



March 18, 2021

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

I hope everyone is enjoying spring break, the snow, March Madness, and for all you college wrestling fans out there – March Matness! 😊 As we excitedly anticipate our return to campus in phase 4 on Monday, 3/22 I'm resending the information I shared in *The Lesher Difference* Newsletter before break. We're so excited all PSD middle and high schools (and nearly all districts in the state) are going to fully in-person learning with 100% of students back on campus 5 days per week. Our elementary schools have been successful with phase 4 since January 18th. No more fully online, 50% A/B groups, and asynchronous Fridays! Lesher had just 1 positive student/staff case in the building resulting in just 7 student quarantines out of our roughly 775 students/staff on campus every 2 days in phase 3 A/B groups 3rd quarter. With students only on campus 25 days in the past calendar year, we will work hard to get them caught up. We can do hard things, and we have. Winston Churchill is credited with saying, "When you're going through hell, just keep going." Well we did, and there is light at the end of this COVID tunnel. We are bringing back our normal bell schedule that we haven't seen since March 13, 2020. We are bringing back Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) the last 40 minutes of every day, but making them more fun and calling them EFOs = Extended Fun Opportunities. We are bringing back softball, golf, track and field, and unified basketball. We are bringing back clubs. In order to keep everyone healthy and [Keep Schools Open](#) WE NEED EVERYONE TO STAY THE COURSE! Approximately 85% of Lesher staff have had their first vaccination shot, and most have had their second. If you can get vaccinated, please do. Glad to see the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) announced today it now recommends that, with universal masking, students should maintain a distance of at least 3 feet in classroom settings (<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0319-new-evidence-classroom-physical-distance.html>). Contact tracing will still follow the same process as in phase 3 during the 2nd and 3rd quarters, if you are within 6 feet of a positive case for more than 15 minutes than you must quarantine for 10 days per new State and Larimer County Dept. of Health and Environment (LCDHE) guidelines (reduced from 14 days). A mask, face shield, plexiglass dividers, etc. while helpful in mitigating virus transmission do not change contact tracing rules and resulting quarantine orders. Wear a mask correctly (We have extra KN95s.). Never pass up an opportunity to wash/sanitize your hands (We have sanitizer in every room.) Watch your distance (No close talkers.). Do not come to school with any symptoms (Play it safe and stay home.). More specifically:

Morning Drop Off/Afternoon Pick Up. The Ellis St. Drop Off/Pick Up Area Gate and Patio Doors to the cafeteria, as well as Stover St. Main Entrance will be unlocked and open by 7:30am every morning. Period 1 begins at 8am. Students may enter or exit the building at either door or where there is a staff member letting them in to increase social distancing at the start and end of the day (exit any door). Students please do not congregate indoors. Keep moving toward your classrooms. Lockers will only be assigned to students with large instruments. We will have a lot



more pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic as PSD is only bussing about 100 students to Lesher on 4 busses rather than nearly 500 on 10 busses in a normal year. You are welcome to use the LifePoint Church parking lot off Ellis St. for drop off and pick up as we have a daily crossing guard there. Please avoid dropping off in the Stover St. or Lake St. bus lanes if there is a bus present and give yourself extra time in the morning. To mitigate traffic congestion around our building while school bus capacity is limited, please consider walking and biking instead of driving. An abundance of resources exist on the SRTS (Safe-Routes To School) website to help kids walk/bike to school, including short educational videos focusing on safety and an online route-finding map to identify safe routes to Lesher (fcgov.com/saferoutes). As the weather gets nicer, we may try to set up bike pools to meet at a central location and ride to school together, like a bike parade, which could be cool. National Bike to School Day is Wednesday, May 5, 2021, and Bike Week is May 3-7 (<http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>).

Bell Schedule. I've attached our Phase 4 Quarter 4 Fully In-person Blue-Gold Bell Schedule 2020-21. You can also find our Phase 4 Quarter 4 Fully In-person Blue-Gold Bell Schedule under VIKING NEWS near the bottom of the front page of the Lesher website (<https://les.pdschools.org/News/2020-06-21-0>), and you can find our blue gold day rotation on the CALENDAR at the bottom of the front page on our website (<https://les.pdschools.org/>). Since we will no longer be in phase 3 A/B groups we will no longer need a blue(A)-blue(B)-gold(A)-gold(B) rotation on campus 4 days per week. We will return to our normal a blue-gold rotation in phase 4 on campus 5 days per week, which the calendar on the back cover of our student planners.

Classrooms. We will maximize distances between students in classrooms as best we can, and use plastic and plexiglass dividers between students when possible. Our teachers will open windows and doors to increase airflow. Dilution is part of the solution. Lesher's HVAC system fully replaces the air in every classroom at least 3 times every hour. Teachers will also continue to take outdoor 10 minute "mask-breaks" each period, and stagger the dismissal of students to passing periods and lunch by grade level as they are able to reduce the number of students in the hallways at once. Classrooms desks are set up to all face the same direction. No clusters of desks, etc. Teachers will teach from the front of the classroom in view of their laptop and near their Smartboard 6 feet from the front row of desks when possible.

Instruction. While in phase 4, fully in-person we will end our hybrid model with students at home and in school at the same time. Teachers will "broadcast," or "live stream" lessons to the extent possible for students home with symptoms or on quarantine by simply leaving their laptop webcams and mics turned on so students at home can watch and listen to the lesson. This is not a substitute for in-person learning. There will be little to no interaction between the teacher and at-home students. Teachers will continue to use their Learning Pages, Google Classrooms, and Microsoft Teams to post lesson materials and assignments. Instructional practices like turn and talk with an elbow partner, or group projects will be limited. Our



teachers see up to 250 students every blue and gold day and will prioritize the students in the classroom in front of them in phase 4 and not be able to work as closely with students at home.

PSD's Virtual Options. For the remainder of this school year, PSD's virtual options are PSD Virtual (PSDV) and Poudre Global Academy (PGA), with limited space availability. If a student wants to transfer to one of those options for phase 4, the family needs to submit a transfer request form to our counseling office registrar Genevieve Steensma (gsteensm@psdschools.org, 472-3804). PSDV is canceled for the 2021-22 school year. Lesher students who want an online, or hybrid option next year are encouraged to submit a school choice application to PGA (<https://www.psdschools.org/schools/school-options-choice>).

Breakfast/Lunch. Lesher students eat lunch with their grade level classmates, regardless of phase. All cafeteria options are served by our cafeteria staff. No salad bar, etc. They have the option of eating in our large 250-student capacity cafeteria, on our main gym bleachers, and outside at the 14 patio tables, 6 large benches, athletic field bleachers, on the grass, or possibly in a teacher's classroom. Our students prefer to be outside during their lunch period even in chilly weather and they are expected to socially distance. If students choose to eat indoors, they will sign-in on a seating chart in the area they sit, in case we must contact trace.

Attendance. As the old saying goes, "If kids aren't here, we can't teach them." The expectation is and has always been that students attend school every day. Attendance is compulsory. Students not in school, on campus will be marked with an unexcused absence. Please report absences via our attendance line, 970-472-3815, or email attendance secretary Jessica Palin at jpalin@psdschools.org.

Monday, 4/19 In-person Student Contact Day Replaced with an Asynchronous Day for Students and Workday for Teachers. Per PSD Monday, April 19th will no longer be an in-person student contact day. It will be an asynchronous day for students and a workday for teachers. Other calendar updates:

- ✓ Spring Break: Monday, 3/15 – Friday, 3/19
- ✓ TENTATIVE CMAS Testing Dates: Monday, 4/5 – Wednesday, 4/7 grades 6 – 8 ELA & Math, Monday, 4/12 grade 8 Science
- ✓ Parent-Teacher Conferences: Thursday, 4/8 & Tuesday, 4/13
- ✓ No School – Parent-Teacher Conferences Exchange Day for Teachers: Friday, 4/16
- ✓ Asynchronous Day for Students/Workday for Teachers: Monday, 4/19
- ✓ Asynchronous Day for Students/Workday for Teachers: Monday, 5/17
- ✓ Last Day of School: Wednesday, 5/26

As always, thank you students and parents for your loyalty and amazing partnership this year. We're proud to serve you and look forward to seeing you back aboard the Viking Ship! Sticking together is a W-I-N... What's Important Now! #LesherStrong #HoistTheSail #AnchorUp



Poudre School District

Lesher Middle School,
an International Baccalaureate World School

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Shine on,

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