

Greetings Lancaster Mennonite Middle School Families!

Along with the Lancaster Mennonite Middle School (LMMS) faculty and staff, I am excited to welcome you to our school community, a community that prides itself on providing a learning environment that cares, challenges, nurtures, and prepares students for the world in which they live. We greatly value your partnership and support as together we will walk beside your child throughout the school year.



For those of you that are new to Lancaster Mennonite, we are glad you are joining the LM family and look forward to welcoming you on August 19 at our Back to School Celebration. We also invite returning families to join us that evening from 5:00-7:30. More information on this event is at the end of this letter.

We also wanted to update you on some changes happening next year at Lancaster Mennonite Middle School. We feel these changes will strengthen our program and also give our students more opportunities to tap into the things they are most passionate about.

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade will have one section, taught by Mr. Steve Kenkelen.
- Mrs. Greenleaf is moving up to become a 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Expedition teacher. She will be taking the place of Mr. Paul Fredericksen, who got married this summer and is moving out of the area.
- First period this coming year will provide students with two great options. One will be exploratory classes. These 8 quarter long classes will be offered and students will rotate through them in small groups. (Typing, Foods, Fitness, STEM/Ag, Sewing, Ukulele and U, Music Appreciation/Drumming, Art). The second option would be to take Spanish 1 or German 1 for students who have an interest in learning a language.
- Second period options will be Choir, Band, Orchestra, and Enrichment. We are excited to offer more music and choral opportunities for students and hope that more time spent in these classes will not only improve students on an individual level, but also make our music programs stronger all the way up through high school. Students who are not participating in choir, band, or orchestra will be involved in enrichment activities with middle school Expedition teachers.

By the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, your child will better know and understand how to work within a team, collaborate with people who are different from them, work at anti-racism efforts, think creatively, problem solve, make good decisions, manage their time, be flexible, think critically, empathize, resolve conflicts, understand multiple perspectives, understand and work with the design process, learn by doing, research, think globally, infuse their faith, and care for themselves, each other, and their neighbors by following in the ways of Jesus.

Along with core content in Science, Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies, these soft skills are an integral part of what we offer students at LMMS and are crucial to life after high school in a 21<sup>st</sup> century world. Soft skills are important to the success of almost all employers and are transferable skills that can be used regardless of the job at which a person works. Through our LMMS*Connect!* project based learning program in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, we believe our students will be seen by teachers, peers, and future employers as people who have the skills to ask the right questions, have the grit and

resilience to solve hard problems, and make the people around them and the organizations they are a part of better.

From all of us here at Lancaster Mennonite Middle School, we wish you a great ending to your summer break as we eagerly anticipate your arrival very soon!

Warm Regards,

Eloy Rodriguez

Lancaster Mennonite Middle School Principal, High School Associate Principal

(Please read the back of this letter for some important highlights for our year together)



## Middle School Important Information

### ***Chapel Theme***

- The LM theme for this school year is “Be Transformed.” Romans 12:2 states, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” At Lancaster Mennonite, we seek to be transformed in order to bring healing and hope to our world. In a world often promoting fear, violence, tribalism and greed, students are challenged to be transformed by such non-conformist values as peacebuilding, service, restorative justice, and care for the powerless. How will you be transformed?

### ***Back to School Celebration***

- Come join us on August 19 from 5:00-7:30 pm to celebrate the beginning of our new school year as we are combining our New Student Orientation and Back to School Night into a New School Year Celebration. All Lancaster Campus students and their families are invited and encouraged to join their returning classmates, new students, administrators, faculty and staff as we kick off our new year. There will be an Ice Cream Social at the end of the evening. We look forward to welcoming you back on the 19th! Join us for this celebratory evening! **Please note that a middle school meeting will happen from 5:30-6:00 in the middle school.**

### ***First Day***

- We will officially greet everyone on **Tuesday, August 20 for our first day of school.** All students should report directly to their homeroom/crew upon arrival. Devotions and gathering activities begin in the middle school at 8:05 a.m. Feel free to visit our website at [www.lancastermennonite.org](http://www.lancastermennonite.org) for additional information. Here you will find a supply list, free and reduced lunch information, a school calendar and more.

### ***Website and Calendar***

- Please refer to our [lancastermennonite.org](http://lancastermennonite.org) website to find the links to: the school calendar, athletics, transportation, lunches and menus, free and reduced lunch application, and the middle school supply list.

### ***Appearance Code and Attendance Policy***

- You can see the entire dress code on our website, but please note these two in particular:
- Dresses, skirts, and shorts must be **mid-thigh or longer** when standing (this includes athletic shorts).
- All clothing must be free of holes, cuts, tears and/or rips that expose undergarments, patches or skin.

### ***Busing***

- For most school districts, the schedule for bus pickup will occur in the next two weeks. Some districts do not bus LMS students on days where they are not in session. Please refer to the enclosed document regarding transportation.

### ***Exhibition Nights***

- Please mark your calendars for these 4 evenings as they are a requirement for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> students. (Thursday, October 24, Thursday, January 9, Thursday, March 19, and Thursday, May 21.

## 2019-2020 LMMS Supply List

The LMMS team has put together the following list of supplies that students need to purchase for use in school.

### 6th grade

- 2 boxes of tissues
- 1 Container Disinfectant Wipes
- Bible—NIV (2011)
- Clipboard (optional)
- 2- 2" 3-ring binders
- 2- single subject spiral notebooks
- 1- 1-2 subject spiral notebook (minimum 100 pages) for Language Arts.
- Folder for each subject
- Pack of 3-hole notebook paper
- 3-pack of 3x3 inch post-it notes
- Pens – red, blue or black
- Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Scissors
- Yellow and pink highlighter
- Two pencils, one eraser in a small zip lock bag (art)
- One package of glue sticks
- Calculator (TI 30 or similar)

### 7th and 8th grade—LMMSConnect!

- 2 boxes of tissues
- 1 Container Disinfectant Wipes
- Personal Bible (optional)
- 5 Single subject notebooks
- 3 graph paper notebooks
- 3" 3-ring binder
- 2" 3-ring binder
- 2 Two-pocket folders
- 5 pieces of poster board (dollar store poster board works well)
- Pencils and erasers
- One pack of highlighters (4 separate colors)
- Scissors
- Zippered pencil pouch that fits in binder
- One pack of colored pencils for the classroom
- Glue sticks (4)
- Calculator (TI 30 or similar)

Students are encouraged to keep expensive personal belongings, including electronics, at home rather than bringing them to school. **Cell phones and other electronic devices will be collected in crew/homeroom at the beginning of each day and returned to students at the end of the school day.** Students will receive their schedule in the mail in early August.

Please have your child bring it with him/her on the first day of school. Thank you!