

LOWER CAPE MAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

LAWRENCE ZIEMBA, PRINCIPAL

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August 14, 2017

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

I hope you have enjoyed a restful and healthy summer. I now ask you to turn your attention to the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. I hope that all students return to school with a renewed spirit and determination to be successful.

Our high school 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, and follow the links indicated under the heading for "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 28). This can be viewed by linking onto 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) 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.
- c) Notice of parent rights under FERPA form and notice of disclosure of student directory information to military recruiters and parent option to restrict disclosure.
- d) Free and reduced lunch applications
- e) Student calendar/handbook

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 for assistance.

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. You should know that the high school faculty and administration are serious in our endeavor to make this the best high school it can possibly be. Attendance must be a priority for every student and every family. There are students who received no credit last year because they erroneously believed excessive absenteeism would be overlooked. Every absence 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.

On September 5, 2017, students should report to the **home base** classroom designated on your schedule card. **Please note that school will begin each day at 7:45 a.m.** It is important you realize that the scheduling process in a high school with nearly 900 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 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.

Students will receive a grade for each semester of the academic year. First and third quarter marking period report cards have been eliminated. It is important that students and parents monitor PowerSchool for updates on grades, identify any discrepancies, and to address their concerns with the teacher.

The academic environment at Lower Cape May Regional High School is very challenging, and the majority of our students meet that challenge by earning exemplary grades. Due to this high level of academic success, class rank does not reflect the achievements and potential of all our students. Therefore, Lower Cape May Regional High School will no longer report class rank. However, Lower Cape May Regional High School

will recognize students for academic achievement using cumulative weighted GPA as follows:

Summa Cum Laude: 4.66 + Highest Distinction	Magna Cum Laude: 4.65 - 4.33 High Distinction	Cum Laude: 4.32 – 4.0 Distinction
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This recognition will appear on student transcripts at the end of their junior year if their cumulative weighted GPA falls in one of these honor ranges. Students will also be recognized at graduation using this honor system.

Graduation speeches will be selected in the form of a competition, to be selected by a committee of teachers. Information will be provided to all seniors interested in participating in the competition at a later date.

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 September 5, 2017. I also extend my personal best wishes for a most successful high school year.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Ziemba
Principal

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PLEASE READ:

1. **Tuesday, September 5, 2017, at 7:45 a.m. is the first day for students.**
2. We will have a full day 8 period schedule on September 5th.
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 is September 7th. Please plan to attend.
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 5, 2017, at a cost of \$2.95. 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, 2017 when the 2017-18 free lunch forms must be completed.
8. Schedule changes will be made beginning September 5, 2017, 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 are only permitted in the cafeteria and halls outside the gymnasium. A bell will ring at 7:35 a.m. when students may proceed to class.
10. Locker numbers and combinations are enclosed with your schedule.
11. It is illegal 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.