

The Charger Wire

Leman Middle School's Monthly Newsletter

Para leer estas noticias en español, haga clic arriba del título donde dice "En español." En los celulares, haga clic en las tres líneas por arriba y escoge "En español."

Notes from Administration

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we welcome the warmer weather and see more green around our town, it's hard to ignore that Spring is just around the corner! As we approach Trimester 3, we are gearing up for some of the busiest weeks of the school year. Standardized testing is underway, and the transitions for our eighth graders moving on to high school and our incoming sixth graders are picking up pace. On top of that, we have exciting spring events like the musical, field trips, and spring concerts, which will keep us busy well into the evening.

Spring is also a great time to remind families of the importance of consistent school attendance. Research shows that absences can have a significant impact on a student's learning over time. In fact, students who are chronically absent in sixth grade often have lower academic achievement compared to their peers. By high school, a student who has been chronically absent is 7.4 times more likely to drop out. Now is the time to solidify strong attendance habits to set our students up for success!

As we look forward to Spring Break at the end of this month, we hope your family can take some time to relax and enjoy each other's company. Should you need any support, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of my administrative team. We're here to help!

Wishing you a wonderful start to spring and a productive end to the school year!

Sincerely,

Maggie Lay

Principal



Let Your Opinions Be Heard!

Take the 5 Essentials Parent Survey

Survey open through March 28th!

Each year, schools across the state of Illinois ask students, families and staff to take a short survey about their schools.

Students and Staff will have time set aside to take the survey during the school day during the month of February.

Families are encouraged to take the survey to let their voice and opinions be heard. The LMS team takes the feedback and opinions seriously when making decisions, changes and plans for the building.

Scan the QR Code to the right to take the survey

We want to hear from you!

Important Dates

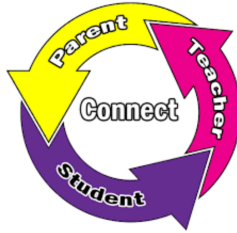
- **Friday, 3/7:** End of Trimester 2
- **Monday, 3/10:** No School - Professional Development Day
- **Friday, 3/14:** Trimester 2 Grades Available in Home Access Center
- **Tuesday, 3/18:** Mariachi Concert 6:00pm-8:00pm
- **Wednesday, 3/19:** Choir Concert 6:00pm-8:00pm
- **Friday, 3/21:** Unified Basketball Game - Pack the Place Night! 4:30pm-5:30pm
- **Monday, 3/31 - Friday, 4/4:** No School, Spring Break
- **Monday, 4/7:** No School, Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00pm-8:00pm
- **Tuesday, 4/8:** School Resumes



Wear it Wednesday!

- 3/5:** Career Day - Dress like the career you want to have
- 3/12:** Animal Day - Wear animal print or clothes with an animal on it
- 3/19:** St. Patrick's Day - Dress like a leprechaun in green/orange/white
- 3/26:** Crazy Sock Day - In support of National Down Syndrome Day (3/21) wear your craziest socks!

Keep up to date on your child's academic progress and Leman announcements and information.



Home Access Center Help

If you need help with the Home Access Center, fill out a Help Request here: <https://bit.ly/HACHelp>



ParentSquare

Parent Square

Watch this short video to learn about ParentSquare and join if you have not already!

<https://vimeo.com/362598038>

Home Access Center

Checking Your Child's Grades Weekly

The Home Access Center has a lot of helpful information for families, but is most often used to check on your child's progress in school. The Home Access Center is linked on the District 33 website, as well as the Leman website.

When you log into the Home Access Center, you will see a row of buttons at the top of the page.

To see their **daily progress**, click on the "Classes" button. You can see how your student is doing on their daily classwork. The assignments under the Classes tab are updated frequently. We recommend reviewing your child's grades once a week to see their progress.

If you ever have questions about how your child is doing, please reach out to their teacher via email or Parent Square. We would love to hear from you!

Updates From the Science Classes at LMS!

6th Grade Update

We have been staying very busy in 6th grade science with all of our inquiry-based activities and hands-on learning experiences! We recently finished our 3rd unit which was all about matter. We began

8th Grade Update

Students in 8th grade science have been studying what adaptations living things have developed to successfully reproduce, grow, and

with making some messy Oobleck and arguing what state of matter it was in based on their understanding of solids and liquids. Students reviewed the different states of matter, learned about the atom and its subatomic particles. We learned how to draw a Bohr model of an atom and practiced Lewis dot diagrams to show which elements are more reactive. Students learned how to read the periodic table and practiced modeling molecules from chemical formulas! We learned about static electricity through our magic balloon experiment and played with some fun molecule kits!

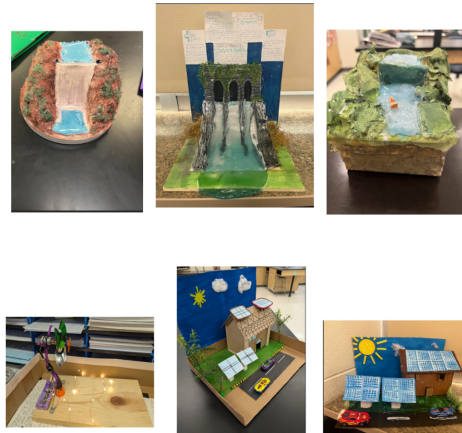
We recently started our 4th unit with an anchoring phenomenon experiment where students mixed vinegar and baking soda in a flask covered by a balloon. Students observed in excitement as they saw the balloon begin to inflate. Through some awesome observations and discussions students were able to explain the balloon was somehow filling with gas! Up next is our discussion on mixtures versus pure substances in which students will determine what we mixed and begin to understand the chemical reaction that occurred.



develop. Students investigated unique plant adaptations that help them to successfully reproduce such as the role of flowers and methods of seed dispersal. Further, they examined the history of genetics and learned how to predict the probability that certain may or may not get passed down. One way we did this was the Class Genetics Survey. In this lab students examined and counted the number of various types of traits in the classroom. We then used this data to introduce how there are dominant and recessive traits and how each trait can have multiple genes of that trait. From there we introduced Punnett squares and how they are used to predict trait inheritance. Moving forward, students will gather evidence as to how genetic, as well as, environmental factors can influence the growth and development of a species. Then we will prepare for our next performance task, as the trimester comes to an end!





7th Grade Update

Our seventh-grade science classes have been learning about the human impact on our environment. Students understood how human actions impact our world around us. This included carbon emissions from driving cars, deforestation and other types of pollution. Students understood how the climate is changing through the release of greenhouse gases. We also included how the current use of plastics is adding to pollution, and the effect it has on our species and their habitats. They also learned the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources and how we can reduce our carbon footprint. The students finished the unit with a project and did an amazing job presenting to the classes.



Leman Values

The Leman Values are a common set of terms that we use to promote expected behaviors and habits for all those who are a part of our school community. These values will be reviewed with students prior to class each day. They are a good reminder of what is expected during participation in class and while interacting with others in the school. Please discuss and review these with your child and have them explain why they are important to keep all students safe and learning!

Leman School Values			
	Looks Like... 	Sounds Like... 	Feels Like... 
Respect for Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaking positively about ourselves and others Accepting directions and instructions by taking ownership and assuming good intentions Caring for our school building Being mindful of others' physical space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using polite words Speaking with positive intention and tone Using appropriate CHAMPS voice level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety Valued Accepted Belonging
Readiness to Learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being on time Maximizing time Being prepared with materials Being focused and engaged PIES (Equal Participation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using appropriate CHAMPS voice level Engaged discussion PIES (Simultaneous Interaction) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accomplishment Safe Hungry to learn
Orderly Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing and respecting physical space Walking on the right side of the hallway Being in your expected area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate CHAMPS voice level School appropriate conversations Friendly Positive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calm Safe Routine Respectful
Positive Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respecting verbal and nonverbal interactions Complimenting others Demonstrating patience with others Smiling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kind words being exchanged "Please and thank you" Positive forms of communication Greeting others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warm and fuzzy Appreciated Valued Pride and joy Part of the team
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving and accepting feedback Actively participating Meeting deadlines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I will try better next time" "How can I improve?" School appropriate conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ownership Self-Respect You are listened to and

Leman Middle School
Bolt Bucks

Student Name: _____
ID # _____ Grade: _____

Leman Values
☐ Respect for Others
☐ Readiness to Learn
☐ Orderly Transition
☐ Positive Interactions
☐ Responsibility

Teacher Name: _____
#1
Students: redeem this ticket for a prize in the cafeteria! Thank you for living out our Leman Values!

Leman Leaders

Each month the Leman Leaders program will focus on one of the five Leman values.

In February, the focus was on **Responsibility**.

Each team at all grade levels will nominate two students who have displayed that value.

All of the nominees will be recognized and grade-level winners will be selected from these nominees each month.

The administration team is excited to highlight some of the students who are meeting and exceeding our expectations each month and help to make Leman a great place to learn!

Check out what our teachers had to say about February's Leman Leaders!



6th Grade - Ryan Fessler: Ryan embodies the value of responsibility by always being on time and handing in all of her work. She is consistently on task and participating in class without having to be asked. Ryan is self-motivated and strives to complete all of her work as well as communicate with her teachers when she needs help.

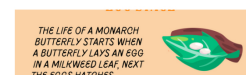


7th Grade - David Franco Sanchez: David is an amazing kid who shows up to every class with his best foot forward. A kind, and helpful young man, David makes us proud every day.



8th Grade - Yulizeht Flores Castro: We only wish we were all as responsible as Yuhlizeht! She is a wonderful student that is always on top of her work, following along in class, taking notes. She also helps other students if they have missed something. Yulizeht completes all her classwork and homework. If she is absent, she makes up her work and turns in what she missed.

Updates From the Explore Classes at LMS!

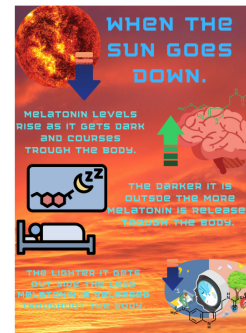
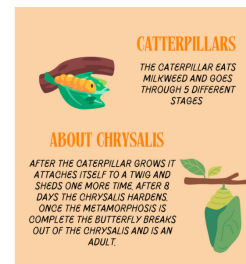


Latinos in Action Update

We are honored to be featured in this month's newsletter! LIA has been tutoring throughout the school year. Four out of the five classes are doing reading and writing tutoring and one class is tutoring in math. Students plan out their tutoring week by developing three goals for the week. Students then write these goals in their tutoring journal. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we tutor and on Wednesdays and Fridays, students reflect on their tutoring experience for the week. Likewise, we are currently working on getting our micro-credential in health screenings. LIA students are completing a four-step health screening training where they will be taught how to do health screenings for pre-diabetes and high blood pressure. When students complete all of the work they will be awarded a micro-credential health screening certificate from LIA. Lastly, the 8th-grade students will be starting college visits. We will be visiting COD March 14, UIC April 21st, and we will attend the 7th and 8th grade leadership conference at Aurora University on May 21st. At the leadership conference, students have been competing for a writing, video, and art scholarship. There is a chance that LIA students will be receiving a scholarship, and if we have any winners they will be announced there! First place is \$1,000, second place is \$500, and third place is \$250. We have had some of our amazing Leman LIA students win every year. I am hoping this year will be the same!

Digital Literacy Update

6th grade Digital Literacy learners are wrapping up their 2nd trimester. In the course they have explored a variety of digital tools to creatively and responsibly collaborate, problem-solve, communicate, and share content and ideas in a digital learning environment. Throughout, learners have practiced keyboarding daily, and applied the principles of digital citizenship to their study, and conduct online. Learners have developed fluency and facility using the Google tools commonly used in their daily classes, and methods to increase their digital workflow: keyboard shortcuts, sharing, attaching and downloading files, curation, and hyperlinking. Having practiced the infographic form, learners are now putting the final touches on a self-directed final research infographic which illustrates their understanding of a topic of their choice. Check out some examples of student work --> --> -->



Coach's Corner

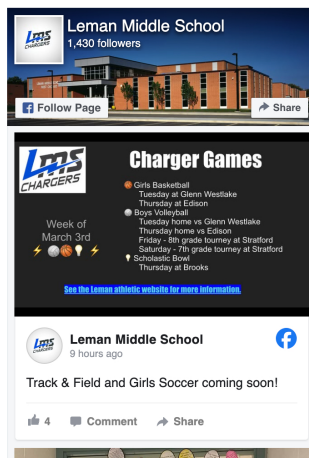
Leman Students Will Take the

Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR)

Wednesday, March 19th and Thursday, March 20th

[Click here](#) for information about the IAR test and how to help your child prepare.

Check out what's happening on our LMS Facebook page!



LMS Video Announcements

The LMS Announcements run every week.

Stay up-to-date with current events and the latest important reminders happening at the school.

[Click here to visit the LMS Announcements homepage.](#)

Thank you for reading! See you next month!



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