



September 10, 2020

Dear Viking Students, Parents and Staff:

Sorry for the delay, here's last week's belated THORSday Update...

NEW INFORMATION

- ✓ Lesher's 2020-21 **Drive-by Car Parade/Virtual Back-to-School Night is Thursday, 9/17, 6 – 8 PM**. Specific instructions will be emailed Monday, 9/14.
- ✓ **Students, please change your profile picture to a student picture for both Google Meets and Microsoft Teams**. It helps teachers learn your names and faces and maintain a climate and culture focused on learning.
- ✓ **Parents received an email on Thursday, 9/10 about Lesher's remote MAPS testing schedule this week**. If possible, please have an adult available to support your child's MAP's testing from 1 - 3 PM on their assigned testing day below. Please help ensure your child's computer is ready for testing prior to testing by going to <https://check.nwea.org/>. If you have computer issues, you can watch this [video](#) that will walk them through fixing those issues. If you are unable to fix the problem, please email librarian Mrs. Flippen at jflippen@psdschools.org, as soon as possible. If you have specific testing questions, please contact Lesher's Assessment Coordinator, Ms. Martinez at 970-472-3854, janicem@psdschools.org. Helpful Resources: [Parent Toolkit](#), [Student Resources](#), [Practice Tests](#) – (username: grow, Password, grow).

	Tuesday, 9/15	Wednesday, 9/16	Thursday, 9/17
MATH MAPS	6th – Math Period 1 or 5 7th – Math Period 5 8th – Math Period 1	6th – Math Period 4 7th – Math Period 4 8th – Math Period 4	6th - no testing 7th – Math Period 2/3 8th – Math Period 2/3
	Tuesday, 9/22	Wednesday, 9/23	Thursday, 9/24
Reading MAPS	6th – ELA Period 1or 5 7th – ELA Period 5 8th – ELA Period 1	6th – ELA Period 4 7th – ELA Period 4 8th – ELA Period 4	6th - no testing 7th – ELA Period 2/3 8th – ELA Period 2/3

- ✓ Please see the **attached annual Lesher IB grading letter**. Student work is graded on **mastery in all 8 subject areas using IB rubrics on 4 IB objectives** with 0 – 8 levels of achievement and **work habits using the 5 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.



- ✓ A few years ago, Lesher hosted a screening of the movie *Screenagers* for families in our Viking Performing Arts Center (VPAC). Click this link to read the 8/25/20 Tech. Talk Tuesday **article [Setting a Sleep Routine for Back to School](https://www.screenagersmovie.com/tech-talk-tuesdays/setting-a-sleep-routine-for-back-to-school?mc_cid=c189ebd775&mc_eid=9d8100f81f)**:
https://www.screenagersmovie.com/tech-talk-tuesdays/setting-a-sleep-routine-for-back-to-school?mc_cid=c189ebd775&mc_eid=9d8100f81f.
- ✓ Lesher students who signed up for the new year-long, 100% online Poudre School District Virtual School (PSDV) were initially co-enrolled with Lesher. However, PSDV grew to approximately 2,800 K-12 students, or 10% of PSD, well beyond its projected 900. As a result, students are no longer co-enrolled and Lesher funds were reallocated to follow those students to PSDV, which is now the largest PSD school. So, on Friday, 9/4 PSD transferred \$119,000 from the **Lesher budget** to PSDV. This comes after Lesher made COVID-induced cuts in March and April amounting to approximately 8%, or 320K, through reduced classified, licensed, and administrative staffing. Lesher's enrollment was projected to be 818, we requested budgeting for 795, and have 713 today as 88 left for PSDV and 29 to in-person options in PSD (charters) or out (private schools or neighboring districts), resulting in 8 less staff at Lesher for 82 less students. So, if you know any students who left Lesher for any reason and would like to transfer back please have them contact Dr. Dodd, tdodd@psdschools.org or 472-3810, prior to October 1. Despite these difficult cuts Lesher is positioned well in comparison to many schools due to thoughtful site-based budgeting to endure what will likely be an ongoing financial crisis the next couple of years. Thank you.

REMINDERS

- ✓ 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 with automated **calls going home for unexcused absences**. 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 Save

More 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 4th 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 1st 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.**
- ✓ 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 one-on-one communications please notify principal Tom Dodd at 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. 6th 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 6th 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 with teachers and students participating at the **same time** through a virtual meeting, but not necessarily in the same location. Students will spend about 50% of their course time in synchronous morning classes. **Asynchronous Learning** - Online learning with students learning at different times and locations with posted assignments, media links, independent practice, homework, projects, activities, etc.
- ✓ **PSD Information Technology Support** during remote learning: 970-490-3339, covidtechhelp@psdschools.org. Lesher's **Building Tech. Coordinator/Media Specialist Jen Flippen** can also be reached at 970-472-3811, jflippen@psdschools.org. Students using personal laptops need to download the [Microsoft Teams Application](#), however PSD prefers students use PSD-provided laptops.



- ✓ PSD Child Nutrition is serving FREE 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 FREE sack lunch for the day and a sack breakfast for the next morning in the staff parking lot off Ellis St. from 11am – 1pm, Mon. – Fri.** Look for the blue tent or school bus.
- ✓ 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. This is voluntary.
- ✓ 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 7th & 8th 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

- ✓ **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 6th 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, or Cathy Tucci, 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). 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 19th for the 2nd quarter. Please contact the Health Office with any questions or concerns: Richard Smith, Lesher School Nurse, Cathy Tucci, Lesher Health Tech.

- ✓ **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.pdschools.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 1st 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 for more info., or contact Office Manager Jeannie Mitchell at jeanniem@psdschools.org, or 472-3803.

COMING SOON

- A redesigned school newsletter, *The Lesher Difference!*
- 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 **expanding Lesher's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram social media presence**. Stay tuned...

So that's What's Important Now = W.I.N.!

Shine on,

Dr. Tom Dodd, Principal, tdodd@psdschools.org, 472-3810

Warren Morrow, 8th Grade Asst. Principal & Athletic Director, wmorrow@psdschools.org, 472-3802

Lisa Crossland, 7th Grade Dean & MTSS Coordinator, lcrossla@psdschools.org, 472-3850

Janice Martinez, 6th Grade Asst. Principal & Assessment Coordinator, janicem@psdschools.org, 472-3854

Abryana Wood, 8th Grade Counselor & 7th Grade M-Z, awood@psdschools.org, 472-3877

Ashley Broody, 6th Grade Counselor & 7th Grade A-L, abroody@psdschools.org, 472-3851

