



# The Lesher Difference

*Welcome to THE SHIP!*

**Principal**

**Dr. Tom Dodd**

**Assistant Principal**

**Grade 8**

**Warren Morrow**

**Dean Grade 7**

**Lisa Crossland**

**Assistant Principal**

**Grade 6**

**Janice Martinez**

**School Website**

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## *Message from the Principal*

Dear Viking F-A-M-I-L-Y (Students, Parents/Guardians & Staff):

I see you, I hear you, I care about you, and I'm thankful for you. That was my message to our students, parents, and staff as we entered the week of Thanksgiving and it continues to be my message as we returned to wrap up our first full semester of in-person learning since the fall of 2019, two years ago. We're working hard making connections, increasing belonging and accelerating learning aboard the Viking ship, but it hasn't been easy. Out of our 783 students, we had 70 close contacts on home quarantine the Friday before break, 2 the Monday after, and 10 today. This resulted from 31 positive cases the last 3 weeks of school. Despite this added workload, our staff continues to focus on our core mission of improving learning experiences and outcomes for our students through developmentally appropriate, engaging instruction.

One of my favorite authors and speakers is Doug Reeves who recently published [\*Fearless Schools\*](#). He writes about psychological safety for students and staff, and more specifically the trust imperative, resilience, and fearlessness in practice. To build and maintain high trust in a high performing school he recommends a steady diet of promises made and promises kept. This can be modeled through day-to-day informal interactions, staff meetings, scheduled school events, School Improvement Plan goals, etc. Stating what is promised and what is delivered is foundational to personal and organizational integrity. Here are some examples of promises we've made and kept to improve our collective efficacy aboard The Ship, which is our staff's shared beliefs about their collective ability to create successful student outcomes, more than just positive thinking, it's collective action...

- ✓ Lesher teachers created a common task aligned with grade-level standards and reflected as a team on student data, focusing on 4 questions: What do we want students to learn? How do we know they met expectations? What will we do for students who did not meet expectations? What will we do for students who already learned it?
- ✓ We hosted our competitive annual Spelling Bee this week and Theo Gregory crushed it.
- ✓ We prioritize restorative practices over exclusionary discipline (out-of-school suspensions) to reduce disproportionate discipline rates.
- ✓ Continue Schoolwide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (SWPBIS) and our Expect Respect Anti-Bullying Program with kindness challenges to build culture.
- ✓ Visit classrooms to observe and support instruction.
- ✓ Pack Thor's Hammer Zone (student section) in Viking Arena to cheer on our boys basketball team.
- ✓ Prepare for our upcoming winter music concerts.
- ✓ Respond to enthusiastic parent inquiries about choosing into Lesher for next year.
- ✓ Welcomed a new Health Technician, Cori Mossel, and new Floating In-house Substitute Teacher Matt Miller to the Viking ship.

[\*Fearless Schools\*](#) promote emotional and mental health by building resiliency in students and staff who are not immune from mistakes, but have the emotional and intellectual ability to recognize mistakes, accept feedback, and bounce back from errors. Let's be fearless... and remember, I see you, I hear you, I care about you, and I'm thankful for you.

Shine on,  
Dr. Tom Dodd  
Principal

## Adopt a Family Deadline Approaching

*Adopt a Family Deadline Approaching...2 days remaining!*

**We have 2 DAYS LEFT for ADOPT A FAMILY! -  
DEADLINE FOR ITEMS TO BE DONATED IS THIS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10! THANK YOU!!!**

This is Lesher's 11<sup>th</sup> annual Adopt-a-Family school-wide community service project and each of the 15 selected families, all from our feeder elementary schools, completed a needs checklist. The families who participate in this program have been identified as low-income or in-crisis and our assistance is important. **EVERY adult and student in our school community can participate in this great community service project!** How you ask?

- Bringing identified essential items (i.e. cleaning supplies, kitchen items, toiletries, food, etc.)...these items are displayed in students' ELO classes and a blank needs checklist is attached for you to reference;
- Bringing gifts or gift cards\*;
- Wrapping boxes in ELO on Thursday or Friday before the big pick up day on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>;
- Donating wrapping paper;
- Writing cards/notes\* to the families (Spanish and English needed); and/or
- Drawing pictures\* for younger family members (annually we mass produce coloring books for ALL children of the adopted families!).

\*Gift cards, notes and pictures will be placed in a sealed envelope and hand delivered to parents to ensure they don't get lost in classrooms. They may be given to the main office with the family number noted on each item.

We welcome assistance from families, local businesses, and organizations. Previously, we have received donations of \$300 in grocery store gift cards from Connections Church/Pastor Jeff Crabtree and \$1,500 from a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball fundraiser to help these families! Please contact us if you have questions or would like to assist Lesher's 2021 Adopt-a-Family project. Thank you so much for your time and help making our Adopt a Family effort a success!

Waren Morrow, AP/AD (970-472-3802; [wmorrow@psdschools.org](mailto:wmorrow@psdschools.org))

Lisa Crossland, Dean (970-472-3850; [lcrossla@psdschools.org](mailto:lcrossla@psdschools.org))

Ashley Broody, Counselor (970-472-3851; [abroody@psdschools.org](mailto:abroody@psdschools.org))

Veronica Carrillo, Family Liaison (970-472-3853; [veronice@psdschools.org](mailto:veronice@psdschools.org))

*continued...*





## Adopt a Family Deadline Approaching, continued...

2021



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of People in Family \_\_\_\_\_

Check the items you need

What kind of cereal does your family eat? \_\_\_\_\_

### Canned Food

\_\_\_\_\_ rice \_\_\_\_\_ flour \_\_\_\_\_ vegetables \_\_\_\_\_ spaghetti sauce \_\_\_\_\_ tomato sauce  
 \_\_\_\_\_ pasta \_\_\_\_\_ sugar \_\_\_\_\_ fruit \_\_\_\_\_ peanut butter \_\_\_\_\_ mayonnaise  
 \_\_\_\_\_ dried beans \_\_\_\_\_ soup \_\_\_\_\_ mac & cheese \_\_\_\_\_ jelly \_\_\_\_\_ baking soda \_\_\_\_\_ dry milk  
 \_\_\_\_\_ coffee \_\_\_\_\_ tuna \_\_\_\_\_ mustard \_\_\_\_\_ ketchup \_\_\_\_\_ salsa \_\_\_\_\_ tea  
 Spices, what kind? \_\_\_\_\_

Pick a store for a gift certificate:

\_\_\_\_\_ King Soopers \_\_\_\_\_ Safeway \_\_\_\_\_ Walmart \_\_\_\_\_ Target

### HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

\_\_\_\_\_ bathroom cleaner \_\_\_\_\_ laundry soap \_\_\_\_\_ kitchen garbage bags \_\_\_\_\_ toilet paper  
 \_\_\_\_\_ toilet bowl cleaner \_\_\_\_\_ fabric softener \_\_\_\_\_ lawn garbage bags \_\_\_\_\_ bleach  
 \_\_\_\_\_ window/surface cleaner \_\_\_\_\_ dishwasher soap \_\_\_\_\_ quart size bags \_\_\_\_\_ light bulbs  
 \_\_\_\_\_ paper towels \_\_\_\_\_ dish soap \_\_\_\_\_ gallon size bags \_\_\_\_\_ sponges \_\_\_\_\_ napkins  
 \_\_\_\_\_ plastic wrap \_\_\_\_\_ sandwich bags \_\_\_\_\_ aluminum foil  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

\_\_\_\_\_ blankets \_\_\_\_\_ silverware \_\_\_\_\_ toaster \_\_\_\_\_ mop  
 \_\_\_\_\_ bath towels \_\_\_\_\_ dishes \_\_\_\_\_ mixer \_\_\_\_\_ laundry basket  
 \_\_\_\_\_ twin sheets \_\_\_\_\_ glasses \_\_\_\_\_ crockpot \_\_\_\_\_ broom/dustpan  
 \_\_\_\_\_ full sheets \_\_\_\_\_ storage containers \_\_\_\_\_ iron \_\_\_\_\_ can opener  
 \_\_\_\_\_ queen sheets \_\_\_\_\_ measuring cups \_\_\_\_\_ coffee maker \_\_\_\_\_ flashlight  
 \_\_\_\_\_ king sheets \_\_\_\_\_ measuring spoons \_\_\_\_\_ pillows \_\_\_\_\_ smoke alarm  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_ pots and pans \_\_\_\_\_ carbon monoxide detector

### PERSONAL CARE

\_\_\_\_\_ shampoo \_\_\_\_\_ soap \_\_\_\_\_ deodorant \_\_\_\_\_ band-aids \_\_\_\_\_ conditioner \_\_\_\_\_ tissues  
 \_\_\_\_\_ mouthwash \_\_\_\_\_ first aid cream \_\_\_\_\_ lotion \_\_\_\_\_ toothpaste \_\_\_\_\_ toothbrushes  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### SCHOOL/OFFICE SUPPLIES

\_\_\_\_\_ pencils \_\_\_\_\_ tape \_\_\_\_\_ scissors \_\_\_\_\_ notebooks  
 \_\_\_\_\_ pens \_\_\_\_\_ glue \_\_\_\_\_ dictionary \_\_\_\_\_ loose leaf paper  
 \_\_\_\_\_ colored pencils \_\_\_\_\_ crayons \_\_\_\_\_ coloring books \_\_\_\_\_ printer paper  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a pet, do you need any of the following?

\_\_\_\_\_ cat food: What brand? \_\_\_\_\_ dry? \_\_\_\_\_ canned? \_\_\_\_\_ kitty litter: What kind? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ dog food: What brand? \_\_\_\_\_ dry? \_\_\_\_\_ canned? \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

**BABY SUPPLIES** \_\_\_\_\_ diapers \_\_\_\_\_ (size) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ wipes \_\_\_\_\_ baby soap \_\_\_\_\_ shampoo  
 \_\_\_\_\_ formula \_\_\_\_\_ (type) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ lotion \_\_\_\_\_ blankets \_\_\_\_\_ bottles  
 \_\_\_\_\_ baby/toddler food (kind) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ diaper rash ointment  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

continued...

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## Adopt a Family Deadline Approaching, continued...

PLEASE USE ONE BOX FOR EACH FAMILY MEMBER NEEDING CLOTHES. SOME WILL BE NEW; SOME WILL BE GENTLY USED.

Family Member #1

Age	Male or Female?	Clothes Needed	Size
		____ shirts	
		____ pants	
		____ coat	
		____ socks	
		____ shoes	
Other			

Family Member #2

Age	Male or Female?	Clothes Needed	Size
		____ shirts	
		____ pants	
		____ coat	
		____ socks	
		____ shoes	
Other			

Family Member #3

Age	Male or Female?	Clothes Needed	Size
		____ shirts	
		____ pants	
		____ coat	
		____ socks	
		____ shoes	
Other			

Family Member #4

Age	Male or Female?	Clothes Needed	Size
		____ shirts	
		____ pants	
		____ coat	
		____ socks	
		____ shoes	
Other			

Family Member #5

Age	Male or Female?	Clothes Needed	Size
		____ shirts	
		____ pants	
		____ coat	
		____ socks	
		____ shoes	
Other			

Family Member #6

Age	Male or Female?	Clothes Needed	Size
		____ shirts	
		____ pants	
		____ coat	
		____ socks	
		____ shoes	
Other			

Family Member #7

Age	Male or Female?	Clothes Needed	Size
		____ shirts	
		____ pants	
		____ coat	
		____ socks	
		____ shoes	
Other			

Family Member #8

Age	Male or Female?	Clothes Needed	Size
		____ shirts	
		____ pants	
		____ coat	
		____ socks	
		____ shoes	
Other			

Sorry, we are not able to supply toys, furniture, TVs, or computers through this program.

2021 Referred by (name of elementary school): \_\_\_\_\_.



## TIME WELL SPENT

Your child's Well Care Visits help us address the following:



Diet & Nutrition



Chronic Health Issues



Parental Concerns



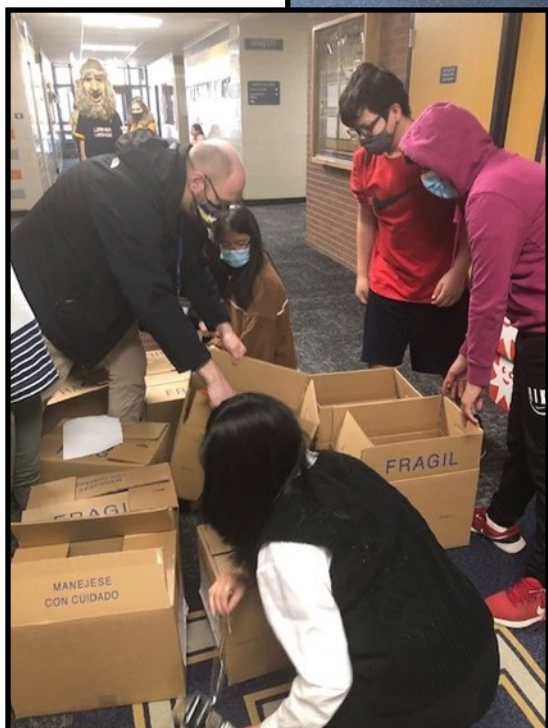
Growth, Development & More



[Click Here to Self-Schedule Your Child's Well Care Visit Today!](#)

## Turkey Round Up a Rousing Success!

Our **Turkey Round Up** was a rousing success! Thank you to all who donated frozen turkeys, on a freezing morning, and canned goods. Because of your generosity we collected **33 turkeys** and 20 boxes filled with canned goods! We appreciate you, and our hard-working NJHS crew, for making this year's Round Up one to remember.



## Viking Volunteers - Back in Business!

We are out of our Covid hibernation, slowly rebuilding our PTO, and would love for you to join us. What does a PTO in middle school look like? Four 45-minute quarterly meetings, 2-3 staff appreciation activities like a holiday cookie exchange, a soup/salad luncheon, and Valentine's treats; a competitive grant program for staff and teachers, whose requests are reviewed and voted on by the PTO, and 1-2 community building events like NordicFest and the Mother's Day 5k, so students and their parents have fun together. For 2021-2022, our goal is to restart the grant program, hold one staff appreciation event this winter, and help run the Mother's Day 5k in May.

Choose your way to get involved:

- 1) Sign up and read our quarterly emails: [http://eepurl.com/2u\\_dj](http://eepurl.com/2u_dj)
- 2) Make a one-time donation via SchoolPay (<https://psdschools.schoolpay.com>) or drop a check off at the front office. A \$50 donation per family is suggested, but any amount is appreciated.
- 3) Come to one or all of our next three meetings: we'd love to meet you! The next meetings are on Nov 29, Feb 28, and April 11: all meetings are at 5:30pm in the Media Center
- 4) Look for SignUp Genius emails to volunteer or donate items for one-time event
- 5) Jump on one of our teams: You do not need to be in charge of anything, but sharing your ideas and suggestions is great! Email Lisa Cunningham at [lisa.m.cunningham@protonmail.com](mailto:lisa.m.cunningham@protonmail.com) to chat about what works best for you.

## Winter Giving

Leshar's Viking Volunteers PTO invites all Leshar families to contribute in support of our amazing Leshar Staff and Students. Invest in Leshar! Giving funds school events, teacher appreciation, and Leshar's unique grant program for teachers with ideas to make Leshar even better. Donations are confidential and tax deductible. Send a check or cash to the Leshar Office with the form below, or make a donation online via SchoolPay: (<https://psdschools.schoolpay.com/>), search "Viking Volunteers Donation".

Want to get involved? Contact: Lisa Cunningham at [lisa.m.cunningham@protonmail.com](mailto:lisa.m.cunningham@protonmail.com)

## Donate Now

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\$20 \_\_\_\_\$40  
\_\_\_\_\$75 \_\_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\_ANY

Checks should be made payable to:  
Leshar Middle School,  
memo line "Viking Volunteers PTO". Please  
contribute by December 20th.  
**THANK YOU**

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## Lesher Music Department

# Thank You



*The Lesher Music Department would like to thank the following businesses for their HUGE support of our annual Poinsettia fundraiser!*

*Joe at Calabrese Greenhouse, Troy at The Fort Collins Nursery, & Sara at Plantorium Greenhouse/Nursery!*



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## Expect Respect Committee

**BE A PART OF IMPROVING CULTURE AT LESHER:** For the last five years, Lesher Middle School has implemented a Bullying Prevention and Education program thanks to a grant from the CDE. As part of the grant requirements, a committee has been established to monitor the implementation of this program. A schoolwide curriculum called Expect Respect is being taught in ELO classrooms, and the committee has been named the Expect Respect Committee in accordance with these efforts. The committee is comprised of students from all grade levels, teachers, parents, an administrator, and community members.

Currently, the Expect Respect Committee is in need of a few more parent volunteers, and perhaps their student(s), to be a part of our efforts here at Lesher. The committee meets once a month (the last Monday of the month) for about an hour each time. Some of the committee's responsibilities include:

- Establishing yearly goals for the reduction of bullying incidents at Lesher
- Reviewing and modifying current bullying policies (if deemed necessary)
- Analyzing student, teacher, and parent survey results on the overall school climate at Lesher to guide the direction of anti-bullying and climate change efforts at Lesher
- Completing the annual self-assessment provided through the Bullying Prevention and Education Grant
- Brainstorming educational events for parents and the Lesher community about the curriculum and other pertinent topics
- Helping to discover blind spots and areas of improvement when we think about keeping our students safe

Please consider being a part of this important and valued group of people shaping the future for students at Lesher Middle School. If you are interested, please fill out this [Google Form](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Kaiti Jones ([kaitlvnj@psdschools.org](mailto:kaitlvnj@psdschools.org))

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[larimerhealthconnect.org](http://larimerhealthconnect.org)

**Happy  
Holidays**

## CHAMP: Recognizing Outstanding Leshar Athletes

Leshar Middle School has been teamed up with CHAMP (Character in Athletics- Make it a Priority; <http://champfc.com/>) for MANY years and we are recognized as a “CHAMP School of Character!” In addition, as part of our CHAMP commitment, every Leshar athletic team recognizes athletes that are the epitome of positive character. These students are nominated for going above and beyond what is expected of everyone else and have demonstrated a track record of positive character in their sport AND academically, behaviorally, and socially as students at Leshar. The following fall athletes were nominated by their respective coaches and recognized by members of CHAMP’s board of directors in front of their peers during a short, surprise assembly in our main gym on November 30, 2021. Thank you all for supporting positive character and **CONGRATULATIONS to this group of amazing student-athletes!** Go Vikings!

**Molly Margenau;** 8th grade female Cross Country

**Max Abernathy;** 8<sup>th</sup> grade male Cross Country

**Ayslee Stone;** 7th grade female Cross Country

**Tobin Rapley;** 7th grade male Cross Country

**Audrey Abernathy;** 6th grade female Cross Country

**Owen Zadeh;** 6th grade male Cross Country

**Yamil Torres;** 8<sup>th</sup> grade Football

**Mason Miller;** 7<sup>th</sup> grade Football

**Cat Maxey;** 8<sup>th</sup> grade Girls’ Volleyball

**Jersey McCollum;** 7<sup>th</sup> grade Girls’ Volleyball

**Garyie Wu;** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Varsity Tennis

**Rowan Mason;** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade JV Tennis

**Theodore Gregory;** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys’ Soccer/Futbol Club



## 2021-22 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girl's Basketball

### Season & Tryout Information

7th and 8th grade students interested in Girls' Basketball will sign up between Monday, November 29th and Friday, December 3rd in the main office.

**PRIOR TO DECEMBER 10th ALL students (including those that were in a Fall sport) must:**

1. **Complete the Online Athletic Registration** at <https://www.psdathletics.org/msreg> (AGAIN if you were in a fall sport);
2. Turn in a **hard copy of Current Physical** from your Doctor's office to Mrs. Downing in the main office. Physicals cannot be uploaded or completed online. A physical is good for 364 days; and
3. Pay the **Athletic fee** of \$120 unless charter/private/homeschool – fee is \$132, or free or reduced lunch eligible student- fee is waived\*\*. Fee will be refunded if you do not make the team.

\*\*If you are on waived fees you must re-apply each school year for waived fee status at the following address: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>. Once you have qualified for waived fees you must log into Parent Vue, click on forms, and click permission to share under your student's name. This allows us to waive the athletic fee. If you are on waived fees you must still process a payment through school pay (log into school pay, select your students sport, add that sport to the cart and it will show up at \$0.00 dollars due), process the payment and bring receipt in with your doctor's signed physical to Leshar's main office.

**Preseason Girls Basketball Camp:** Tuesday-Friday 1/4/21-1/7/21 from 3-4PM in Main Gym

**\*Tryouts are Monday, January 10th – Wednesday, January 12th\* Cuts will be made on Tues. & Wed.**

**7th grade tryouts (must attend every day) ► Monday-Wednesday Time: 3:15-4:45PM**

**8th grade tryouts (must attend every day) ► Monday-Wednesday Time: 4:45-6:15PM**

\*\*After School, by 3:10PM, if you are not in tryouts or practice, you should go to Mr. Van Roekel's room (300A) \*No Exceptions\*

**Practices** will be Monday-Friday, after tryouts, and teams will rotate between the early (3:15-4:45PM) and late (4:45-6:15PM) practice times each week.

**Parent Meeting:** Thursday, 1/20 7<sup>th</sup> grade at 6:15PM, 8<sup>th</sup> grade at 4:45PM in cafeteria after basketball practice.

### **Additional Questions?**

Greg Schulz (8th Grade Head Coach) [gschulz@psdschools.org](mailto:gschulz@psdschools.org) or 472-3860

Ryan Van Roekel (7th Grade Head Coach) [rvanroekel@psdschools.org](mailto:rvanroekel@psdschools.org) or 472-3869

Waren Morrow (AP/AD) [wmorrow@psdschools.org](mailto:wmorrow@psdschools.org)

## Wrestling 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - 2021-22 Season Information

**Mandatory Parent and Student-Athlete Meeting:** Wednesday, DECEMBER 15th at 5:30PM/Leshar

**Open Mats:** Tuesdays & Wednesdays; November 2-December 15 from 3:15-5:15PM/Small Gym 7th and 8th grade students interested in wrestling will sign up between Monday, November 29 and Friday, December 3rd in the main office.

**By Friday, December 10th, you must have the following completed:**

- 1) Complete the Online Athletic Registration at <https://www.psdathletics.org/msreg> (This is required for EVERY sport season. Please complete again even if you have participated in other sports);
- 2) Turn in a hard copy of Current Physical from your Doctor's office to Mrs. Downing in the main office. Physicals cannot be uploaded or completed online. A physical is good for 364 days; and
- 3) Pay the Athletic fee of \$120 unless charter/private/homeschool – fee is \$132, or free or reduced lunch eligible student- fee is waived\*\*.

**\*\*If you are on waived fees you must re-apply each school year for waived fee status at the following address:**

<https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>. Once you have qualified for waived fees you must log into Parent Vue, click on forms, and click permission to share under your student's name. This allows us to waive the athletic fee. If you are on waived fees you must still process a payment through school pay (log into school pay, select your students sport, add that sport to the cart and it will show up at \$0.00 dollars due), process the payment and bring receipt in with your doctor's signed physical to Leshar's main office.

**\*\*Home school students and/or students who attend a school that does not offer middle school athletics will be placed upon request per the PSD Guidelines for Student Participation in Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities at District Schools. Interested parents must contact the District Athletic Office at (970) 490-3332 to request formal placement.**

**Open Mats:** Tuesday, January 4 – Friday, January 7 from 3:15-5:15PM/Small Gym

**Preseason Camp:** Monday, January 10 – Friday, January 14 from 3:15-5:15PM/Small Gym

**Practices** are Monday-Friday beginning Tuesday, January 18th in the small gym and are from 3:15- 5:15PM. Please bring wrestling shoes, shorts, and t-shirt to all wrestling activities. There are no tryouts. Simply sign up and turn in the required paperwork by December 9th to be on the team.

**Additional Questions?** Matt Moeller (Head Coach) [mmoeller@psdschools.org](mailto:mmoeller@psdschools.org) 970.472.3845

Joey Heersche (Assistant Coach) [jheersche@psdschools.org](mailto:jheersche@psdschools.org) or 472-3876

Lee Oldenburg (Assistant Coach – Team Management) [loldenbu@psdschools.org](mailto:loldenbu@psdschools.org) or 472-3859

Waren Morrow (AP/AD) [wmorrow@psdschools.org](mailto:wmorrow@psdschools.org) or 472-3802



## How do you spell "success"?

Leshar's Oral Spelling Bee - In November, every student at Leshar participated in a written spelling bee in their ELA classrooms. The top spellers at each grade level were invited to participate in the oral spelling bee held on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Over 20 students participated in the oral spelling bee and the event lasted 30 rounds! Congratulations to all our spellers and especially our 2021-22 champion, Theodore Gregory, and runner up, Subah Zareen!

Our supreme spellers included: Damariz Avila Lopez, Olivia Bello, Violet Biegert, Miles Davis, Finian Fremstad, Levi Hayward, Fara Hovi, Mile Kala'I, Harper Kenny, Riley Klein, Marco Llosa, Kate Maino, Nesha McKay, Sito McKay, Gwyneth Parker, Tennessee Pawelski, Lila Restrepo, Noa Skinner and Elias Van Horn.



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## Recognizing our Students of the Month

Each month, Leshar Staffuly nominate students who are consistently demonstrating positive behaviors and modeling our IB principles (inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective). Those students are honored with a lunch with Dr. Dodd, a Leshar coin, and a cupcake.



September	Trait	6th Teacher	6th	7th	8th
	<b>Balanced</b>	Van Roekel/Wind	Elise Imsland	Gracyn Redmon	Isabella Bain
	<b>Caring</b>	Van Roekel/Wind	Annabel Brown	Estrella Martinez	Kaija Stafford
	<b>Communicator</b>	Davis/Sutton	Lute Boland	Ramiro Diaz-Patricio	Zachary Burington
	<b>Inquirer</b>	Davis/Sutton	Owen Zadeh	Naomi McClure	Leo Tornatzky
	<b>Knowledgeable</b>	Reyes/Weiss	Michelle Lora-Pardo	Isla Zuniga	Ian Rose
	<b>Open-Minded</b>	Reyes/Weiss	Quinlynn Hunt	Justice Emery	Rowan Ridley
	<b>Principled</b>	Spear/Swann	Audrey Abernathy	Brody Gilson	Halle Hoxie
	<b>Reflective</b>	Spear/Swann	Marco Llosa	Juliet Burden	Harmony Hill
	<b>Courageous</b>	Encore	Sara Davis	Jersey McCollum	Lakin Oropeza
	<b>Thinker</b>	Encore	Jason Ridley	Rafael Ramos-Laffitte	Ganah Elhemri
	<b>Problem Solver</b>				Diego Vega

*continued...*





## Recognizing our Students of the Month, continued...

October	Trait		6th	7th	8th
	<b>Balanced</b>	Encore	Holden Irby	Dillon Allsman	Jake Kirby
	<b>Caring</b>	Encore	Nash Luman	Sterling Holbrook	Jacquelyn Rojas
	<b>Communicator</b>	Van Roekel/Wind	Riley Ward	Indigo Heikes	Daniel Young
	<b>Inquirer</b>	Van Roekel/Wind	Brayson Price	Drake Wilson	Lucca Schmierer
	<b>Knowledgeable</b>	Davis/Sutton	Katherine Galvez Moreno	Aiden McCarthy	Sofia Garza
	<b>Open-Minded</b>	Davis/Sutton	Ayris Peart	Benjamin Stenger	Raleigh Sullivan
	<b>Principled</b>	Reyes/Weiss	Juliana Petrie	Luis Gutierrez Cuevas	Religion Britt
	<b>Reflective</b>	Reyes/Weiss	Grant Glaser	Gavin Chao	Brayden Fleming
	<b>Courageous</b>	Spear/Swann	Levi Hayward	Ian Tiley	Amhia Cruz
	<b>Thinker</b>	Spear/Swann	Maya Leisz	Aubrianna Sifuentes	Caitlin Cripe
	<b>Problem Solver</b>				Elijah Velasquez



November	Trait		6th	7th	8th
	<b>Balanced</b>	Spear/Swann	Finn Cardwell	David Jimenez Campos	Porter Larsen-Peed
	<b>Caring</b>	Spear/Swann	Artemis Baccari	Sasha Herrera Butnor	Liam White
	<b>Communicator</b>	Encore	Violet Benavidez	Lev Achter-Pries	Olive Schelly
	<b>Inquirer</b>	Encore	Audrey Abernathy	Aiden McCarthy	Ethan Kruger
	<b>Knowledgeable</b>	Van Roekel/Wind	Kuba Holubar	Oliver Singleton	Ryland Price
	<b>Open-Minded</b>	Van Roekel/Wind	Dorothy Rapley	Jane O'Brien	Theo Gregory
	<b>Principled</b>	Davis/Sutton	Joe Zukowski	Jacquelynn Lienemann	Molly Margenau
	<b>Reflective</b>	Davis/Sutton	Breck Leeper	Delaney Haws	Audrey Pursley
	<b>Courageous</b>	Reyes/Weiss	Camille Crawford	Pamela Jarquin	Amiah Wold***
	<b>Thinker</b>	Reyes/Weiss	Luke Rusnak	Hannah Freeman	Izaiah Garcia
	<b>Problem Solver</b>				<b>Bradley Fuhrman</b>

## School of Choice Application Now Open for 2022-23

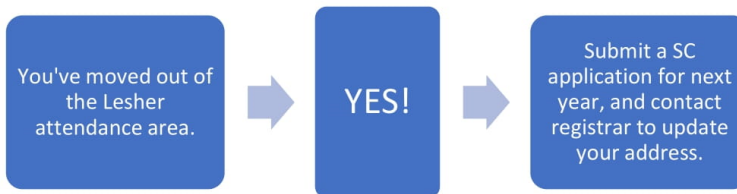
Did your student come to Leshar as a School of Choice student? If so, do they have a 5<sup>th</sup> grade sibling hoping to join them here on The Ship? Then it's time to submit your application for School of Choice for the 2022-23 school year! Parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders interested in attending a High School that is NOT your school of attendance should also submit Choice applications for your student's preferred school(s). The application, and more information, can be found by visiting <https://www.psdschools.org/schools/school-options-choice>.

Some special circumstances dictate that current Leshar students also submit a Choice application to return to Leshar next year. Check out the below flyer for more information!

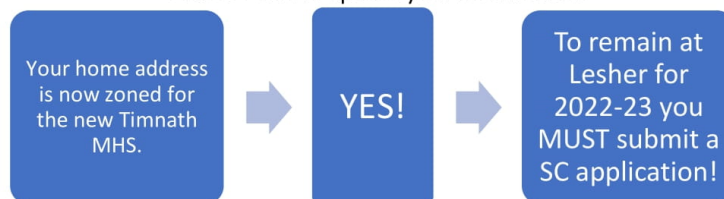
### School Choice is now Open for the 2022-23 School Year!

*Wondering if you should submit a School Choice Application to stay at Leshar next year?*

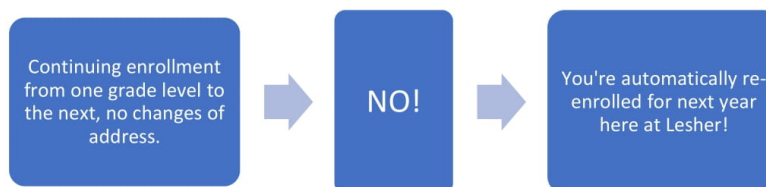
PSD School Choice Application: <https://psdschoolchoiceapplication.com/apply/>.



\*This only applies if you began your enrollment with Leshar as your **NEIGHBORHOOD** school. If you are a School Choice student who changed addresses within PSD, simply contact Registrar Jessica Palin to update your information.



\*Current 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and families who have been re-zoned by the [new boundary changes](#) and DO NOT want to attend Timnath MHS in 2022-23 (or until 9<sup>th</sup> grade) need to submit a School Choice Application. Please remember, transportation is NOT provided to school choice students. **We want you to stay with us!** 😊



#### When does the School of Choice application window open and close?

The first consideration School Choice application window opened Friday, October 1, 2021 and closes at 12pm, Friday, January 21, 2022. Second consideration opens in February and remains open until the start of the 2022-23 school year; however, we encourage families to get applications in during the first consideration window for the best chance of being offered a spot aboard The Viking Ship!

#### When will I know if my student is accepted through the School Choice process?

Invitations are extended via email after the lottery is run the week of Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Invitations are based on enrollment numbers and space availability.

#### Additional questions regarding enrollment, boundaries, or School Choice?

Contact Leshar Registrar, Jessica Palin, at 970-472-3804 or [jpalin@psdschools.org](mailto:jpalin@psdschools.org).

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Information

8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students- It's time to start thinking about the transition into high school. All information about 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition will be updated on the Leshar [transition website](#).

If you are planning on having your student attend a high school that is not your neighborhood school, you will need to complete the School of Choice application by **January 21, 2022** (by noon).

High schools will be having open houses and preview nights, so that families can get to know prospective schools. These dates will be posted on the [transition website](#), communicated in newsletters, and via email.

**Fort Collins High School In-Building Tours:** Those interested in Fort Collins High School are invited to check out their 8<sup>th</sup> grade information [website](#) to get questions answered. Families can also [sign up](#) for in-building tours. To keep groups small and accommodate all interested families, please limit signups to one guardian per student. Tours are led by current FCHS students and masks are required. (Tour dates: 12/2, 12/6, 12/8, 12/15, 12/16).

**Fossil Ridge In-Person Preview Event and Building Tours:** Fossil Ridge is hosting Ridge 101 an informational night for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders on **Tuesday, December 7, 2021** (6-8pm). Tours will be offered at the event and do require a sign up. Find more information on their transition [website](#). Sign up for the [event](#) here and [tours](#) here.

Please reach out to 8th grade counselor Cassie Yoder ([cyoder@psdschools.org](mailto:cyoder@psdschools.org)) with any questions along the way.

## A Message from the Media Center

All library books  
checked out before December\*  
**are due by**  
**December 10<sup>th</sup>!**

**\*7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA HISTORICAL  
FICTION BOOKS**  
**are due by December 16<sup>th</sup>.**

7<sup>th</sup> grade students should keep their historical fiction book until all work for the Historical Fiction Unit is finished and their teacher says they can return it.

*Any library books checked out  
December – February will be due  
at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.*

Students can always turn in library books as they finish them

1. so they don't lose them and
2. so they can check out more books.

If your student still has any books, technology, or other school items from **last year**, please help them return everything as soon as possible. If items are from another school, I will happily deliver them to the right school.

**We welcome back all items with lots of gratitude and no blame. 😊**

Thanks for your help!

Jen Flippen, Leshar Librarian

[jflippen@psdschools.org](mailto:jflippen@psdschools.org)

970-472-3811

## Lesher Staff Member's Citizenship Celebration

It's been an exciting year for Staff Member Sherise Dawkins. Ms. Dawkins moved to Colorado from Florida at the beginning of the school year after accepting a position as our new Computer teacher- landing just before her first day here at Lesher! Ms. Dawkins has conquered a new state, new school, and now, new citizenship! As of late November 2021, Ms. Dawkins is now a U.S. Citizen! We congratulate her on this amazing accomplishment!



## Winter Wonderland

If you, or a friend or family member, are in need of a little extra help during the holidays, check out the below flyer for an upcoming Winter Wonderland event. Please call or email our Registrar, Jessica Palin 970-472-3804 or [jpalin@psdschools.org](mailto:jpalin@psdschools.org) to sign up, or get more information.

WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

# WINTER WONDERLAND

WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY

**DECEMBER 11TH, 2021**  
**3:00-7:00 PM**  
 VINEYARD CHURCH OF THE ROCKIES  
 1201 RIVERSIDE AVE, FORT COLLINS,  
 CO 80524

**GUESTS OF HONOR WILL RECEIVE: FREE KIDS SHOES & SOCKS, GROCERIES, FAMILY PORTRAITS, A HOT MEAL, TOYS, CRAFTS, DESSERTS, BREAST HEALTH SERVICES, AND WINTER WEAR. PLEASE RSVP AS THERE ARE LIMITED SPOTS. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST, MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE GOODS.**

CONVOY OF HOPE    FOCOWINTERWONDERLAND.EVENTBRITE.COM    CONVOY NATION

WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

# WINTER WONDERLAND

WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY

**DECEMBER 11TH, 2021**  
**3:00-7:00 PM**  
 VINEYARD CHURCH OF THE ROCKIES  
 1201 RIVERSIDE AVE, FORT COLLINS,  
 CO 80524

**LOS INVITADOS DE HONOR RECIBIRÁN: ZAPATOS Y CALCETINES GRATIS, ALIMENTOS, RETRATOS FAMILIARES, COMIDA CALIENTE, JUGUETES, POSTRES, SERVICIOS DE SALUD DE MAMAS, ROPA PARA INVIERNO. POR FAVOR RESERVE SU LUGAR YA QUE EL CUPO ES LIMITADO.**

CONVOY OF HOPE    FOCOWINTERWONDERLAND.EVENTBRITE.COM    CONVOY NATION

## Lost and Found

LOST and FOUND ITEMS from 2nd quarter must be claimed by Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Students and Parents, please check the clothes rack and tables set up in the back of the cafeteria for missing items (i.e. water bottles, sweatshirts, shoes, and more)...there are a lot of items there! Only claim your own items and do not take items that belong to others. Please do not make a mess of this area and keep items folded. Any items remaining after Thursday, will be donated to a local charity before Winter break. Thank you.

## Morning Fresh Cash for Caps

If you are a Morning Fresh Dairy customer, please bring in your rinsed milk, juice, cream, or other caps to Mr. Mayer. Leshar Middle School earns money for every cap that is returned. If you are interested in Morning Fresh Dairy, every new household sign up raises \$25 for Leshar. Click [here](#) or ask Mr. Mayer ([bmayer@psdschools.org](mailto:bmayer@psdschools.org)) for more information.



## Mental Health Matters - Holiday Edition

The holidays can be a time of great joy, but also a time of great stress for some. The following resources are available to all families throughout the holiday season:

### I Matter

#### **I want to understand my feelings because I matter**

The purpose of I Matter is to promote youth emotional and mental health. To begin, you will need to take a survey. Try to be honest as possible: your answers are completely confidential and will help match you with a clinician who can best support you. No matter your responses, you will be eligible for 3 free counseling sessions.

If you're 11 or younger, your parent or guardian will have to fill out the survey with you.

Parents, if you feel your child is struggling and needs help, you are in the right place to talk to a mental health professional for free. Seeking support for your child is not a sign of failure—it's a sign of strength. Start by filling out the survey below.

[Click here to start the survey](#)

**Every Colorado youth is now eligible for three free therapy sessions.**

Visit [IMatterColorado.org](https://IMatterColorado.org) to learn more.

**I Matter.**

## Holiday Blues

Feelings of sadness that last throughout the holiday season, especially during months of November and December - are often referred to as the holiday blues or holiday depression. The holidays are usually viewed as a time of happiness and rejoicing. However, for some people, it can be a time of reflection, anniversaries of losing loved ones, sadness, loneliness, anxiety and depression, especially during a pandemic. Read [this article](#) to learn more about the definition of the holiday blues, as well as what might cause these feelings and how to cope in a healthy way.

### United Way/2-1-1


2-1-1 is a confidential and multilingual service connecting people to vital resources across the state. No matter where you live in Colorado, you can find information about resources in your local community.

Check out this Holiday Resource Guide for more details on United Way/2-1-1 on pages 17-25.

# UNITED WAY 211


**HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS LARIMER COUNTY 2021**

**HOLIDAY MEALS + FOOD ASSISTANCE**



Get Connected. Get Help.™

Questions? Contact United Way 211 by dialing 2-1-1 or visiting [211Colorado.org](http://211Colorado.org)  
 Programs are subject to changes.  
 This list does not include all resources available.




United Way  
of Larimer County

# UNITED WAY 211


**GUÍA DE RECURSOS DE NAVIDAD Y ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS 2021**

**COMIDAS FESTIVAS + ASISTENCIA ALIMENTARIA**




Get Connected. Get Help.™

¿Preguntas? Comuníquese con United Way al 211 marcando 2-1-1  
 o visitando [211Colorado.org](http://211Colorado.org)  
 Los programas están sujetos a cambios.  
 Esta lista no incluye todos los recursos disponibles.



United Way  
of Larimer County



**211**

**YOUR CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY SERVICES.**

United Way's 211 Call Center utilizes highly trained information and referral specialists who assist the public and give answers regarding community services in times of peace and disaster.

**PEOPLE CONTACT 211 FOR:**

- Aging services
- Childcare referrals
- Disaster recovery
- Donation referrals
- Food, housing & utility assistance

- Free tax preparation
- Health & medical needs
- Holiday assistance
- Legal assistance
- School supplies

## Why You're Awesome! Planner Powerball and Trash Powerball

Date	Planner Power Ball	Trash Power Ball	Why You're Awesome
12/3/2021	6 <sup>TH</sup> - Brandon Juarez - \$10	Nate Branchflower	Drake Wilson
	7 <sup>th</sup> - Eliot Huntington - \$10	Vanessa Branchflower	Ashley Luna Ortiz
		Dalton Ridgway	Brady Lay
11/19/2021	6 <sup>th</sup> – Bryan Cram - \$10	Joel Vasquez	Thomas Lynn
	7 <sup>th</sup> – Finley Epling - \$20	Joshua Estrada	Charlotte MacQueen
		Nathan Branchflower	Haley Schneider
11/12/2021	6th – Seamus Caywood - \$10	Elan Diercks	Natalie Robinson
		Joel Vasquez	Harper Kenny
	8th – Zach Burington - \$40	Haley Schneider	Pete Dunn
			Greta Ridgeway



## Parent Drop Off and Pick Up

Parent drivers, please use the parent drop off and pick up area along Ellis St. on the east side of our building. We have a crossing guard at the Ellis St. drop off/pick up and you may also use the church parking lot to drop off/pick up, or exit. Please **PULL FORWARD**, yield to the buses, obey traffic signs and speed limits, **DO NOT** block crosswalks or driveways, make U-turns, or leave a vehicle unattended in a handicapped space. Our 4 buses drop off and pick up on Stover St. (West) and Lake St. (North) and we prefer to keep parent traffic away from the buses as much as possible.

### Traffic Safety at Leshер Middle School

1400 Stover St. | Fort Collins



#### In the interest of student, parent, & staff safety:

##### **Drivers**

- Slow down
- Drop-off/pick-up students at designated times & places
- **PULL FORWARD** in the drop-off/pick-up area
- Yield to pedestrians & crossing guards in crosswalks
- **DO NOT BLOCK** the roadway, bicycle lanes, handicap spaces, bus entrances, or driveways
- NO parking, stopping, or standing at **RED CURBS**
- DO NOT make u-turns on streets around the school

##### **Bicyclists/Skateboarders**

- Bicycles should use bicycle lanes & obey traffic laws
- Dismount your bicycle/skateboard on the sidewalk in front of the school & walk
- Secure your bicycle/skateboard on the racks at the north side of the school

##### **Pedestrians**

- Use crosswalks
- Make eye contact with drivers prior to crossing

