

## Friday Message: August 30th, 2024

### **Principal's Message:**

This week begins our talk about the upcoming Student Led Conferences. They are still several weeks away, but I'd like you to mark your calendar and plan to attend on October 23rd. Last year we introduced Student Led Conferences to our community and it was met with overwhelming positive feedback from families. Last Fall 85% of our Lakeside families participated in Student Led Conferences. Here is how one family felt afterwards: *I love the student led conference. It makes the child engaged in their learning. It gives them the opportunity to talk about what they are learning and get comfortable explaining their studies. I like that if you have additional questions the teacher is still there.*

We received over 120 pieces of written feedback and the majority sounded a lot like this. We spend time preparing for the conferences and it is an evening where your child can celebrate with you their accomplishments so far in the school year. Although sometimes it's hard for this age range to show appreciation, showing up is important. The evening is flexible, you can drop in any time between 4:30-7:30 with your student and plan to spend about an hour.

Another parent shared last year: *I don't think there should be such an emphasis on making it absolutely mandatory.* I admit I was insistent in my messaging that families show up for the evening last year and I will take that feedback and tone it down. We feel it's a big deal and treat it that way in class while investing time in preparation. You can expect consistent, but softer messaging leading up to the event.

Finally, several families shared a similar sentiment like this: *I really appreciated the student led conference. I wish there was a way to have more conversation with the teachers just to get feedback as well.* This year, after the student led night we will have an opportunity for any parents interested to sign up to speak to their teacher directly in a traditional format. We learned last year most families were satisfied with student led conferences and by adding a second evening we will be able to support families who shared they want a one on one conversation.

Your feedback from last year was much appreciated and I hope the adjustments we've made will enhance what we started last year. We are excited about the event and can't wait to see you on October 23rd!

---

### **Next Week at Lakeside:**

#### **Monday, September 2nd: No School**

Labor Day Holiday - All schools are closed

#### **Tuesday, September 3rd: Black Day**

**Wednesday, September 4th: Teal Day**

Fall Growth Testing / [Testing Schedule](#)

6:30 PM: PTO meeting in the Library

**Thursday, September 5th: Black Day**

Fall Growth Testing / [Testing Schedule](#)

**Friday, September 6th: Teal Day**

---

**Coming Soon:**

- **Friday, September 13th:** School Dance 4:00-5:30
  - **Tuesday, September 17th:** Back to School Night 5:30-7:00
  - **Friday, September 20th:** Picture Day
  - **Friday, October 4th:** Multicultural Night 6:00-7:30 (see below)
  - **Wednesday, October 23rd:** Fall Conferences (Student Led Night) 4:30-7:30
  - **Thursday, November 14th:** Fall Conferences (Parent/Teacher) 4:30-6:30 - Zoom
- 

**From the Counselors:**

As the year gets rolling, we try to provide snacks for students who may not be able to make it through the school day without a food break. We have an [Amazon Wish List](#) that we like to share with our families. If you are able to help, we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you!

---

**From the PTO:**

**Please join us:** Our next PTO meeting is Wednesday, September 4th at 6:30pm in the library.

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

Thanks to your generous donations our hospitality team was able to not only Stock the Lounge with lots of goodies for a strong start to the school year but also treat the staff to La Flor popsicles last week. Thank you so VERY much and check out our facebook page to see pictures!

---

**News from Lakeside:**

1. **Friday, October 4th: Multicultural Night 6:00-7:30:** We would like to invite you all to be a part of this special event. We are looking to have families set up a table to represent your family's culture (country/ state of origin). You can choose to represent your family's culture by creating posters, slideshows, bringing artifacts, dressing in traditional clothing, bringing and sharing a sample of traditional food, singing, and or dancing. We would love to have as many families represented as possible. If interested, please contact Mrs. Summers or Ms. Hernandez. ([csummers@k12albemarle.org](mailto:csummers@k12albemarle.org); [ehernandez@k12albemarle.org](mailto:ehernandez@k12albemarle.org)) Please include your name, your child's name, and the culture you will be representing by Friday, September 20th.

2. **MathCounts Sign Up Form:** All interested students should sign up using the form linked below.

MathCount is a competitive Math problem solving team. There are individual and team competitions at the Regional and State levels. Students work to solve advanced Math problems as quickly and accurately as possible. The Fall season will have weekly practices from 4:05-5:30 and runs from 9/16-1/17. Students will meet in Mrs. Kwon's room.

If interested, please fill out the following form to receive more information:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdk7qzIfKBBZjTGIQIAhgQYhTJRJ0Lcl-2c1qttxDujsgRYew/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdk7qzIfKBBZjTGIQIAhgQYhTJRJ0Lcl-2c1qttxDujsgRYew/viewform?usp=sf_link)

3. **French Club:** Start your Tuesday morning with [French Club!](#) The Alliance Française of Charlottesville will be offering a fun morning of learning French through the world of food. We will enjoy games and role playing with French markets, cafés, and more!
4. **Time to verify your student information:** You can now login to Parent Portal and verify that all of your student information is correct. We appreciate you verifying everything, even if nothing changes. If you verify online, we won't need to send home a paper copy in October.

How to Get Started:

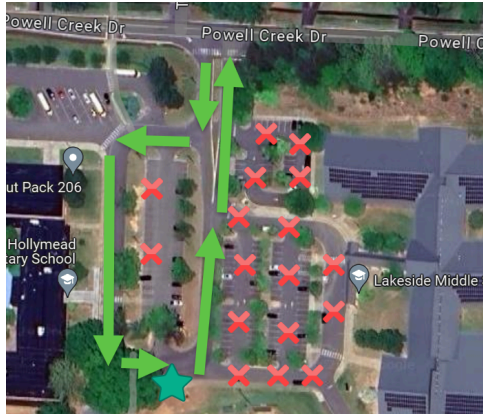
- Log In: Sign in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you don't have an account, please contact the school for assistance.
- Select Your Student: Choose the student you wish to update from the top menu.
- Start Verification: Click on "Student Registration Verification" from the sidebar or the "Applications" icon.
- Access the Form: Enter your student's date of birth to verify your identity and access the form.
- Review and Submit: Review the information, make any necessary changes, and submit.

5. If you are interested in representing Lakeside Middle School on the **Talent Development Advisory Committee** this year, please fill out the interest form found at the link below. This group provides input on the execution of ACPS' *Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted*. Members will meet in person four times a year at the Albemarle County Office Building (October 21, January 13, March 10, and May 19) from 5:00-6:00 p.m.  
Interested? Please sign up [here](#).
  
6. **ACPS's New Classroom Management Tool:** As part of ACPS's commitment to creating a safe and focused learning environment for our students, ACPS teachers (grades 3-12) will have access to a new classroom management tool that will help them better connect with student devices during classes. This tool, called [Classroom Management](#), works in tandem with our internet filter and will provide teachers with a number of helpful features, including:
  - a. Easily view student screens in real time to help provide students with guidance and support.
  - b. Focus student attention on learning resources to help minimize distractions.
  - c. Pause student access to the internet to focus on other classroom tasks.

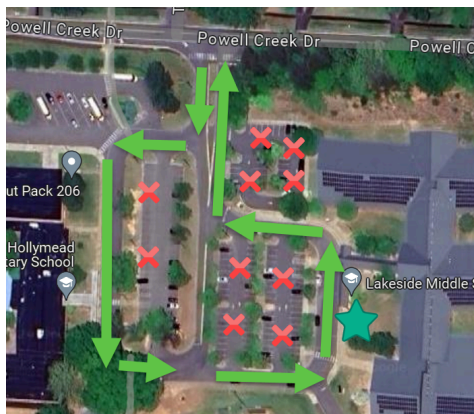
Please note that student devices will not be monitored by Classroom Management outside of school hours or off school campuses. Our internet filter remains in place on school devices at all times, but once they are home, teachers cannot monitor students. We believe this classroom management tool will support maximizing class time for student learning. We appreciate your support and feedback as we work to maintain a healthy learning environment for our students.

7. This fall, the **University of Virginia's Society of Women Engineers** will be hosting Middle School visitation, a half-day event on Sunday, November 17th where we invite middle school girls to UVA for a day of fun activities and exploration! Our goal is to give young women (cis and trans) and non-binary middle school students exposure to engineering fields and UVA's engineering curriculum through lab tours and interactive design activities. This event is completely free of charge, and we will be providing the girls with lunch. For more information, please see the LMS website.
  
8. **Pick up and Drop off Information:** You all have been doing a great job! Remember for drivers - no parking lots and no shortcuts - stay the course. Remind your students to stay on sidewalks and use crosswalks. With that we will continue to have a safe arrival and dismissal for everyone.

Drop Off:



Pickup:



---

### Notice of upcoming surveys:

We thank you and your family for being our valued partners as we work together to educate the children in our district. As you may already be aware, building our social-emotional learning skills is an essential goal for our school this year. During the months of October and November, students and teachers will participate in several exercises to better understand these concepts and to reflect on how they perceive these skills in themselves.

We will be asking for your child to reflect on their own mindsets and approaches to learning through the administration of the Panorama School Climate Survey (10/4), the DESSA Universal SEL Screener (10/4), and our Anti-Bullying Peer Nomination Survey (10/21) .

The Panorama School climate survey will include content that will ask students to self-reflect on their sense of belonging, school safety, the value of school, rigorous expectations, school climate, and cultural awareness. The DESSA self assessment survey will ask students to answer questions about their strengths in the following (CASEL aligned) social emotion categories; self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, goal directed behavior, relationship skills, personal responsibility, decision making, and optimistic thinking. Lastly, students will be asked to participate in our Anti-Bullying Peers Nominations

Survey. This survey gives students a chance to raise their voice to help their peers. They anonymously nominate peers who they feel might have been bullied and speak out to address things they are seeing within the school that concern them.

We are asking that all of our students participate in the surveys, as their responses will provide invaluable insights into their experiences and how we can improve and adapt our district to their needs. If a student doesn't feel like they have enough information to answer a question, they will be able to skip the item altogether. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your school principal.

---

### **Lakeside Middle School**

Main Office: 434-975-0599

Report Attendance: [imsattendance@k12albemarle.org](mailto:imsattendance@k12albemarle.org) or call 434-975-0599

#### **Administration:**

[Michael Craddock](#), Principal

[Craig Smith](#), Assistant Principal

#### **School Counselors:**

[Anna Hill](#) - 6th Grade

[Cabell Guy](#) - 7th Grade

[Heather Lindsay](#) - 8th Grade

#### **Staff Directory**

Follow us on Instagram at [lakesidems\\_sharks](#)