning.
  - Classrooms will use a variety of seating arrangements with seating charts: individual desks, podding 3-4 students, pairing students, etc., to minimize exposure and assist in contact tracing.
- Students will resume pre-covid lunch and breakfast routines
  - Masks will be worn while in line and removed after sitting down to eat
  - Students will have assigned seating by class
  - When finished students will be dismissed to play outside
- Students will be able to remove masks while outside (at least 3 times a day), and will also have mask breaks (distancing at least 6 feet) available as needed.
- Entering and exiting the building will be similar to last year – masks on, spacing between classes, using sanitizer station as they walk in, etc.
- Students will continue to go to Specialists' classrooms rotating daily.

### **Health Screening and Requirements Around COVID Symptoms SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT**

Please screen your child(ren) before coming to school each morning

- When screening, please check for the following:
  - Fever
  - Sore throat
  - Chills
  - Diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting
  - New loss of taste and/or smell
  - New headache
  - Body aches
  - New cough (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
  - Shortness of breath
  - Congestion/runny nose
  - Fatigue

If any of these symptoms are present, please stay at home and seek COVID and other testing, as recommended by your healthcare provider. If negative or not tested, do not return until all symptoms are gone for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and released from quarantine, if applicable.

- Students experiencing these symptoms, while at school, will be sent home as recommended by the CDC. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we partner to keep students and staff healthy.