

January 21, 2010

TO: LJHS Parents
FROM: Lora Hardway, Principal
SUBJECT: Parent News Letter

All students who walk home will exit the front door of the school and follow the sidewalk to the back of the faculty parking lot to the sidewalk (where the street light is located by the red recycling bin) to crossover to the back or the side of the Junior High to walk home. A teacher on duty will monitor the crossing of all students. In addition, carpool students are to wait for their parents to come through the carpool lanes to go home. Students are officially notified that going out to Maple Street or City Line road to meet you car ride home is a safety violation and will be subject to consequences. If parents have hardships they may park in the faculty or front visitor parking lot and go to meet their child in the carpool area and walk them to their vehicles.

Testing dates in February are: 2/16 – 8th grade math diagnostic, 2/17 – 8th grade reading diagnostic, Dyslexia bundle testing and makeup testing will be on 2/18.

In our effort to effectively communicate the district policy regarding cell phones: with written permission from the parent the student may have a cell phone on his/her person as long as the cell phone remains concealed and not operable during the school day 8:00am-3:30pm.

The H1N1 Flu immunizations will be available in the LJHS Media Center on February 10th from 10:00am-6:00pm. Students that have had their packets filled out allowing them to be immunized will be called out of class starting at 10:00am and should be finished by the end of the school day.

There will be a parent committee meeting to discuss the DRAFT 2010-2011 School Calendar in the LJHS Media Center on January 25th from 6:30-7:30pm for all secondary campuses.

Academics

Social Studies: 6th graders are studying the Renaissance period. Projects are scheduled in February. 7th Graders are studying the Spanish Missions of Texas, they are studying the reasons for them, their locations round the region (Louisiana – Texas), the people involved, if they were successful or not, and the problems they faced (Native Texan attacks, drought, and diseases). They are also studying how San Antonio grew and became successful as a settlement. 8th graders are completing their study of the Constitution and how the United States government formed.

Language Arts: 6th graders are learning about literary devices such as idioms, similes, metaphors, and hyperboles. The unit includes games, interactive lessons and creativity. The students are exposed to short stories (written by the teachers) that utilize all the devices so that they may see how each device adds interest and meaning to the overall plot. The unit will expand to a writing project where the students will put into play the literary devices they have learned.

Science: The first semester of science at LJH was very productive as students were challenged to use the scientific method to explore and reinforce a variety of concepts. 6th graders had a great time modeling the rock cycle as crayons were turned to sediment, melted in magma and cooled into igneous rocks. 7th graders explored simple machines involving pulley systems, inclined planes and levers. 8th graders wrapped up the semester conducting flame tests on a variety of compounds and then identified a “mystery” compound from their results. For more information about what is taught at each grade level, check out the Teacher Web pages online.

Math: 7th & 6th grade math is currently studying geometry (objective 3). The seventh grade students have built 3-D shapes using toothpicks and marshmallows. They have had to compare and contrast between the prisms and pyramids. They have also discovered what makes up 3-D shapes. This helps them build a critical thinking skill that can be used throughout life. Last semester, the 7th grade looked at percentages when shopping, paying tax and leaving a tip. The 6th grade is also studying geometry and how triangles make bridges stronger and the use of quadrilaterals in buildings. Some classes are creating works of art out of common shapes. Last semester, the 6th grade discovered ratios and proportions. They utilized charts to organize information and solve algebra equations. They also covered probability and studied how common game shows use probability to their benefit