



August 27, 2020

Dear Viking Students, Parents and Staff:

It brings us so much joy to have our staff back in our building ramping up their online delivery this first week, and to see so many of our students at check-in days last week. Thank you for entrusting your child with us. There is no greater calling than caring for, educating and loving others and we are honored to be tasked with that responsibility. We will do our best to make this the finest year we can for our Vikings! The list that follows is our effort to answer the many questions that have arisen over the last two weeks. Here goes...

- ✓ **The 1<sup>st</sup> day of school Monday, 8/24 was a blue day.** The back cover of the student planners said 8/24 would be a gold day. That was incorrect because PSD delayed the start of school from Monday, 8/17 to Monday, 8/24 so please draw an X with a Sharpie on the blue/gold calendar on the back cover of your student planner for August, September and early October until the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter October 16<sup>th</sup>. Use the attached blue/gold calendar or refer to the calendar on the bottom of the main page of our new website.
- ✓ The entry point to all teachers' virtual classrooms is the **Learning Pages** link on the Lesher website and the platform for all teachers' virtual classrooms is **Google Classroom**. The expectation is our teachers **list their class titles similarly** in Google Classroom, and their **contact information in the signature line to their emails** regardless of origination point (Outlook, Synergy, Google Classroom). Some families have children in multiple PSD schools and receive a high number of emails from teachers and they need to know which school/teacher the email is from and to which child it's intended.
- ✓ **Attendance is taken daily** via our Synergy Student Management System during synchronous class periods. **Attendance calls began going home 5pm, Wed., 8/16.** Parents can excuse absences via Secretary Karen Downing's attendance line (472-3815) or new this year via **ParentVUE**. Here are the instructions for parents/guardians to excuse a child's absence online through ParentVUE:
  - 1) Log in to ParentVUE
  - 2) Focus to the student for which you are entering attendance
  - 3) Click on 'Report Absences'
  - 4) Set attendance mark of 'A – Absent' or 'I – Illness'
  - 5) Add a note
  - 6) Click SaveMore information can be found here: [ParentVUE Attendance](#).
- ✓ **The expectation is that our students will be with teachers the full 45 minutes of synchronous class time Monday – Thursday.** They will not end classes/video calls early. We are striving for a much more structured and consistent synchronous class time with



longer periods each day than what your child experienced the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of last year with our STEAM and Humanities days.

- ✓ **Teachers are on duty 7:30am – 3:30pm, Monday through Friday.** Parents please call or email with questions or needs. See Lesher’s website directory for contact info. <https://les.psdschools.org/directory>. If a teacher is absent during 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, phase 1 online instruction the class will be covered by an in-building teacher substitute, or he/she will assign asynchronous work. The PSD sub. calling system has been disabled for now.
- ✓ Please understand **school is not a 4-day week, it’s 5.** As the year progresses, we will add more structure to our asynchronous time 8 – 3pm on Fridays and 1 – 3pm Monday – Thursday. We are considering alternating blue and gold Fridays, but for now work for any period, 1 – 5, on blue or gold days may be assigned and completed on Fridays. There are only 5 asynchronous Fridays until the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter starts Monday, 10/19. **Assignments are not optional, students are expected to participate and be graded on mastery in all 8 subject areas** using IB rubrics with 0 – 8 levels of achievement on 4 IB objectives and **work habits** using IB Approaches to Learning Skills: Self-management, Communication, Research, Social, Thinking evaluated on an alpha scale (N = Novice, L = Learner, P = Practitioner, E = Expert). Teachers will provide formative and summative feedback to students.
- ✓ Teachers may **record meetings using Google Meets or MS Teams** so absent students can get information they missed, etc. During times of online remote learning, **one-on-one communications may occur between students and teachers or other special service providers** for purposes like in-person on-campus learning. This communication is intended to serve as notice to students’ parents/guardians now at the beginning of the school year that phone calls or online tools such as Google Meets and MS Teams may be used for such communications for the purpose of supporting our students’ learning. Parents who have questions about their child communicating one-on-one with teachers and staff, or who want to opt out of such communications should contact principal Tom Dodd at [tdodd@psdschools.org](mailto:tdodd@psdschools.org), or 472-3810.
- ✓ **Teachers are discussing the most appropriate level of cognitive demand and student workload to expect from students grades 6 – 8.** With synchronous classes meeting 45 to 90 to 180 minutes per week depending on class frequency, i.e. 6<sup>th</sup> grade encore classes versus 6, 7, 8 math, asynchronous time may range from 0 to 90 minutes per week with a total of 2 – 4 hours per week per 6 to 7 classes depending on the grade. These numbers are just a general idea of how we are trying to quantify our collective delivery of content.
- ✓ **Clarification for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Period 2 - 3 schedules:**  
Monday - Blue Day Period 2 - (9:20 – 10:05 AM)  
Tuesday - Gold Day Period 2 - (9:20 – 10:05 AM)



Wednesday - Blue Day Period 3 - (9:20 – 10:05 AM)

Thursday - Gold Day Period 3 - (9:20 – 10:05 AM)

\*Students in PE, Tech. or Web will have that class on both Blue OR Gold days depending on their individual schedule, OR

\*\*Students in Dixon (PE), Moeller (PE), Oldenburg (Tech.) or Knips (Web.) will have that class on both Blue OR Gold days depending on their individual schedule.

✓ **All students, grades 6 – 8, should do the following everyday:**

- 1) Go to our **new Lesher website:** <https://les.psdschools.org/> (We're still updating it.).
- 2) Click on the **PSD Email link** and check your email.
- 3) Click on the **StudentVUE link** and login to view your Synergy schedule.
- 4) Click on the **Teacher Learning Pages link**, then click on each **Grade Level and/or Dept. links** and then click on each **Teacher's Learning Page** (<https://les.psdschools.org/teams-departments>) for each period in their schedule. Google Classroom codes and/or Google Meets or Microsoft Teams information for you to join the class session will be emailed to students directly and NOT posted on the Lesher website.
- 5) Follow this **Home Bell Schedule** to begin each synchronous class on time:

SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING TIME			ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING TIME
TIME	BLUE DAY PERIODS Monday/Wednesday	GOLD DAY PERIODS Tuesday/Thursday	BLUE & GOLD DAY PERIODS Friday
8 – 8:30 AM			✓ One-on-One and Small Group Meetings ✓ Complete Assignments ✓ Grade Checks ✓ Discovery Circle-Ups ✓ Enrichment/Interventions ✓ Clubs/Activities (Harmonic Minors, MathCounts, Science Olympiad, etc. when allowed)
8:30 – 9:15 AM	Period 1	Period 1	
9:20 – 10:05 AM	Period 2 – 3	Period 2 – 3	
10:05 – 10:25 AM	Breaktime		
10:25 – 11:10 AM	Period 4	Period 4	
11:15 AM – 12 PM	Period 5	Period 5	
12 – 1 PM	Lunch		
1 – 3 PM			

- ✓ **Synchronous Learning** - Online learning in which teachers and students participate at the same time through a virtual meeting, but not necessarily in the same location. Students will spend about 50% of their overall course schedule in synchronous morning classes. **Asynchronous Learning** - Online learning in which students learn at different times and locations using posted reading assignments, media links, independent practice, homework, projects, activities, etc.
- ✓ Students using personal laptops need to download the [Microsoft Teams Application](#), however PSD prefers students use PSD-provided laptops.



- ✓ **PSD Information Technology Support** during remote learning: 970-490-3339, [covidtechhelp@psdschools.org](mailto:covidtechhelp@psdschools.org). Lesher's **Building Tech. Coordinator/Media Specialist Jen Flippen** can also be reached at 970-472-3811, [jflippen@psdschools.org](mailto:jflippen@psdschools.org).
- ✓ The **week of September 7<sup>th</sup>**: Labor Day Mon., Gold Days Tue./Thu., Blue Days Wed./Fri.

### Other Announcements:

- ✓ PSD Child Nutrition is serving sack lunches and breakfasts at 18 school sites and 61 bus sites. All "Meal Distribution Locations" are listed on the PSD web page. Click "School Meals" and then "Meal Services During Remote Learning." **Any Lesher student can pick up a sack lunch for the day and a sack breakfast for the next morning in the staff parking lot off Ellis St. from 11am – 1pm, Monday – Friday.** Look for the blue tent. Students on the "Free & Reduced" meal program receive free meals and all other students purchase the meals by charging them to their account using their name and ID number.
- ✓ Click this link <https://runsignup.com/Race/CO/FortCollins/FortCollinsYouthXCChallenge> to sign up for a **Virtual Middle School Cross Country Running series** organized by Green Events and Lisa Sinclair. Kids will receive a shirt for joining and can earn another shirt if they log 100 miles this season. There will be 4 virtual races and 1 final in-person race if kids elect to run the final race. This is not a part of PSD Athletics and is voluntary.
- ✓ **Tennis Opportunities.** These are not part of PSD Athletics and are voluntary.  
**Genesis Miramont South**  
Challengers 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Middle School)  
This group is designed for the intermediate to advanced middle school player who is comfortable with all the basic strokes and able to display control, consistency, and directional intent when using them. Prior match play experience is required. Participants will continue to develop their strokes, footwork, and point play skills. This class is intended to prepare players for their middle school tennis seasons and tournament play.  
[Sign up here.](#)  
Days: Tuesday / Friday  
Sunday match play  
Times: 4pm - 5:30pm  
Sunday match play 12pm - 1:30pm  
Cost: Tennis Member \$335 Non-Tennis Member \$395

### Lewis Tennis School

Just starting the game or a seasoned competitor? Middle School players will develop their games to effectively compete on middle and high school teams or to just enjoy the benefits of this great lifetime sport! There are 2 Middle School divisions.  
CHALLENGER 11-13yrs - New players learn the basics of the game, play games, learn scoring and rules.



COMPETITIVE 11-13yrs - Intermediate middle schoolers improve your basic skills, develop more advanced strokes, and develop match skills.

FALL Sessions #1 Aug 17-Sept 12, #2 Sept 14-Oct 10, #3 Oct 12- Nov 19, #4 Nov 19 -Dec 12 (no Thanksgiving week)

4:30-6:30PM at Rolland Moore Park

Monday & Wednesday or Tuesday & Thursday (you may also sign up for all 4 days)

Saturday 1:00-3:00PM at Fossil Creek Park

**FEES:** 4 Week Sessions

*Note: The days you choose to attend must be the same for each week of the session*

\$199 - 2 days per week; \$399- 4 days per week; \$99 for Saturdays (1 day per week); Drop in \$27

- ✓ Join **Lesher's Virtual Running Club!** Even though we're apart, and don't have a fall cross country season, we can stay connected through the awesome sport of recreational running. Any and every Viking is invited! We miss you, practice, meets and our Viking family. Let's keep working together because WE CAN DO HARD THINGS! Download the Strava app and create an account on your phone. Look for the "EXPLORE" tab at the top, CLUBS, and type in LESHER VIKINGS FALL 2020. JOIN OUR CLUB! Every time you go for a run, log it on Strava. Find your favorite trail, route, and run/walk and share! Join our virtual running club at: <https://www.strava.com/clubs/leshervikings>. Jonette (Jo) Dixon, Head Track and Field/Asst. XC Coach, [jonetted@psdschools.org](mailto:jonetted@psdschools.org). This is voluntary.
- ✓ **Chessmates** we will be fully online this fall. All grades are welcome! For more information and to sign up visit: <http://chessmatesfc.com/school-chess-clubs/>.
- ✓ Please keep your student's record up-to-date on **state required immunizations**. If your student has received any shots recently, specifically the TDaP booster required for 6<sup>th</sup> graders, please provide an updated shot record to the Lesher Health Office. You can:
  - 1) Drop off a copy of the shot record to Lesher
  - 2) Mail it to Lesher School Nurse Richard Smith
  - 3) Email it to Richard Smith, [richards@psdschools.org](mailto:richards@psdschools.org), or Cathy Tucci, [ctucci@psdschools.org](mailto:ctucci@psdschools.org)

If your student still needs the TDaP or any other required immunizations, please contact your doctor to make an appointment as soon as possible, and provide the Lesher Health Office with a copy of the shot record. Exemptions need to be filled out online ([www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](http://www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption)). Lesher needs all **required immunization records** on file by the usual November 1 deadline, or students may be excluded from school if school resumes on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Please contact the Health Office with any questions or concerns: Richard Smith, Lesher School Nurse, Cathy Tucci, Lesher Health Tech.



### Final Reminders:

- ✓ Please create your **ParentVUE account** to view your child's grades, attendance, etc. directly from the Synergy student information system via a login and password. Go to <http://www.psdschools.org>, click the PARENTS link, click the ParentVUE button, click the "I am a parent" link. If you already activated your account, log in with the username and password you created previously. If you are logging in for the first time, click "activate my account."
- ✓ The only **SchoolPay fees** for now since we're starting online 1<sup>st</sup> quarter are the student planner (\$6), school instrument rental fees for instruments checked out by Lesher (\$50), yearbook (optional \$40) and Viking Volunteers (optional \$40 suggested). Go to <https://psdschools.schoolpay.com>, find or create your account, pay with credit or debit card anytime, web or mobile. Click [www.psdschools.org/schoolpay](http://www.psdschools.org/schoolpay) for more info., or contact Office Manager Jeannie Mitchell at [jeanniem@psdschools.org](mailto:jeanniem@psdschools.org), or 472-3803.

### Coming Soon:

- A redesigned **The Lesher Difference!** school newsletter.
- 2020-21 **Virtual Back-to-School Night/Car Parade** Tentatively Weds., 9/16, 6 – 8:30PM
- 2020-21 **School Pictures** Date To Be Determined after Labor Day.
- 2020-21 **School-wide On Campus Supply List**. Right now, you just need the materials given out at registration: a laptop, charger, internet connection and your Planner. Individual teachers will tell individual synchronous classes if they need specific supplies.
- We're planning to **expand Lesher's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram social media presence**. Stay tuned...

So that's What's Important Now = W.I.N. Thanks for a great first week of school!

Shine on,

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