

LOWER CAPE MAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

LAWRENCE ZIEMBA, PRINCIPAL

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Assistant Principal
Peter Daly

Assistant Principal
Desiree Vargas

August, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Lower Cape May Regional High School Student,

I hope you have enjoyed a safe, restful, and healthy summer. I now ask you to turn your attention to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. I hope that all students return to school with a renewed spirit and determination to be successful. I am pleased to share with you the Lower Cape May Regional High School Reopening Plan. This plan is the work of our Reopening Task Force which met to analyze aspects of school with the changing dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The plan is created the consideration of all students, faculty, and staff.

- Commitment to the health, safety, and welfare of everyone.
- Commitment to social responsibility and individual accountability.
- Commitment to academic excellence and student success.
- Commitment to transparency and shared governance.
- Commitment to Lower Cape May Regional High School and community.

Keeping students, faculty and staff safe and healthy is our number one responsibility. There is risk in bringing students, faculty and staff back to campus. However, it is a manageable and acceptable risk when each of us does our part. How you behave now will impact the reopening of LCMRHS. How you behave when you return to LCMRHS will impact our ability to remain together. In other words, you may think that you can disregard expert medical advice now and be OK when you return to school - that is just not the case. You might think that once you're back in school you can resume typical social behavior. This is also not the case. Quite simply, we need everyone's commitment to these public health best practices:

- **Wearing a face covering.** At a minimum, face coverings are required when in the building except when eating and/or drinking. As our medical experts have told us on numerous occasions, this is the number one measure in reducing the risk to others. We will provide masks for you to wear, or you can wear your own appropriate mask.
- **Washing hands and personal hygiene.** This is an essential behavior to fight infectious diseases, whether it is COVID-19, the flu, or the common cold.
- **Contact tracing.** If you were to test positive for the virus, contact tracing would provide a ready data set on people you had been in close contact who might have been exposed to the virus. This helps ensure they don't unknowingly spread the disease to others.
- **Physical distancing.** I know it is difficult to maintain physical distance, but we must adhere to the 6 ft. standard whenever possible. We must especially adhere to this in areas where we are most vulnerable to the risk of transmitting and contracting the virus and finding the greatest possibilities of transmitting the virus.

Following these basic steps will keep you safe, and our school open. The last thing we want to do in the fall is suspend in-person school completely and return to only distance learning. If you hold yourself accountable, our infection numbers could stay low, and we will have a better chance of staying open. I want to thank the participants on this committee who have worked hard to put this plan in place.

This plan will continue to evolve as the public health environment changes. At any point before or after the start of the school, we must prepare to change course. LCMRHS will do our best to respond thoughtfully to any scenario and will keep you informed at every turn.

LCMRHS offers numerous opportunities through its extensive academic and extracurricular programs. Students have everything to gain by taking advantage of these opportunities. You will get out of school as much as you put into it. The characteristics which lead to success in high school are the same characteristics which lead to success in life. I urge you to make a commitment now to make your high school experience an enjoyable and productive one.

Please note that all pertinent information and important forms necessary to begin the school year are available online and are no longer included in the summer mailing. Please log on to our school website at www.lcmrschooldistrict.com/backtoschool-lcmr, and follow the links indicated under “High School” and select “Back to School Information and Forms.” On our website, you will find the following important materials, including:

- a) Student’s schedule for the upcoming school year (Available to view on August 24). This can be viewed by logging into PowerSchool and using the parent and/or student ID number and password. Student bus passes, locker assignments, and combinations are also indicated on this link.
- b) Students will be assigned a team. (Caper, Tiger, Spirit, Pride) Each team will be assigned days to attend school. The initial plan is to have students attend school at 25% capacity the first two weeks, then grow to 50% capacity. Simply check the school calendar and student schedule to see what day your student is to report to LCMRHS. If your team is not physically reporting to LCMRHS, then you will participate in distant learning for the day. Log in codes for Google Classroom accounts will be given to students by individual teachers.
- c) Medical forms which need a parent signature and must be returned to our nurse’s office. These include: request for the nurse to administer medications to your teenager, emergency medical information forms, parent notification of scoliosis testing, NJ immunization system forms and school insurance information. Again, there are forms on this link which must be downloaded, signed by a parent, and returned to school.
- d) Notice of parent rights under FERPA form and notice of disclosure of student directory information to military recruiters and parent option to restrict disclosure.
- e) Free and reduced lunch applications are due back to Cafeteria Services no later than September 30th.

Please take the time to access the above forms and information and return all necessary forms to the high school office by the dates indicated. If you do not have internet access, or you are experiencing difficulty accessing any of the information on our website, you may contact the high school tech line for assistance at 609-884-3475 ext. 611.

It is imperative that all students and parents read and familiarize yourself with the information in the Student Handbook/Calendar Agenda. It is especially important you understand the discipline code and attendance policy. This book will be distributed to all students during the first week of school and is online through the school website. Attendance must be a priority for every student and every family. Attendance will be taken for students present in class and for students participating in distance learning. Students ill and home but attend distance learning classes will receive credit for attendance. There are students who received no credit last year because they erroneously believed excessive absenteeism would be overlooked. Every absence from in-person education and distance learning should be reported to the school and a note of explanation must be provided upon the student’s return. It is strongly recommended that all parents and students pay particular attention to those sections of the handbook pertaining to the school dress code and the attendance policy.

Students that participate in after-school activities and are not in school due to distance learning can use school buses to return to school. If a student is absent from school for in-person education or distance learning, then they may not participate in after-school activities that day. Students can report to their bus

stop and wait for the bus to arrive. Once students returning from school to home exit the bus, then students wanting to go back to school can get on the bus. Students will be dropped off at the high school front entrance. Students will then directly report to the coach or teacher responsible for supervision.

Students will be permitted to pick-up Chromebooks on the following days:

Grade 12 and 11	September 1	9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Grade 10 and 9	September 2	9:00 am - 1:00 pm
All Grades	September 3	9:00 am - 11:00 am

Students can simply drive up to the front of the school to receive their Chromebook. The process will be similar to the collection of Chromebooks last June.

On the week of September 8, 2020, students on the team selected to be in school should report to the classroom designated on their schedule. Students not in school should log in to the teachers Google Classroom account and participate in class via distance learning **Please note that school will begin each day at 7:45 a.m.** All students will be instructed to log into classes with their Chromebook whether they are in school or at home. Teachers will take attendance using PowerSchool. Students at home will be required to “log in” on time for classes. Teachers will instruct students when they can exit from Google Meet.

It is important you realize that the scheduling process in a high school, with nearly 800 students, is very complex. It is simply impossible to change schedules unless we have made an error that will impact on a student’s ability to graduate, or you have not been rescheduled for a class that you failed. We will also make schedule changes if there is a conflict, if there is a missing course, or if a student who failed a course and has the same teacher (although at times this is unavoidable). **Students and parents must understand that schedules cannot be changed to accommodate individual requests for specific teachers, a sequencing of courses during the day, or simply to be with friends.**

There will be some valid reasons to talk or meet with guidance counselors. You may make requests for schedule changes, but those changes will NOT be made unless they meet the limited requirements for change. I also call your attention to the fact that all students, including seniors, are required to have full schedules with a minimum of 4 academic courses. Students are reminded that they will find it difficult to drop a course after October 1st without a “Withdraw Failing (WF)” on the student transcript.

A reminder to all underclass students: Students may not drive to school without a valid parking permit. All parking permits will be issued and mailed home to students prior to the start of school. Contact the Assistant Principal for more information.

I wish you an enjoyable remainder of the summer and I look forward to greeting you at the start of school on the week of September 8, 2020. I also extend my personal best wishes for a most successful high school year. It's not enough to talk about doing what's right; we must all commit fully to responsible behavior. I know that you can't wait to return, but we must do so while keeping LCMRHS and the local community we are a part of safe and healthy. I look forward to having your energy back on campus. I want us all to have a great and memorable school year, but you must return with the full appreciation of our shared challenge of keeping each other and our community safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Ziemba
Principal

LZmjw

PLEASE READ:

1. The week of September 8, 2020, is the start of school. Students are assigned a team, and that team reports to school based on the calendar. Students not assigned to report to school will participate via distant learning.
2. We will have an early dismissal (cub day) schedule the entire week.
3. It is important that parents and students both read the Student Handbook and Calendar Agenda for detailed information about Lower Cape May Regional High School activities and policies. It is especially important that you read the Attendance Policy and Discipline Code. Handbooks will be distributed later in the week.
4. Parent and community input is essential for our success as a high school. Please note that Back to School Night will be virtual in October on a date to be determined.
5. Your bus pass indicates a time to be at your bus stop, but it is suggested that on the first day you arrive about ten minutes early since the times listed on the pass are only approximate.
7. Lunches will be on sale beginning September 8, 2020, at a cost of \$3.05. Free and reduced lunch forms are available online through our school website at www.lcmrschooldistrict.com and students who were eligible for free and reduced lunches in June will continue their eligibility until September 30, 2020 when the 2020-21 free lunch forms must be completed.
8. Schedule changes will be made beginning September 8, 2020, if and only if:
 - a. There is a scheduling conflict.
 - b. There is a missing course.
 - c. A student is repeating a failure and has the same teacher (this may be unavoidable).No other schedule changes will be considered unless initiated by the teacher involved and no courses may be added or dropped after the first marking period.
9. Students arriving early to school will not be permitted to wait for the bell in the building this year. A bell will ring at 7:35 a.m. when students may proceed to class.
10. Locker numbers and combinations are included on your schedule. Lockers will not be available at the start of the school year. Book bags are now permitted and encouraged for students to use.
11. It is against district policy for students to park on school grounds without permission from both parents and the school. Drivers must display a valid parking permit, issued by the school.

SEPTEMBER 2020

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BELL SCHEDULE (L-C-L-C)

L Day (Periods 1,3,5,7) C Day (Periods 2,4,6,8)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Week of September 8-11 ● 12:30 DISMISSAL Block Period ● ● Block 1 7:45 - 8:39 ● Block 2 8:43 – 9:36 ● ● Block 3 9:40 – 11:32 ● Lunch 1 9:40 – 10:05 ● Lunch 2 10:09 – 10:34 ● Lunch 3 10:38 – 11:03 ● Lunch 4 11:07 – 11:32 ● ● Block 4 11:36 – 12:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Standard Block Bell Schedule ● 2:26 DISMISSAL Block Period ● ● Block 1 7:45 – 9:20 ● Block 2 9:24- 10:53 ● ● Block 3 10:57 – 12:53 ● Lunch 1 10:57- 11:22 ● Lunch 2 11:27 – 11:52 ● Lunch 3 11:57 – 12:22 ● Lunch 4 12:27 – 12:52 ● ● Block 4 12:57 – 2:26 |
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- **DISTANCE LEARNING DAY SCHEDULE**

- **Tiger Day - Bell Schedule**

- 8:00 - 8:30 Period 1
- 8:30 – 9:00 Period 2
- 9:00 – 9:30 Period 3
- 9:30 – 10:00 Period 4
- 10:00 – 10:30 Period 5
- 10:30 – 11:00 Period 6
- 11:00 – 11:30 Period 7
- 11:30 – 12:00 Period 8
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:26 Extra Help, Teacher PLC, Dept. Meetings

*Every teacher and aide will establish an office hours google classroom and be available in a google/meet for the duration of the period. Some weeks office hours may be reduced for Professional Development or meetings, notice will be provided.