Message from the Principal

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

The sense of community. It’s one of the things we value most about our school. Since the first public school opened in America in April of 1635 (Boston Latin) teachers and students have come together in one space to learn content, concepts, skills, and share experiences. And since the World Wide Web (www) was launched in the public domain in April of 1993 and more recently since covid arrived in FoCo in February of 2020, we have used technology to learn and share in a virtual space when we couldn’t always be in a physical space.

Today, building community and expanding social interaction has become more important than ever. While separated physically last year, we worked hard to maintain pathways for learning, conversation, and friendship, through teacher learning pages, Google classroom, etc. This year the return to fully in-person schooling with concerts, clubs, athletics, student-of-the-month celebrations and monthly school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support challenges (Post Cards Home, Why You’re Awesome Forms, Thankful Calendar, BINGO Boards, etc.) has strengthened those pathways. It’s clear, The Viking Ship is a vital gathering place for all of us. Conventional wisdom holds that the more we are in school the more learning and socially beneficial connections we will experience. But without responsibility and accountability it could also mean higher incidents of quarantine and isolation, which none of us want. We are not a collection of individuals going it alone, we are an inclusive and informed Lesher F-A-M-I-L-Y from diverse backgrounds, joined together to thrive in the present and create our future. It’s in our hands. The quality that sets Lesher apart from the average school is the level of dedication to our collective mission – teaching every student and caring for every family who walks in our door by attracting and retaining the best and brightest faculty and staff.

As we move into 2022, we will continue to make good things happen for other people, promote togetherness, and lift the levels of those around us. We’re committed to providing the inspiration and expertise that empowers teaching and learning in our school. We’re grateful for you, our Lesher community, and how far we’ve come the last two years. More than ever… we’re ready for whatever.

Shine on,
Dr. Tom Dodd
Principal
School of Choice Application - Deadline Approaching!

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 to see if these circumstances apply for your family!

The first-round consideration period for School of Choice applications closes on Friday, January 21 at 12 pm. Please submit your application(s) prior to that date and time!

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?


*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.

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.
Lesher Open House and Curriculum Fair

We’re ready to welcome our prospective Viking parents/guardians and students to Lesher on Thursday, January 13th from 5-7:30 pm when we host our Open House & Curriculum Fair. If you have friends or family members that are considering becoming a part of the Lesher F-A-M-I-L-Y, encourage them to join us for an evening of exploration and learning about The Lesher Difference!
8th Grade Transition Information

8th Grade Students and Families!

As we continue preparing for our 8th graders transition into high school, please refer to our 8th grade transition website for updated information. Also note, students will be taking home permission slips to get signed by their guardians for our February 11th field trip to their projected High Schools.

If your student plans to attend a high school that is not their neighborhood school, you will need to complete the School of Choice application by January 21, 2022. To determine your student's neighborhood school, input your current address on this website.

Please reach out to 8th Grade Counselor Cassie Yoder with any questions.

Email: cyoder@psdschools.org
Phone Number: 472-3877

Come out to Support our Teams!

Wrestling and Girls Basketball are kicking off their competitive seasons soon- show your support by catching an upcoming match or game! Visit the links below for more information.

Lesher Athletics and Activities
ALL Lesher Athletic Schedules

PSD Athletics

Congrats to Molly Margeau, and the District Champion Runner-Up Lesher Cross Country Program!

PSD Athletics: Molly Margenau Cross Country
Lesher Middle School

I'm not in "crisis"
But talking would help...

Free COVID-19 emotional support line (970) 494-9941
Now Hiring!

Lesher is currently looking for a Head Custodian and Registrar (https://psdschools.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx).

If you or someone you know is interested in either position please have them click these links to apply:


Celebrating the season with some special Shipmates

For nearly 35 years, Lesher’s loyal PSD delivery driver Tim Sanchez’s parents, Gil and Cindie Sanchez, with Tim’s help have wowed their West Street neighborhood with an ever-evolving handmade Christmas display that's steadily grown since the late 1980s. They were featured in this 12/16/21 Coloradoan article right before break:
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 to learn more.
I Matter.

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.
**Why You’re Awesome! Planner Powerball and Trash Powerball**

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<th>Planner Power Ball</th>
<th>Trash Power Ball</th>
<th>Why You’re Awesome</th>
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<td>Jennifer Reyes Gonzales</td>
<td>Esmeralda Martinez</td>
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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 Lesher Middle School](image)

**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