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## Weekly Newsletter for Mar 4, 2024

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

### Upcoming Events



#### Mar 4–8

Mar 4

#### Week 26

SHAC mtg, 7pm, LHS Library Media Center

Deadline for entering 2024-25 course requests in Aspen

Mar 5–13

11th Grade academic advising

Mar 6

Junior Parent Group mtg, 9am

LHS Community Forum #3, 6:30pm, Cary Hall

Mar 7

Parent Discussion Group mtg, 9am

Mar 8

Parent Discussion Group Social meet-up, Community Center, rm 237

Deadline to receive partial refund for cancelled AP exams

Half-day

#### Mar 11–15

#### Week 27

Mar 11

PTO Board mtg, 7pm

Mar 12

School Committee mtg, 6pm

Mar 13

Senior Parent Group mtg, 9am

Mar 14

Parent Discussion Group mtg, 9am

Junior Parent Group mtg, 7pm, Community Center

Mar 14–20

10th Grade academic advising

Mar 15

Placement Review Forms due for 2024-25 school year

Mar 15–17

No-homework break

#### Save the Date:

Mar 21

Forum: Navigating Life after LHS

Mar 23

LPS Parent Academy

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

# Weekly Announcements

## PTO News

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

*Meg Khanolkar and Catherine Telliez, PTO Presidents*

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### What did the LHS PTO do last week?



- PTO president met with LHS principals
- Hosted two "Going to LHS" forums for parents of 8th graders
- Presidents met with LHS main office manager to discuss new ideas
- Assisted the PTO Presidents' Council in facilitating a School Committee Candidates' forum (see the recording of the forum [here](#))

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### 10th Annual Parent & Caregiver Academy

Lexington's Annual Parent Academy is designed to educate and empower parents and caregivers to manage the changing demands of parenting in today's world. This event is free and open to all interested parents and community members.

- **Who:** All interested Lexington families, adult caregivers and faculty
- **When:** Sat, Mar 23, 10am–2:15pm
- **Where:** In-person at the Community Center
- **List of workshops and registration details** are coming soon!



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### Parent Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Parent Academy

We're excited to celebrate a significant milestone: **The 10th Annual Lexington Parent & Caregiver Academy**, presented by The School Health Advisory Council and Community Partners.

For a decade, we've been empowering parents and caregivers with essential tools for modern parenting. **This year, we invite you to join us as volunteers** to mark this decade of dedication and growth.

- **When:** Sat, Mar 23, 10am–2:15pm
  - **Where:** Lexington Community Center
  - **Sign up [here](#) to volunteer!**
  - **Questions?** Contact us [here](#)
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## Upcoming Forum: Navigating Life after LHS

Mark your calendars and join us for *Navigating Life After LHS*, a tailored forum for Juniors and Seniors entering the next chapter of their lives. Discover career paths, conquer transition challenges, and connect with peers on similar journeys. Your guide to navigating life beyond high school begins here!

- **When:** Mar 21, 7–8:30pm
- **Where:** LHS Auditorium

## LHS and LPS Announcements

### Course Requests due Monday, March 4

Parents and guardians of 9th–11th Graders are reminded that **the deadline to enter course requests for the 2024–2025 school year is this Monday.**

Please encourage your student to make sure that they are adding alternate requests for every elective they are requesting. The alternates are used if their first choice class fills up, is canceled, or doesn't fit into their schedule.

Students will soon be receiving communication from their school counselor regarding how to sign up for an academic advising appointment to review their course requests.

- **Deadline:** Mon, Mar 4, 11:59pm
- **For instructions on how to enter course requests into Aspen,** click [here](#)

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### Reminder: AP Cancellation and Refund Deadline

**Fri, Mar 8 is the last date by which a student can receive a partial refund** if they cancel their Advanced Placement exams. The cancellation fee is \$40.00 per test. If your child wishes to cancel their Advanced Placement exam, they can do so by logging onto their Total Registration account and requesting the cancellation, or by emailing [Ms. Ballou](#).

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### LHS Building Committee Community Forum #3 is this Wednesday!

Do you want to learn more about recent developments for the new or renovated Lexington High School? The LHS School Building Committee (SBC) cordially invites anyone interested to participate in the upcoming Community Forum #3. Lexington has many stakeholders who play a critical role in the development of this exciting project, and we want to hear from you! At Community Forum #3, you will hear from our Student SBC, and the Design Team who will discuss our progress to date, the preliminary schedule, Lexington's partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), and planned next steps. There will be a Q&A, and participants will have opportunities to provide input.

- **When:** Wed, Mar 6, 6:30–8:30
  - **Where:** Cary Hall and Zoom (Zoom link will be posted on the [Building Project website](#))
  - **For more details,** click [here](#)
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## LPS Vaccine Clinic

The LPS Vaccine are clinics open to all Lexington residents, along with Lexington Public Schools' students, staff and their families.

- **When:** Fri, Mar 15, 3–5pm
- **Where:** LPS Central Offices, 146 Maple St
- **Sign up** [here](#)

## LHS Community News



### Student Blood Drive at LHS this Friday

The Lexington High School Red Cross Club, supported by the National Honor Society and HOSA (the LHS Future Health Professionals Club), will be hosting a student blood drive at LHS this Friday. Each blood donation can save up to three people! Students older than 16 years old can sign up for a donation slot during their free/study blocks, during lunch, or before and after school. If your child is 16, they will need to bring a signed parent permission form to the drive.

March is Red Cross Month, and we hope to help address the national blood shortage and save lives with the first student drive our club has held at LHS! Every student who donates blood will receive an \$10 e-gift card, and will be automatically entered into a raffle to win a \$3,000 gift card—along with stickers, of course! LHS students have the potential to directly save lives!

- **When:** Fri, Mar 8, 8am–1pm
- **Where:** LHS Gymnasium
- **For more information,** including parent permission forms and eligibility requirements, visit our [website](#) or email [Maha](#) or [Sarah](#)
- **To schedule an appointment for your student,** please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](#) and enter *LexingtonHS*
- **Streamline your student's donation experience** and save them up to 15 minutes by clicking [here](#) to complete their pre-donation reading and health history



### Volunteers Needed for Upcoming LHS Performing Arts Events

FOLMADS (Friends of Lexington Music Art and Drama Students) needs volunteers for upcoming performing arts events. We'd love to have your help as an usher or with ticket sales. Your teen can also help with ushering for community service hours if they sign up.

- **Sign up** [here](#) to volunteer
- **Contact us for more information** about volunteering with FOLMADS at events or as a future board member

### LHS Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group (all grades)

- **Next meeting:** Thu, Mar 7, 9am
- **Topic:** Quarter 3 check-in and open discussion
- **To join the mailing list and receive meeting Zoom links:** Email your full name and the grade(s) of your LHS child(ren) to [Jen Roney](#).

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## Junior Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group

- **Next meeting:** Wed, Mar 6, 9am **and** Thu, Mar 14, 7pm (both meetings cover the same topic, so you can choose the one that best fits your schedule)
- **Topic:** *Financial Aid and MEFA Merit* with guest speaker Sharon Olofsson of Gateway Educational Consulting
- **Location:** Community Center, rm 230/2
- **To join the junior parent group,** [email us](#)

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## Senior Parent and Caregiver Discussion Group

- **Next meeting:** Wed, Mar 13, 9am
- **Location:** Online
- **Topic:** Guest speaker Professor Belle Liang, author of *How to Navigate Life*, will speak on the topic of "Navigating College, Career Planning, and Beyond"
- **To join:** email [Julie Liu](#) with your name, email address, and the name of your senior student

## Lexington Community News

### Lexington Observer's Guide to Local Elections

The *Lexington Observer* online newspaper has recently published a free, comprehensive guide to Lexington's local elections, a valuable resource to help Lexington voters (including our newest 18-year old voters at LHS!) make informed decisions as they vote this Tuesday. The guide includes profiles of the School Committee candidates as well as other town-wide offices.

- **Explore the guide**[here](#)



### Upcoming Opportunities with Munroe Center for the Arts

Our Spring Session is fast approaching!

- **Classes will be posted** on our website on Mar 4
- **Registration begins** on Mar 11
- **For more information,** see our [website](#)

Munroe Center for the Arts also has April Break and Summer Camp openings for those looking for counselor and volunteer opportunities!

- **For more information,** contact [Holly Stygles](#)

## Community Happenings

Although this LHS PTO newsletter only publishes announcements that are directly related to LHS students and their parents, we will share links to other community events that may be of interest to our readers. Click [here](#) to learn more about these upcoming opportunities.

- SNAP Special Artist Registration is now open
- Community screening and discussion of the film *Repairing the World*
- Cary Lecture Series event: *A Life in Music*, with LHS alum Jeff Leonard

## Useful Links and Resources

## LHS PTO Links

- [LHS PTO Homepage](#)
  - [Membership Toolkit Registration Link](#)
  - [Volunteer](#)
  - [LHS PTO on Facebook](#)
  - [Who's on the PTO Board this year](#)
  - [Other Useful Links](#)
  - [LPS 2023-2024 School Calendar](#)
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## 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](#)
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