

Sigh, today is the last day of spring break '26. I hope you've either had a very fun or very productive week. For me, I had a mix of work productive and around the house productive. I got the spring garden planted, yard work done, pantry cleaned, decorations swapped out. Yes very exciting typical "spring cleaning" jobs in my world. I also spent a few days in Washington DC at a board meeting for the National Consortium of STEM Schools. We had some really interesting speakers this year, from lobbyists for the National STEM Coalition and AASA, the Superintendent's Association to the founders of aiEDU and philanthropic organizations such as the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. Got a good pulse on where we think policy is headed and some specific ideas for LASA.

As a reminder, Monday starts the fourth and last 9 weeks of the school year. I know most students are not excited for tomorrow to get here – this past week gave them a taste of the longer summer break to come. However, this nine weeks go by super quick, so remind your student there isn't time to slowly get back into the "swing of things" or to get behind.

If you have a senior, I encourage you to read just past the weekly schedule. This can be a tough time for seniors, so I have one giant helpful hint there.

Time to update your calendar! Lots of important dates to know at the end of this message.

Weekly Schedule

- **Monday** – Regular A Day
- **Tuesday** – Regular B Day
 - Girls soccer playoff game vs. Victoria West 7:30pm at Giddings
 - Boys soccer playoff game vs. Randle 7:30pm at Dalkin Stadium, Waller
- **Wednesday** – Regular A Day
- **Thursday** – Regular B Day
 - Travelin Toms Coffee Truck at campus before school
 - Parent Meet Up at Central Market 8:15 am
 - (see details for both in announcement section)
- **Friday** – Advisory B Day
 - PTSA Advocacy Series with Braver Angels at Lunch in the library (pizza provided for participants)
 - Cheer Tryouts
- **Saturday** – New to LASA Choice Sheet Event and New Parent Coffee

Senior Parents Please Read!

You know how when your student was younger you hovered a little more? As they got older you, very understandably, allowed them to have more freedom, be more independent, let them take the lead in everything that had to do with school. Well, for the next ten weeks I'm asking you (ok, I'm sort of begging you) to go back to hover mode. I don't know what the psychology behind it is, but I'm sure there is a PhD thesis just waiting to be written about seniors after spring break. Most of them return completely OVER school. Attendance suffers, grades suffer. The problem is that for most seniors there are still classes they need for graduation if not their magnet endorsement. As I told the senior class the last time we met, I cannot promise that I will have the time in May to call them in and put them on a plan to regain credit lost due to attendance. May can be nuts! Even if I have the time to meet with seniors and assign them hours – there may not be enough days left for them to complete those hours. And when it comes to grades, yes, soon most seniors will finalize their plans for next year. However, college admissions, scholarships and admissions to most gap year programs are conditional

on “successful completion” of high school. The definition of successful completion varies from university to university, and from program to program so failing a course, or getting a C, or losing credit due to attendance could all negatively impact those plans.

So, here’s my recommendation. For the next ten weeks, hover! Keep a close eye on your senior’s attendance and grades. Check them at least once a week. Increase how often you are asking about missing assignments, if you see them. Cajole them in to going to school even when they are tired and feel like they want to sleep the day away. And when they truly need to be absent, complete the attendance office form letting us know why they were out.

Senior “Skip Day”

Rumor has it that senior “skip day” will be next Monday, March 30. I want to be clear, this is not approved, nor condoned, by the campus and even though we may know the date in advance it will absolutely be an unexcused absence for your senior. To my point above, check your student’s absences. If they have two or more unexcused absences in an A day class, then “skipping” next Monday may cause them to lose credit in those classes. Also, please be aware that there is absolutely no expectation that teachers change their plans for that day. If you have a senior that means they need to be savvy about deciding whether to be at school this day or not. If they have a test, presentation, project, big lab, field trip, etc. already scheduled, then this might not be the tradition in which they participate. Again, there is no expectation that teachers adjust their instructional calendar. It’s up to students to look in advance at what is happening in their classes and make their decisions/arrangements accordingly. Also, if you have a student athlete whose sport is in season, please remind them of the UIL rules. If a student is absent for the day, they cannot participate in a UIL event until they have returned to school for a full day. That means anyone absent from school next Monday cannot participate that afternoon/evening in a UIL game. Remember this is NOT an excused absence. So, please talk with your kiddo about their current attendance and if this will put them below the 90% necessary to get credit for their classes. With very few exceptions, if a senior is absent on this day, we assume they have decided to participate in the “skip day” and the absence is not excused.

PTSA Advocacy Program – Final Guest Speaker

I wanted to take a quick minute and highlight this week’s guest speaker in the PTSA Advocacy Series. Braver Angels is a national organization that believes that civil discourse and the ability for all Americans to state their beliefs “freely and fully, without fear” is at the cornerstone of our democracy. They give presentations and trainings on how to talk with others about complex and sensitive issues with the spirit of listening. I am incredibly excited that the LASA PTSA was able to get one of their speakers to close out this year’s advocacy series. Whether your student has attended all or none of this year’s advocacy events – this one isn’t to be missed. Can you imagine how different the climate of our country would be if we all followed the “Braver Angel’s Way”?

From their website: The Braver Angel’s Way

- We state our views ***freely and fully, without fear.***
- We treat people who disagree with us with ***honesty, dignity and respect.***
- We welcome ***opportunities to engage*** those with whom we disagree.
- We believe ***all of us have blind spots*** and none of us are not worth talking to.
- We seek to ***disagree accurately***, avoiding exaggeration and stereotypes.
- We look for common ground where it exists and, if possible, ***find ways to work together.***
- We believe that, in disagreements, ***both sides share and learn.***

In Braver Angels, ***neither side is teaching the other*** or giving feedback on how to think or say things differently.

LASA Summer PE Program

LASA will once again be hosting a summer PE camp for students who wish to get part or all of their PE credit completed in the summer. Each week is .5 credit. Be warned, however, daily attendance is mandatory to receive credit. If you know your student will miss one or more of the days during a particular week, then this isn't the PE option for them.

Interested? Step by step instructions and more information below.

Step 1: To Register click the link: [Summer PE Form](#)

Step 2: To Submit payment, click [this link](#) then click the LASA Athletics tab. Summer PE

Payment

This program is for current 9th–11th grade students who have not yet completed their PE graduation requirements.

Program Cost

\$350 per week, per participant (a convenience fee applies as well)

Fees cover: - Certified teacher - Bus transportation & camp; driver - Activity entry fees - Water and snacks

- Students must bring a packed lunch each day.
- Students must provide their own transportation to and from campus.
- 100% attendance is required during the enrolled week to receive credit.

Students may attend both weeks.

Students who maintain 100% attendance for both weeks will complete their 1.0 PE credit.

Program Dates

- Week 1: June 8–12
- Week 2: July 6–10
- Register as soon as possible, only 30 spots available per week
- Registration deadline: Friday, May 8
- Funds are immediately used to reserve activities

Refund Policy

- 50% refund for cancellation requests made prior to May 8

- No refunds will be issued after May 8

For questions or additional information, please contact Coach Gary Howard at gary.howard@austinisd.org.

Announcements

New Parent Coffee

We need volunteers for this event. NPC is where we host the parents of newly accepted Raptors. We are doing it in conjunction with Choice Sheet Day this Saturday, March 28th. The coffee will be in the library while students attend the elective fair! But we still need volunteers to successfully answer parent questions. Please sign up below! This is a great event to participate in, low effort with big rewards. Reminder to us all, we know more than we think we do and definitely more than someone new to LASA who is looking for help and guidance. Please join us this Saturday.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4DAFA92DA3FB6-63086288-newparent>

Coffee at CENTRAL MARKET

Parents, let's grab a coffee and catch-up the Thursday, after spring break. **March 26 at Central Market (North Lamar)**. We'll be there from **8:15a on**.

Please RSVP below just to get an idea of how many tables to put together.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4DAFA92DA3FB6-62841423-informal>

Travelin Tom's Coffee Truck Fundraiser for LASA Volleyball

Travelin Tom's Coffee Truck will be at LASA Thursday morning before school. Preorders close Monday at noon. Here is the link to preorder. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSct2Cr4kLUByLNegbJVHdK1kR11BO4HgvLX14jRF0_Rfo_eTg/viewform

LASA PTSA Scholarship Application

LASA PTSA is offering a \$1,000 scholarship this year. Application and rubric can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zroc984DV4Xrl4dKknWvidxVv8-Zqc4L/view?usp=sharing>

Applications are due March 31st. For questions, please email Heather Roell vpmembership@lasapta.org.

If you are NOT a Senior Parent and would like to sit on the Scholarship Committee, please email vpmembership@lasapta.org. We need a few more people.

Patton Elementary Student Scholarship

Applications are open for seniors who attended Patton Elementary School. Four \$500 scholarships will be awarded in early May. Applications are due April 17, 2026. Click [here](#) to apply.

Calling all Baranoff Buffalo Seniors!

Baranoff Elementary is giving two \$2,000 scholarships to graduating seniors. This scholarship is intended for any seniors who have attended Baranoff during their elementary years. Complete the application to be considered!

Scholarship Application: <https://tinyurl.com/3ska36fc>

Campus Advisory Council Applications

It's that time of year again, we are looking for community members, parents, and alumni to be a part of the LASA Campus Advisory Council (CAC) for a term of 2 years starting in September 2026. Committee meetings are held after school the first Wednesday of the month throughout the school year and run about 1 hour. [Click here to access the Application form](#). The deadline to apply is April 13, 2026.

What are Campus Advisory Councils (CACs)?

Campus Advisory Councils are committees of parents, students, business and community representatives, teachers, principals, and other campus staff. The formation of CACs is required by state law (Texas Education Code, §11.251). Specific functions of CACs include providing review and comment on:

- Campus Educational Program
- Campus Performance
- Campus Improvement Plan
- Campus Staff Development Plan
- Campus-Level Waiver Requests to the State
- Campus Budget

Any current LASA parent can apply to be a parent representative and we are also looking for a community member who has no current student at LASA, does not work for LASA and lives in AISD. This would be a great way for an alumni parent (or student!) to stay connected with the school!

You can find more information about the CAC on the [AISD website](#) and the [LASA CAC page](#) or by e-mailing CAC Co-Chair JoEllen Clark at jmclark96@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Master Class

Supplemental Essays: A Crucial Component to College Applications

Thursday, March 26, 2026

7-8pm

In this interactive workshop, participants will learn why supplemental essays matter to college admissions committees, how to successfully approach different types of questions, and start brainstorming about their own supplemental essays.

After growing up in the Midwest and attending college in the West and graduate school on the East Coast, Kelly moved to Austin, Texas to get a Ph.D. at UT. She wound up staying to raise her two children (one of her daughters is a LASA and Johns Hopkins grad!) and to teach writing at a local liberal arts college. In 2020, Kelly launched her own college consulting business to help students navigate the college admissions process and to share their best selves in their college essays.

Purchase tickets at <https://pflasa.org/product-category/masterclasses/>

Only one purchase per household necessary.

2026 SUMMER STRENGTH & CONDITIONING CAMP (From Coach Howard)

To register, click the link: [SAC Camp Form](#)

To pay, click the link then click the LASA Athletics tab. [Summer PE Payment](#)

Dates: June 1st - June 25th and July 6th - July 23rd

Times: 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Camp is seven weeks total with an off-week June 29th - July 3rd due to all district closure. Sessions will run Monday - Thursday each week and campers will always be off on Friday.

Who: The camp is open to all athletes who will be entering 9th-12th grade and either are, or will be, attending LASA. Campers will be separated into groups based on ages, gender, and experience so that workout plans will be appropriate for a wide range of experience levels.

Where: LASA High School Weight Room

What I Need: Physical/Participation Forms, Athletic Attire & Fee

Completed Physical/Participation Forms:

All athletes will be required to have a completed physical in order to participate, unless they played sports at an AISD school this year and have a physical on file there. Athletes submitting a new physical form must also complete the "Required Online Participation Form." Both the physical and online forms can be found at <https://www.austinisd.org/athletics/forms>.

Please do not mail physical forms in. Athletes needing to show completion of a physical should bring it with them on their first day of camp.

Athletic Attire:

Athletes should wear clothing which is appropriate for indoor/outdoor exercise and close-toed shoes. Additionally, athletes may wish to bring a pair of cleats, a personal water bottle, and a towel.

Camp Fee:

The cost for the entire seven-week camp is \$75. Cash or check only. Make checks payable to LASA Athletics. Partial or weekly payments are not accepted and the fee is non-refundable.

Topic Tuesdays

After weeks of meeting with students for course selection for the 26-27 school year, LASA Counselors are resuming **"Topic Tuesdays"** after Spring Break.

For those of you who haven't participated before, the Academic Counselors hold a virtual meeting just for parents on ***most*** Tuesdays at 11:00 AM. During this time, they offer information on a specific topic for the first part of the meeting and then they have a Q&A time for parents. Please see the list of dates and topics below and plan to spend a bit of your lunch hour with our amazing counselors. Also, take note of the dates that Topic Tuesday is NOT happening due to conflicts.

Use [this link](#) to join on Tuesdays at 11:00!

March 24 - After Course Selection, what happens next?

March 31 - No TT: School Holiday

April 7 - No TT: EOC English I (counselors are assisting with EOC administration)

April 14 - LASA Life Hacks - Parent Contributions Encouraged (more info to come)

April 21 - No TT: Bio/USH EOC (counselors are assisting with EOC administration)

April 28 - College Decisions (College Counselors)

Topic Tuesdays will continue in May. More information to come later!

Coffeehouse

Coffeehouse Contact Information:

Email: lasacoffeehouse2026@gmail.com

Link to signup form for mailing list: <https://forms.gle/v6tYHc6zPe97zgBo7>

Instagram username: @lasa_coffeehouse2026

Follow for up-to-date coffeehouse-related information and media.

Auditions:

Virtual auditions open on 3/23 and close on 4/11, while live auditions are only available by appointment on the following dates: 4/3, 4/7, 4/9.

The form to sign up for a live audition is due on 4/1. Participants will be notified of their time slot via email after the form closes.

Audition decisions will all be released on 4/17.

Live auditions form: <https://tinyurl.com/2ruw34yf>

The live auditions form is due on 4/1.

Virtual auditions form: <https://tinyurl.com/34wkve9f>

Decisions are made with consideration of the musical acts submitted to or performed for the auditions committee. After an audition is performed or submitted, participants will not have the opportunity to change their act (song subject matter or people involved) prior to the show.

Additional Information:

The live auditions form just includes performance information, not the song itself (members, piece name, instrumentation, etc).

Coffeehouse 2026 will consist of only music-based performances, which includes any act with a musical component as either the focal point or notable accompaniment.

Accolades

Full Orchestra UIL Success

Please help us in congratulating the members of the 2026 Raptor Full Orchestra in earning sweepstakes at our UIL Concert and Sight-Reading evaluation last week! The ensemble earned straight Division 1 Superior ratings from all six judges, both on the concert and the sight-reading portions of the evaluation. The students successfully performed an ambitious program featuring Le Cid Overture by Massenet, the second movement of the Elgar Serenade for Strings, and Overture in G minor by Bruckner. We always look forward to our full orchestra community coming together to play some of the most exciting repertoire in existence and appreciate everyone's support and encouragement along the way!

Girls Soccer Playoff Win

Girls Varsity Soccer had a nail biter win in their bi-district playoffs last week. The game ended in a 2-2 tie and went to overtime and then penalty kicks. With amazing offense by Shivani and Violet and terrific defense by goal keeper Adel, the Raptors emerged victorious! Come see us in our playoff game against Victoria West on Tuesday at 7:30 at Giddings High School.

Boys Soccer – 4th District and Bi-District Champion in a Row

LASA Varsity Boys Soccer are 4X Bi-District Champions after winning their Bi-District playoff match on March 20th! The Nelson Field stands were full of family, friends and alumni cheering them on. The team heads to Area Playoffs next week. Varsity will continue their playoff run Tuesday at 7:30 against Randle at Dalkin Stadium in Waller, TX.

LASA vs Elgin HS 3-0

On March 10th all three teams had a sweep against Crockett with Varsity becoming District Champions!

JVB- 2-0

JVA- 2-0

Varsity- 4-0

LETS GO RAPTORS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

LASA Students Shine During the 2025-2026 Reflections Program!

Texas PTA proudly celebrates the incredible creativity of students across the state! This year, more than 870 student entries advanced for state-level judging, showcasing remarkable talent, imagination, and artistic expression inspired by this year's theme. We are thrilled to recognize over 600 student artists with state-level awards. Five LASA Students have been recognized by the LASA PTSA, the Austin Council PTA, the Texas PTA this year with one student making it to the National PTA Competition (results will be announced the first of May, 2026).

These incredible student artists are:

Ananth Pakanati for Literature

Grant Ratcliffgardy for Music Composition

Piper Meley for Photography

Sadie Sarrat for Dance Choreography

Zixuan (Camille) Mei for Visual Arts

Camille has achieved the "Overall Award of Excellence," which elevates her to the National PTA Reflections competition level. Congratulations, Camille!!!!!!

LASA SCIO SWEEPS UT REGIONALS

On March 7th, both our A and B teams competed at the annual UT Regional Tournament at the University of Texas at Austin, placing in the top 3 in individual events a grand total of 37 times!! We finished first overall and added a shiny new trophy to our collection.

- Anatomy and Physiology (1) - Archith Venkatagiri, Tanish Alluru
- Astronomy (3) - Harihaar Ayyappa, Camille Mei
- Boomilever (2) - Ishaan Adoni, Jaechan Lee
- Boomilever (3) - Purushottam Jonnala, Varun Gadiparthi
- Bungee Drop (3) - Prahalad Prithivathi, Pragya Baskaran
- Chemistry Lab (1) - Yiduo Wu, Archith Venkatagiri
- Chemistry Lab (2) - Srihitha Papisetti, Zoya Sharma
- Circuit Lab (1) - Prahalad Prithivathi, Seth Mueller
- Codebusters (1) - Edwin Feng, Rishi Kantamneni, Ishaan Adoni
- Codebusters (2) - Purushottam Jonnala, Aditya Adapa, Aadyan Lakku
- Designer Genes (1) - Tanish Alluru, Archith Venkatagiri
- Disease Detectives (1) - Pragya Baskaran
- Dynamic Planet (2) - Evie Ho, Ishaan Adoni
- Dynamic Planet (3) - Harihaar Ayyappa, Zoya Sharma
- Electric Vehicle (1) - Tejas Bhagawatula, Keshav Korattur
- Engineering CAD (1) - Luke Jurbergs, Jaechan Lee
- Entomology (2) - Archith Venkatagiri, Henry Liu
- Entomology (3) - Olivia Rojo, Zachary Fisher
- Experimental Design (1) - Edwin Feng, Pragya Baskaran, Ishaan Adoni
- Forensics (1) - Henry Liu, Pragya Baskaran
- Helicopter (1) - Clint Lee, Yiduo Wu
- History of Science (1) - Tanish Alluru, Pragya Baskaran
- History of Science (2) - Aadyan Lakku, Varun Gadiparthi
- Hovercraft (1) - Luke Jurbergs, Jaechan Lee
- Machines (2) - Edwin Feng, Jaechan Lee
- Machines (3) - Shaan Chawla, Aditya Adapa
- Remote Sensing (1) - Seth Mueller, Evie Ho
- Remote Sensing (2) - Tejas Bhagawatula, Zoya Sharma
- Robot Tour (1) - Rishi Kantamneni, Ishaan Adoni
- Rocket Science (1) - Prahalad Prithivathi, Henry Liu
- Rocks and Minerals (2) - Edwin Feng, Henry Liu
- Rocks and Minerals (3) - Zoya Sharma, Varun Gadiparthi
- Science Word (2) - Tanish Alluru, Archith Venkatagiri
- Science Word (3) - Olivia Rojo, Camille Mei
- Silicon Showdown (1) - Prahalad Prithivathi, Seth Mueller, Rishi Kantamneni
- Water Quality (2) - Archith Venkatagiri, Henry Liu
- Water Quality (3) - Olivia Rojo, Zachary Fisher

Thank you to all our parent chaperones and our coach, Ms. Cong. We couldn't have done this without all your support! Next stop: College Station, Texas on April 17-18. State, here we come!!

Calendar Update

March 28 – New to LASA Choice Sheet Event and New Parent Coffee

March 31 – No School for Students or Staff

April 1 – CAC Meeting

April 6 – No School for students, Staff Development day for teachers

April 7 – English 1 EOC

April 8 – English 2 EOC

April 10 – Noche de las Estrellas

April 15 – Biology and US History EOCs

April 17 – Kpop Night

April 18 – Spring Dance sponsored by Cheer

April 23 – Algebra 1 EOC

May 4 – 15 – AP Exams

May 6 – CAC Meeting (Tentative date)

May 15 – Coffeehouse

May 19 – A cubed (Trustee Awards)

May 22, 26, 27 & 28 – Final Exams (Half days)

May 25 – No School for Students or Staff

May 28 – Last day of school for 24-25 school year

May 31 – Senior Salute

June 1 – Graduation

June 1 – Project Graduation