



Linn-Mar High School Student and Parent Announcements and Updates July 31, 2020



ANY NEW INFORMATION IS **HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW**

1. Pre-School Year:

A. Current Planning for Starting School Year during a Pandemic

The decision has been made that Linn-Mar will be using an A/B schedule at the start of the school year. For the high school, this schedule will be used for 1st Quarter. (It will be used for the first two weeks in grades K-8th). Superintendent Bisgard sent out information on Thursday afternoon updating the district Return-To-Learn Plan. The following begins to provide more specifics to the hybrid 'A'/'B' schedule in place for 1st Quarter at LMHS.

If we choose online-only learning, what will this look like at LMHS?

We want everyone to feel safe as a student and we want every parent to feel their student will be as safe as possible when they are in the building. The 'A'/'B' hybrid schedule (see attached) has been established to help provide a better opportunity to ensure this even with a large student body.

For parents choosing the online-only option at LMHS, their student(s) will still be taking their current schedule of courses. They will simply be doing so online each day. We want students to be able to take all of the courses on their schedule. The 'A'/'B' hybrid schedule has been set up so that students in Group 'A' will be attending classes 'on-site' on 'A' days, while Group 'B' students will be attending the same classes using the same schedule 'online' on 'A' days. **Online-only students will simply be online for classes each day rather than 'on-site' every other day.** More guidance from the district will be determined regarding if a process will exist allowing students to change from 'online-only' to 'on-site' and vice versa.

What will on-site learning look like at LMHS?

On designated 'A' days, students in Group 'A' (Last names A-K) will report to classes at school. On designated 'B' days, students in Group 'B' (Last names L-Z) will report to classes at school. It will be a normal classroom day using our *LMHS Hybrid Daily Schedule for 1st Quarter 2020-21*. Again, many precautions are taking place to help maintain the safety of everyone in the school building (see below).

One additional precaution we are considering at this time in an effort to minimize the number of students within the building at any one time is to allow, with parent permission only, all students 9th-12th to go home during any non-credit class time (e.g. Learning Center, Lunch). We will have more information on this in the next week but wanted to let parents and students know that this is a consideration. The intention of doing this is so students would just be on campus for their classes during the pandemic.

How was the LMHS hybrid schedule developed?

The driving forces in the development of the schedule are to **minimize the number of students** (thus interactions) **within the building at any one time**, ensure all classes do meet each day, it works to **minimize the total amount of time a student must be online for school on any given day**, and it **allows for no change in schedule if a building closure occurs and all classes are online** for a day or extended period of time.

What are the precautions and changes that are currently being made for in-class schooling? We have utilized *Linn County Public Health COVID-19 Guidance Return to School (K-12) July 2020* in addressing needed precautions and changes to all learning spaces and common areas within LMHS.

At this time, a few of these precautions include: (this listing continues to grow each day)

- A. **Facemasks** will be **required** for everyone when in either Linn-Mar High School, LRC, or Aquatic Center buildings. All students will receive a facemask. No one will be allowed to enter LMHS without a facemask, which must also be worn while in the building. This includes any spectator events which may take place on campus during 1st Quarter.
- B. **Potential Daily Schedule Adjustments** that limit the number of students on campus at any one time. The LMHS Hybrid 1st Quarter Schedule is attached. Again, the four driving forces in the development of the schedule are to minimize the number of students (thus interactions) within the building at any one time, ensure all classes do meet each day, it works to minimize the total amount of time a student must be online for school, and it allows for no change in schedule if a building closure occurs and all classes are online for a day or extended period of time.

- C. **Restricting building entry and minimizing unstructured time before school** for when students are in the building. This will include restrictions for when students may enter the building prior to the school day. Doors will open at **8:25 a.m.** unless for Zero Period Class (**Marching Band**) or pre-scheduled meetings/**practices/workouts/teacher study sessions**. **Students will be required to report directly to their 1st Period/1st Block classroom upon arrival in the building** unless for a pre-scheduled meeting/**practice/workout/study session** with a teacher.
- D. **Minimizing any ‘communal’ spaces within the building**, including the removal of some furniture and specific seating designations in all ‘commons’ areas. The phrase we are using during set up of the ‘commons’ areas is ‘one per’. One student per table, bench, desk, etc. in all ‘commons’ areas. We have almost completed setting up the ‘commons’ areas in the building. All tables are 6’ apart and all cushioned furniture has been removed as have excess chairs. During the pandemic, all ‘commons’ area furniture must stay as it is currently arranged. To give an idea of the change, our total seating capacity for the seven ‘commons’ areas and Food Court is now 275. This is down from approximately 850 spaces during a non-pandemic time. We will also be closing off the circle drive near doors #10 and #13 during the day so that students may sit outside including during lunch.
- E. **Classroom seating** is being changed so that all students will be facing the same way with a 6’ distance from other students. We are establishing a 6’ capacity for each classroom and may need to move some sections to rooms that can accommodate a higher number of students while maintaining a 6’ distance with all student desks.
- F. **Passing time protocols** between classes which limits interaction between students by directing movement. Directional arrows and signage are being placed on hallway floors and in hallways to help students navigate during pandemic passing time. We will have a few ‘one-way’ areas designated during passing times which include the Four Corners area, Math rooms B003-007 area, stairs near door #16 (down only), stairs near door #14 (up only). We plan to send out building maps so that students and parents can view the changes. Again, these changes are temporary during the pandemic.
- G. **Breakfast and Lunch procedures** which **do not allow for buffet-style serving** of any food and provide as much **social distance seating** as possible. All seating is 6’ apart. I will say that we are usually working to ensure no student sits alone during lunch, so the pandemic seating arrangement while necessary and in place at this time does not match the everyday lunch experience we want for students.
- H. **Cleaning** of desks, tables, machinery, and **common areas or items** will take place **after each use**. The district is providing wipes and other cleaning solutions to help clean and maintain each piece of furniture after each use, including in the ‘commons’ areas.
- I. Only the bottle-fill portion (we have 9 of these) of water fountains will be available for use. The communal fountains have all been covered at this time.
- J. **Staggering release times at the end of the school day** to alleviate the number of students exiting the building at the same time. With the ‘A’/‘B’ hybrid schedule now being used for 1st Quarter and the RTI periods at the end of the school day, the staggering of release times may not need to take place. We will always adjust as needed.

B. E-Registration for the 2020-21 School Year

The e-Registration portal opens on August 5. The district will be sending information about this soon.

C. Student Pictures

Student pictures for grades 9th, 10th and 11th have been postponed until the spring of 2021.

D. Student Computer Distribution Prior to School Year

We want school-issued computers (and chargers) to be available for pick-up prior to the school year for 10th-12th Grades. We will have more information on a schedule for pick-up in the next couple of weeks. **We hope to begin distribution during the week of August 10**, but some work is still needed to update and re-image all of the computers. We want 10th-12th Grades students to be aware that we want school-issued computers in student hands as much as possible prior to the start of school.

9th Grade students will receive school-issued computers on the 9th Grade-Only 1st Days with Group ‘A’ (Last names A-K) on Monday, August 24, and Group ‘B’ (Last names L-Z) on Tuesday, August 25. This will include any 9th Grade student taking classes online-only for 1st Quarter. Specifics on protocol for picking up the computers for online-only students will be provided in the next weeks.

F. Student Medications/Health Office Needs

Students who take prescribed medication at school must have written authorization on file in the Health Office. Non-prescribed medications will be given with parent approval. Students are not allowed to carry any medications unless physician and health office approved. Contact the Health Office (447-3080) for questions.

REMINDER: Per Iowa immunization law, all 12th grade students are required to provide proof of having the Meningococcal vaccine *after age 16*, or a Certificate of Exemption, before the first day of school in August.

G. Teacher/Staff Pre-School Workdays

With the adjustment of moving all Professional Learning Days to prior to the school year, all teachers will now report on Tuesday, August 11. Teachers will be in professional learning sessions/workshops and preparation through Friday, August 21.

2. 9th Grade First Day of High School

With the change to 'A' and 'B' hybrid schooling for 1st Quarter, **9th Grade-only first day will actually be two days this year.** 9th Grade students in group 'A' (Last names A-L) will have school on Monday, August 24, beginning at 9:00 a.m. 9th Grade students in group 'B' (Last names K-Z) will have school on Tuesday, August 25, beginning at 9:00 a.m. 9th Grade students will receive their school-issued computers on their first day of high school. A complete schedule for each 9th Grade-only 1st day will be provided in the coming two weeks.

3. First Day of High School with 9th-12th Grades

The first day of high school for 10th, 11th, and 12th Grades will be Wednesday, August 26, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Group 'A' students (Last names A-L) will be meeting in classes on-site while Group 'B' students (Last names K-Z) will be logging on remotely for classes. The schedule for on-site and remote students is the same and is planned to be released in the next week. As stated earlier, 9th Grade students will be having on-site 1st days on Monday, August 24 (Group 'A'), and Tuesday, August 25 (Group 'B').

4. 1st Quarter

A. Academic Letter Assemblies

Due to restrictions regarding gathering of large groups at this time, **the Academic Letter Assemblies will not be held this year.** We will publicize the names of all 10th-12th Grades students receiving academic letters for the 2019-20 school year. Academic letters and certificates will also be distributed to receiving students during the first two weeks of the school year. Students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.33 for both semesters in 2019-20 are eligible to receive an Academic Letter. Students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.75-3.99 for both semesters in 2019-20 receive an Academic Letter *with Honors*. Students with a cumulative grade point average of 4.00 and above for both semesters in 2019-20 receive and Academic Letter with Distinction.

Congratulations to all of our Academic Letter recipients for the 2019-20 school year!

5. Activities

A. For any spectator allowed event, facemasks will be required for entry and movement and during an event at all times.

B. Athletics:

Fall athletic practices are scheduled to begin on August 10. Adjustments to schedules are being made at this time.

C. Fine Arts:

At this time, Marching Band is still scheduled. All Marching Band competitions and the State Marching Festival have been cancelled for the fall. The Marching Lions will not put together a competition set, instead, focusing on a more collegiate style marching show.

At this time, Show Choir is still taking place. All competitions (including Supernova) have been cancelled for this year.

D. Clubs/Organizations:

LMHS Clubs and Organizations will continue to meet as is possible, including virtually. The Welcome Back Dance will not be able to be held this year. No decisions regarding scheduled Homecoming activities will be made until the middle of August.

6. Other Information

The next *LMHS 2020-21 Before School Year Student and Parent Communication* will be sent on **Tuesday, August 4**. This will be sent in the afternoon. Announcements and Updates for LMHS Students and Parents will be sent on **Tuesday and Friday** of each week through the month of August. It is anticipated that these will continue through September as well.