Welcome to THE SHIP!

Message from the Principal

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

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 staffulty 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, staffulty 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 staffulty’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 choicing 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 11th 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 11th;
- 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 7th and 8th 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)
Lisa Crossland, Dean (970-472-3850; lcrossla@psdschools.org)
Ashley Broody, Counselor (970-472-3851; abroody@psdschools.org)
Veronica Carrillo, Family Liaison (970-472-3853; veronicc@psdschools.org)

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

2021

Name _______________________________
Mailing Address _______________________
City __________________ Zip Code _______
Phone Number _________________________
Total Number of People in Family __________

What kind of cereal does your family eat? __________________________

Canned Food
- rice
- flour
- vegetables
- spaghetti sauce
- tomato sauce
- pasta
- sugar
- 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: ________________________________

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: _______________________________/n

continued...
**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Member #1</th>
<th>Family Member #2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
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**Other**

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**Other**

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**Other**

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**Other**

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

**2021 Referred by (name of elementary school):**
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](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.
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!
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 (kaitlynj@psdschools.org)
CHAMP: Recognizing Outstanding Lesher Athletes

Lesher 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 Lesher 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 Lesher. 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; 8th 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; 8th grade Football
Mason Miller; 7th grade Football
Cat Maxey; 8th grade Girls’ Volleyball
Jersey McCollum; 7th grade Girls’ Volleyball
Garyie Wu; 7th-8th grade Varsity Tennis
Rowan Mason; 7th-8th grade JV Tennis
Theodore Gregory; 6th-8th grade Boys’ Soccer/Futbol Club
2021-22 7th and 8th 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.psdaletics.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 student’s 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 Lesher’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 7th grade at 6:15PM, 8th grade at 4:45PM in cafeteria after basketball practice.

Additional Questions?
Greg Schulz (8th Grade Head Coach) gschulz@psdschools.org or 472-3860
Ryan Van Roekel (7th Grade Head Coach) rvanroekel@psdschools.org or 472-3869
Waren Morrow (AP/AD) wmorrow@psdschools.org
Wrestling 7th and 8th Grade - 2021-22 Season Information

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

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](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](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 student’s 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 Lesher’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 970.472.3845
Joey Heersche (Assistant Coach) jheersche@psdschools.org or 472-3876
Lee Oldenburg (Assistant Coach – Team Management) loldenbu@psdschools.org or 472-3859
Waren Morrow (AP/AD) wmorrow@psdschools.org or 472-3802

Colorado Trailblazer
“School to Watch”
2020 2023
Lesher Middle School
How do you spell “success”? Lesher’s Oral Spelling Bee - In November, every student at Lesher 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 30th. 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!

Recognizing our Students of the Month

Each month, Lesher Staffulty 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 Lesher coin, and a cupcake.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September Trait</th>
<th>6th Teacher</th>
<th>6th</th>
<th>7th</th>
<th>8th</th>
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<tr>
<td>Balanced</td>
<td>Van Roekel/Wind</td>
<td>Elise Imsland</td>
<td>Gracyn Redmon</td>
<td>Isabella Bain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caring</td>
<td>Van Roekel/Wind</td>
<td>Annabel Brown</td>
<td>Estrella Martinez</td>
<td>Kaija Stafford</td>
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<td>Communicator</td>
<td>Davis/Sutton</td>
<td>Lute Boland</td>
<td>Ramiro Diaz-Patricio</td>
<td>Zachary Burington</td>
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<td>Naomi McClure</td>
<td>Leo Tornatzky</td>
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<td>Reyes/Weiss</td>
<td>Michelle Lora-Pardo</td>
<td>Isla Zuniga</td>
<td>Ian Rose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open-Minded</td>
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<td>Justice Emery</td>
<td>Rowan Ridley</td>
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<td>Audrey Abernathy</td>
<td>Brody Gilson</td>
<td>Halle Hoxie</td>
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<td>Marco Llosa</td>
<td>Juliet Burden</td>
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<td>Encore</td>
<td>Sara Davis</td>
<td>Jersey McCollum</td>
<td>Lakin Oropeza</td>
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<td>Thinker</td>
<td>Encore</td>
<td>Jason Ridley</td>
<td>Rafael Ramos-Laffitte</td>
<td>Ganah Elhemri</td>
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<td>Problem Solver</td>
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Recognizing our Students of the Month, continued...

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<td>Luis Gutierrez Cuelvas</td>
<td>Religion Britt</td>
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<td>Amhia Cruz</td>
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<td>Aubrianna Sifuentes</td>
<td>Caitlin Cripe</td>
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| Problem Solver | Elijah Velasquez |

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

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<td>Spear/Weiss</td>
<td>Artemis Baccari</td>
<td>Sasha Herrera Butnor</td>
<td>Liam White</td>
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<td>Communicator</td>
<td>Encore</td>
<td>Violet Benavidez</td>
<td>Lev Achter-Pries</td>
<td>Olive Schelly</td>
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<td>Inquirer</td>
<td>Encore</td>
<td>Audrey Abernathy</td>
<td>Aiden McCarthy</td>
<td>Ethan Kruger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledgeable</td>
<td>Van Roekel/Wind</td>
<td>Kuba Holubar</td>
<td>Oliver Singleton</td>
<td>Ryland Price</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open-Minded</td>
<td>Van Roekel/Wind</td>
<td>Dorothy Rapley</td>
<td>Jane O’Brien</td>
<td>Theo Gregory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principled</td>
<td>Davis/Sutton</td>
<td>Joe Zukowski</td>
<td>Jacqueylynn Lienemann</td>
<td>Molly Margenau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflective</td>
<td>Davis/Sutton</td>
<td>Breck Leeper</td>
<td>Delaney Haws</td>
<td>Audrey Pursley</td>
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<td>Courageous</td>
<td>Reyes/Weiss</td>
<td>Camille Crawford</td>
<td>Pamela Jarquin</td>
<td>Amiah Wold***</td>
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<td>Thinker</td>
<td>Reyes/Weiss</td>
<td>Luke Rusnak</td>
<td>Hannah Freeman</td>
<td>Izaiah Garcia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Problem Solver | Bradley Fuhrman |
School of Choice Application Now Open for 2022-23

Did your student come to Lesher as a School of Choice student? If so, do they have a 5th 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 8th 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 Lesher students also submit a Choice application to return to Lesher 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 Lesher next year?

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

*This only applies if you began your enrollment with Lesher 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 5th, 6th and 7th 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 9th 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 24th. Invitations are based on enrollment numbers and space availability.

Additional questions regarding enrollment, boundaries, or School Choice?
Contact Lesher Registrar, Jessica Palin, at 970-472-3804 or jpalin@psdschools.org.
8th Grade Transition Information

8th grade parents and students- It’s time to start thinking about the transition into high school. All information about 8th grade transition will be updated on the Lesher 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 8th 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 9th 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) with any questions along the way.

A Message from the Media Center

All library books checked out before December* are due by December 10th!

Any library books checked out December – February will be due at the end of the 3rd 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.

7th Grade ELA HISTORICAL FICTION BOOKS are due by December 16th.

7th 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.

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, Lesher Librarian   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 to sign up, or get more information.
Lost and Found
LOST and FOUND ITEMS from 2nd quarter must be claimed by Thursday, December 16th. 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.

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

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. Lesher 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 Lesher. Click here or ask Mr. Mayer (bmayer@psdschools.org) for more information.
**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.
**Why You’re Awesome! Planner Powerball and Trash Powerball**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Planner Power Ball</th>
<th>Trash Power Ball</th>
<th>Why You’re Awesome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/3/2021</td>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; - Brandon Juarez - $10</td>
<td>Nate Branchflower</td>
<td>Drake Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; - Eliot Huntington - $10</td>
<td>Vanessa Branchflower</td>
<td>Ashley Luna Ortiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/19/2021</td>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; – Bryan Cram - $10</td>
<td>Joel Vasquez</td>
<td>Thomas Lynn</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; – Finley Epling - $20</td>
<td>Joshua Estrada</td>
<td>Charlotte MacQueen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nathan Branchflower</td>
<td>Haley Schneider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12/2021</td>
<td>6th – Seamus Caywood - $10</td>
<td>Elan Diercks</td>
<td>Natalie Robinson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Joel Vasquez</td>
<td>Harper Kenny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8th – Zach Burington - $40</td>
<td>Haley Schneider</td>
<td>Greta Ridgeway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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.

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**Traffic Safety at Lesher Middle School**

1400 Stover St. | Fort Collins

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**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

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![Map of Lesher Middle School showing traffic safety guidelines and drop-off/pick-up areas.](image)