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## Weekly Newsletter for Aug 23, 2023

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*Your PTO—enhancing education and welfare of LHS students and fostering communication throughout the LHS community*

### Upcoming Events

Aug 24	Student Schedules published in Aspen
<b>Aug 28–Sep 1</b>	<b>Week 1</b>
Aug 29	First Day of School at LHS: 9th grade students and students new to LHS School Committee Mtg, 6pm
Aug 30	First Day of School, all students attend: Day 1 Schedule
Sep 1	No School
<b>Sep 4–8</b>	<b>Week 2</b>
Sep 4	No School: Labor Day
Sep 6	Arena Scheduling: Grades 11 and 12
Sep 7	Parent Discussion Group Mtg w/ Associate Principal, 9am ( <a href="#">Google Meet Link</a> )
Sep 8	Arena Scheduling: Grades 9 and 10
Sep 9	Deadline for updating info in Aspen <b>Save the Date:</b>
Sep 11	PTO Board Mtg, 7pm
Oct 9	Principal Coffee Talk

See the [2023–2024 School Calendar](#) for all of this year's holidays and half-days.

If you have a gmail account, your Weekly Newsletter is being clipped. Please click on the link at the top of the newsletter "To view this email as a web page, click here" to get the full picture. Thank you!

### Weekly Announcements

#### PTO News



#### Welcome to the 2023–2024 School Year!

Dear Parents,

As this summer comes to an end, we are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to all LHS parents as we embark on a new school year. The PTO is excited to continue working with our



community and educators to create a supportive and encouraging environment for our students and faculty. Your involvement, whether it's volunteering your time or attending events, is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Be sure to stay connected through our website, newsletters, social media, and school announcements. We look forward to working with you. Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

We welcome conversation, questions, and dialogue. Connect with us by email anytime at [president@lhspto.org](mailto:president@lhspto.org).

Wishing you a great start to the new school year,

*Meg Khanolkar and Catherine Telliez, PTO Presidents*

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## Become a Member! PTO Enrollment is OPEN

You can make a difference in the LHS community when you become a member of the LHS PTO. Membership dues and additional donations are the main source of funding for the PTO's annual budget which enables:

- Staff grants
- Guest speakers at parent forums
- Student financial aid
- Community building events and activities for students
- Staff recognition
- And more!

Annual membership dues are \$30/family, with an optional \$10 for a printed copy of the directory. Membership benefits:

- Feel good about funding Mini-Grants for staff and informative Forums for parents
- Gain access to the online directory of students and families
- Opportunity to have your voice heard at PTO meetings and shape the organization's impact
- See and hear relevant and helpful information for raising a teen in Lexington
- **Join**[here](#)
- **Questions?** Contact our [membership team](#)

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## What did the PTO do this past summer?

- Met with Principal Andrew Baker and Associate Principal Dan Melia to plan upcoming forums with our Principals, including three new in-person *Principals' Coffee Talks*, the first of which will be held Oct 9
- Updated our website with the latest LHS dates and announcements
- Began rolling out an LHS Spirit Wear online store for students, parents/caregivers and educators/staff
- Rolled over our membership, graduating the Class of 2023 and bringing up the Class of 2027 in Membership Toolkit
- Prepared the PTO budget for the upcoming year
- Planned the first hospitality event: Staff Orientation Luncheon for all 350 educators on Aug 28
- On-boarded new Board members
- Registered PTO Officers with the Secretary of State
- Committees geared up for the 2023-24 school year
- Prepared the welcome back newsletter

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## Quick Useful PTO Links

- [LHS PTO Homepage](#) (updated weekly with the latest news)
- [Membership Toolkit Registration Link](#) (to become a member and access the online directory)
- [Volunteer](#) (we're always looking for more help; thanks for pitching in!)
- [LHS PTO on Facebook](#) (connect with us)
- [Who's on the PTO Board this year](#) (we have a fantastic crew of volunteers)
- Other [Useful Links](#) (LHS Clubs, Parent Discussion Group, and more)
- [LPS 2023–2024 School Calendar](#)

## LHS and LPS Announcements



### Updates from Interim Principal Baker

- All of Principal Baker's LHS announcements and all LPS District announcements will now be published in Parentsquare. Please sign in to ParentSquare [here](#).
- Please check out the new [Lex Get Started webpage](#) for the school's calendars, block schedule, directions for updating contact information in Aspen, and so much more!

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## Notes from the Nurses' Office

### Snap Health Parent Portal:

- The LHS Nursing Department is pleased to announce the launch of the SNAP Parent Health Portal for the 2023–2024 school year. The Health Portal is an online platform that gives you direct access to your student's health record and streamlines communication.
- **For more information**, click [here](#)

### Updated Physical Exams are required of:

- All incoming 9th graders
- All students new to Lexington High School
- Any student planning to participate in a sport

**Medical Forms for School Nurses** are available [here](#)

### Immunizations:

- Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MenACWY) is required for Grade 11 entry.

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## LHS Athletics

Check out the LHS Athletics [webpage](#) for the **Fall 2023 Preseason Meeting Handout**, important information on the **mandatory Baseline Concussion Testing**, and **Athletic fee deadlines**.

## LHS Community News

### LHS Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group

All LHS parents and caregivers are invited to join the LHS Parent & Caregiver Discussion Group. The purpose of this parent-volunteer-run group is to build community, share information, and provide opportunities for families to support each other as we help our teens learn, grow, and thrive during their high school years. During the school year, we meet once per month with the LHS principal and associate principal; meet on other weeks for low-key, parent-facilitated discussions about the high school and parenting our teens; and provide weekly email updates about school-related events and deadlines. Note that this group is distinct from the PTO, so being on the PTO's mailing list does not automatically put you on ours (and vice versa). If you were on our mailing list last year or added in over the summer, you do not need to do anything to remain on the list.

- **First meeting:** Thu, Sep 7, 9am, with the LHS Associate Principal. ([Google Meet Link](#))
- **To join mailing list and receive meeting Zoom links:** Email your full name and the grade(s) of your LHS child(ren) to [Jen Roney](#). If you were on the list last year, no action is needed.

## Useful Links and Resources

### LHS Links

- LHS [School Calendar 2023–2024](#)
- LPS [School Calendar 2023–2024](#)
- LHS [Student Absence Form 2023–2024](#)
- LHS [Block Schedule](#)
- No Homework [Calendar](#)
- LHS [Counseling Department webpage](#)
- School Committee [webpage](#)
- Building Committee [webpage](#)
- LHS Building Project [webpage](#)

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### Community Resources

- Cary Library [teen programs](#)
- Lexington Recreation and Community Programs: [classes for children and teens](#)
- Lexington Community Education: [classes on test prep and college planning](#), and [classes for children and teens](#)
- [Munroe Center for the Arts](#)
- [Youth Counseling Connection](#)

## Stay Connected

- Athletics [games/meets](#)
- LHS PTO [website](#) and [Facebook](#) group
- LHS [Performing Arts Calendar](#)



