

Weekly Newsletter for Sep 4, 2023

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

Upcoming Events

Week 2

Sep 4-8

"EDUCATION IS THE MOST DOWNER FOR WEAPON
POWERFUL WEAPON
WHICH YOU CAN USE
TO CHANGE
THE WORLD"
~ NelSon Mandela

•	
Sep 4	No School: Labor Day
Sep 6	Arena Scheduling: Grades 11 and 12
Sep 7	Parent Discussion Group Mtg w/ Associate Prinicpal, 9am (Google Meet Link)
Sep 8	Arena Scheduling: Grades 9 and 10
	Parent Discussion Group In-Person Social Gathering, Lexington Community Center tent, 9:00am
	LPS Vaccine Clinic
Sep 9	Deadline for updating info in Aspen
	PSAT registration deadline
Sep 11-15	Week 3
Sep 11	PTO Board Mtg, 7:15pm (Zoom link)
Sep 12	School Committee Mtg, 6pm (Zoom link)
Sep 13	Senior Parent Discussion Group Mtg, 9am
Sep 14-15	Picture Days
Sep 15	9th Grade Welcome Dance
	Save the Date:
Sep 19	9th Grade Parent/Caregiver Night, 6:00pm (inperson)
Sep 29	LHS Activities Fair, first two blocks of the day (students only)
Oct 5	Back-to-School Night, 6pm (in-person)
Oct 11	Principal Coffee Talk, 9am

See the <u>2023–2024 School Calendar</u> 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!

PTO News



We welcome conversation, questions, and dialogue. Connect with us by email anytime at president@lhspto.org.

Meg Khanolkar and Catherine Telliez, PTO Presidents





Brand New this Year: LHS Spirit Wear Store

The LHS PTO is excited to announce the opening of the LHS Spirit Wear Store! The store will be in the style of a pop-up shop, with incoming orders being open until 11:59 pm on September 22. Many different items such as hoodies, t-shirts, pants, and beanies will be available for students and staff to purchase.





In addition to the available merchandise options in the store, T-shirts for the classes of 2024 (Seniors) and 2027 (Freshman) will be available for purchase for students in those grades.

(Please note: Because all items are made-to-order, your order will be processed *after* the store closes on Sep 22.)





- **Browse** the entire <u>LHS Spirit Wear Store</u>
- Get your <u>Class of 2027 (Freshmen) T-shirt</u>
- Get your <u>Class of 2024 (Senior) T-shirt</u>

What did the PTO do last week?

- Served lunch to the entire LHS staff on Mon, Aug 28, the first day for teachers
- Continued the **membership drive**. (See below for how joining the PTO supports LHS students, staff, and families!)
- Presidents concluded individual meetings with each Board member team
- Launched the LHS Spiritwear Store, which will be open until Sep 22

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 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. (If the cost of membership is a financial burden, arrangements can be made. Please contact <u>our treasurer</u>for assistance.) 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

- Attend PTO meetings whenever you want and share your input to help shape the organization's impact
- Many opportunities to get relevant and helpful information for raising a teen in Lexington
- Joinhere
- Questions? Contact our membership team

LHS and LPS Announcements



Updates from Interim Principal Baker

- To ensure the safety of all, parents and students are reminded of LHS drop-off procedures.
 - Video of LHS Vehicle Directions for Arrival & Dismissal can be found <u>here</u>
 - Map of LHS Vehicle Directions for Arrival
 & Dismissal can be found here
 - Seniors can enter a lottery for an oncampus parking pass. Click <u>here</u> for more details (Note: you can only open this link if you are signed up for <u>ParentSquare</u>.)
- Information regarding student schedule change requests and the upcoming Schedule Arena days can be found <u>here</u>
- Please check out the new <u>Lex Get Started</u> <u>webpage</u> for the school's calendars, block schedule, directions for updating contact information in Aspen, and so much more!

PSAT Sign-up Information

The PSAT will be held at LHS on Sat, Oct 14. This will be the only PSAT date this school year. **All juniors and sophomores attending LHS are invited to take the test.** The PSAT is an *optional test*, and juniors taking the test can use their score to qualify for some scholarships. For sophomores, the test is just for practice for future tests. Please note that there will be no late registration available.

Registerhere

Registration deadline: Sat, Sep 9, 9pm

LPS Vaccine Clinic

The first monthly vaccine clinic of the year starts this Friday! All vaccines will be available; please indicate which vaccine you are signing up for when you make the appointment. The LPS Vaccine Clinics are open to all Lexington residents, and all Lexington Public School Students, staff and their families. Please note that the COVID vaccine is not currently listed because the updated vaccine is not yet approved.

• **When:** Fri, Sep 8, 10am-7pm

• Where: LPS Central Offices, 146 Maple St

Sign uphere

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.

LHS Athletics

Check out the LHS Athletics <u>webpage</u> for the **Fall 2023 Preseason Meeting Handout**, important informtion on the **mandatory Baseline Concussion Testing**, and **Althetic 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.

- Next meetings:
 - Thu, Sep 7, 9am, with the LHS Associate Principal. (Google Meet Link)
 - Fri, Sep 8, 9am for a social gathering at the Lexington Communitity Center tent (located at the back of the building). Bring your own coffee and come connect with other parents!
- 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.

Senior Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group

The LHS Senior Parents/Caregivers Group is a peer-to-peer discussion group for all parents and caregivers of the Lexington High School Senior Class of 2024. The purpose of our group is to create community, share information, and support each other as we help our students through their senior year of high school, including the college application process. We meet a few times a month on Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:00am via Zoom. We will meet more frequently in the fall semester, and less

frequently in the spring semester once the rush of college applications has ended. During the year we will have a mixture of open discussion/Q&A meetings, and meetings with a specific speaker and topic.

To be added to the email list and be notified of upcoming meetings and zoom links, follow the directions below. Parents who were in last year's Junior group were automatically added to the Senior group's email list and do not need to re-join.

- **To join:** email <u>Julie Liu</u>with your name, email address, and the name of your senior student
- First meeting: Wed, Sep 13, 9am

Interested in playing Boys Hockey?

Are you new to LHS and interested in playing boys hockey? Contact us, and as the season approaches, we'll will keep you up to date on all the boys hockey happenings, such as fundraisers and winter sports meetings.

- Email ushere
- **Include** your name, grade, and contact info for both student and parents/guardians

Lexington Community News



Upcoming Classes and a Call for Artists

Join us at Munroe Center for the Arts this fall! We're offering new classes in printmaking in our brand new studio, and have returning favorites such as teen painting, drawing and ceramics.

• For more information on specific classes, visit our website

We're putting out a call for Artists! The Munroe Center will be hosting a Holiday Arts & Crafts market *just* for artists 18 and younger. Stay tuned for more information, and in the meantime, please share with youth you know who might want to use some time to build their inventory.

- When: Sat, Dec 9
- For more infomation, email Cristina

Finally, we're hosting a free, public **Grandparents' Day Event** led by artist Alice DelDonno, who will be teaching how to make art books with collage and paint. If you think your grandparent/s would like to come and join you in making something together, bring them along! Space is limited—please register.

- When: Sat, Sep 9, 10am
- Registerhere

Useful Links and Resources

LHS PTO Links

- <u>LHS PTO Homepage</u> (updated weekly with the latest news)
- <u>Membership Toolkit Registration Link</u> (to become a member and access the online directory)
- <u>Volunteer</u> (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)

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

Community Resources

- Cary Library <u>teen programs</u>
- Lexington Recreation and Community Programs: classes for children and teens
- Lexington Community Education: <u>classes on test prep and college planning</u>, and classes for children and teens
- Munroe Center for the Arts
- Youth Counseling Connection

Stay Connected

- Athletics games/meets
- LHS PTO <u>website</u> and <u>Facebook</u> group
- LHS <u>Performing Arts Calendar</u>



