

LORNA BYRNE MIDDLE SCHOOL - VIKING VIEWS

ISSUE 1

September 2012

Rachael Huish, Principal

Darrell Erb, Dean of Students/Athletics



WORDS FROM MRS. HUISH

Welcome back to another great year at Lorna Byrne Middle School! I can't believe we are already nearing the start of school. This summer has flown by for all of us here at Lorna Byrne. I hope your summer left your family and student geared up and ready to go for school as it is going to be a very busy year. I wanted to take a few moments and highlight some of the important changes that will affect the education of your children.

The first area that I would like to highlight concerns the new grading system that will be in use starting this fall. The staff and leadership at both Lorna Byrne Middle School as well as the other two middle schools within the Three Rivers School District will be using what is known as Proficiency Based Learning. Within this model, 80 percent of the student's grade is determined by their performance on assessments directly relating to content standards. The other 20 percent is based on professional qualities such as work ethic and attitude. It is the hope of both Lorna Byrne Middle School and the district that this change will help our students to be college and career ready when they finish high school. If you would like additional information on the new grading system, please see *Proficiency Based Learning* beginning on page 4.

Another change coming to Lorna Byrne students is the adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in the subject areas of English/Language Arts and Math. Oregon has joined 43 other states in the adoption of the CCSS. According to the Oregon Department of Education, these standards are: "...Aligned with college and work expectations; Are clear, understandable, consistent; Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher-order skills; Build on strengths and lessons of current state standards". Teacher teams from across the district have been studying and working with the new standards for over a year. Overall, these teacher teams have found that the CCSS include a larger number of standards and are much more rigorous. As a district, we have adopted an aggressive timeline for implementing these standards in our schools so that our students have the best chance of mastering these standards and earning a standard or university diploma. We have some challenges ahead, for sure.

In closing, I want to tell you how proud I am of Lorna Byrne Middle School students and staff. We have recently received some data regarding student learning that puts LBMS as the 25th best performing middle school within the State of Oregon out of 191 middle schools. We have all been working extremely hard and it is paying off.

Enjoy these last few weeks of summer and I look forward to seeing everyone around campus.



The SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL plays an important role in decision-making. The site council is a group of teachers, parents and classified employees that works with the principal to develop, review and evaluate school improvement programs.

To find out more about what LBMS SITE COUNCIL does, talk to Mrs. Huish, the school principal. If you would like to participate on the council, phone the office at 541-592-2163.

PHONE CALLS FROM TRSD

Three Rivers School District (TRSD) has an automated calling system. If you receive a computer generated phone call, please listen to the entire message. It should give the option to repeat at the end of the message. If you missed any part of the message, please listen again.

Child Find for Special Education

Public Law 105.17, known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), requires that school districts provide a free and appropriate education to all disabled children and young adults from birth through 21 years of age. The Three Rivers School District requests assistance with the identification of any disabled children ages birth through 21 who are not enrolled or currently being served in one of the District's schools.

If you know of any disabled children ages 0 through 21, who are not receiving education services, please phone the Three Rivers School District Special Education Dept. at **541-862-3111 ext. 5202**.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 20 - Football Practice begins, time TBA
August 21 - Open Enrollment, 9:00am to 7:00pm
August 21 - Volleyball Practice @ Viking Gym, 5:30pm to 7:30pm
August 22 - Open Enrollment, 9:00am to 7:00pm
September 4 - First Day of School for 6th graders and New students, 8:40am
September 5 - First Day of School for 7th and 8th graders, 8:40am
September 10 - Picture Day by LifeTouch
September 21 - No classes
September 26 - Open House, 6:00pm to 7:30pm
October 12 - No classes
October 15 - Picture re-takes
October 17 - Conferences, 4:00pm to 8:00pm
October 18 - No classes
October 18 - Conferences, 8:00am to 8:00pm
October 19 - No classes
October 30 - Fall Concert @ Gym, 7:00pm

Just for Fun

When does Friday come before Thursday ?
In the dictionary !

eSIS Parent Assistant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is eSIS?

eSIS is the name of the "Student Information System" that is used by all schools in the District to maintain Student data across the district, and is the single source of student information.

How do I login to the system?

You must have a username and password that is supplied from your child's school. You will be required to provide a photo ID to get a username and password.

I don't have a username and password. How do I get one?

We ask that you pick up your username and password at the school of your youngest child. You will be required to present a photo ID to get your username and password. We also ask that make certain the operator at your school has your other children listed as siblings on your youngest child's record.

Can I request changes to my contact information online?

Yes you can. When you log into the system and select your child's name from the menu, click on the "General info" menu and select "Emergency Contacts". You can update information in fields by simply clicking into them and typing. School staff will review and verify any information changes before they are displayed on the system.

Can someone else gain access or change my information?

No. Each family is assigned a unique username and password. This gives only you access to your family's information. Please be sure you protect your username and password and do not give them to anyone.

My username and password are not working, what should I do?

You should visit one of the schools that your children attend. They can confirm your username and can also reset your password if necessary. You will be required to provide a photo ID for assistance with usernames and passwords.

Some windows will not open or start to open but then close. What should I do?

Make sure that your pop-up blocker is turned off when visiting this site.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Students succeed when there is a strong partnership between parents / guardians and school staff members. At the core of this partnership is strong communication. Lorna Byrne Middle School asks parents / guardians to:

- Encourage their student to prioritize their education and to commit themselves to making the most of the educational opportunities our school provides.
 - Keep informed on school activities and issues. The Viking Views newsletter is published monthly and provides opportunities for learning more about the school.
 - Become a school volunteer. For further information contact the office.
 - Participate in school / parent organizations. The building's site council, with its emphasis on instructional improvement, is a great place to learn about the workings of our school.
 - Parents can expect that their students will be disciplined for negative behavior choices. We expect that staff, parents and students will work as a team, at home and school, to make positive behavior changes.
 - If classroom concerns or disciplinary issues arise involving your student, please contact the appropriate teacher / staff member. This will serve to open lines of communication that will lead to all information being shared. Open and honest communication is the key to problem solving.
- Call LBMS - we welcome you to contact us at anytime!

PARENTAL KEYS FOR A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Parents are Important – Research shows clearly students need to do homework in a quiet place within view of parents to achieve success in completing their homework.

Reading is Important – We encourage all parents to ensure that their students have a novel to read at all times, whether it is assigned by a teacher or parent. All evidence suggests that encouraging “leisure reading” at home ensures greater academic success. Parents who “model” reading by having their own books to read are usually successful in getting their students to read. Students at Lorna Byrne are expected to have an AR (Accelerated Reader) book with them in every class. Students will be able to turn in and check out books during advisory class. The tests and points in the AR system are charted for each student as they progress through middle school. We encourage parents to monitor their students progress toward achieving their agreed upon AR goal each trimester – AR reading is included in students’ Language Arts grades!

Homework is a Good Habit – At Lorna Byrne Middle School, parents should count on their students having homework Monday through Thursday. If they are completely caught up, then it is beneficial to spend allotted homework time reviewing class materials or reading.

Planners are Required – Students should purchase a day planner at the beginning of the year. Check your student's day planner every night and quiz your student on what their teachers covered in school today. It is the easiest and most time effective method for communicating interest in your student’s academic performance. Contact LBMS to discuss other ways on increasing home / school communication to support your student.

See Grades Online – Lorna Byrne offers Parent Assistant, a web-based program through which parents can view their students’ grades online. This has been highly successful in strengthening communication between LBMS and parents, and between parents and students. Parent Assistant applications are available during registration and at any time through the main office. Instructions for use of this valuable program are included on the form. If additional help is needed, please contact the office.

Pick Up the Phone – We encourage you to contact your student’s teacher if you have any questions. Phone calls, e-mails and messages will help you stay informed about your child’s progress.

Provide Daily Support – Help your student make sure **EVERY assignment is completed and TURNED IN**. Middle school students still require guidance and support. **Help Your Student Get Involved** - Encourage your student to participate in extra-curricular activities such as athletics, SMILE club, LIGHTS ON! after-school program, etc. In addition, encourage your student to participate in community volunteer opportunities. Being actively involved through service is educational and benefits your student and our community. **Dress for success** - Students need to be clean and dressed appropriately every day for school. We expect students to dress in their “learning gear” ready to learn! Live by the motto: *Be There, Be Ready!*

Attitude is Important! – Put on a happy face. It is important to recognize that we are to act professionally at school. Once again, Remember: Attitude is Everything!

GRADING / PROFICIENCY BASED LEARNING (NEW 2012-13)

Grading System Overview

Parents and schools need to work together to promote academic and personal growth in students. For that reason we will communicate with you frequently, providing up-to-date information on your child's progress in schools.

This is the first year that all core academic classes within the school will be grading on a Proficiency Based Learning model (PBL). Report card grades are determined by what a student knows and can do, rather than reporting on absences, tardies or extra credit, which traditionally factors into grading. Students are told what they are expected to learn and how assignments or lessons help meet those goals. In the PBL model, more emphasis is placed on learning.

Definitions

Proficiency Based Learning (PBL): This term refers to a system in which teachers assess and grade students based on content specific knowledge and skills with less emphasis being placed upon behavior, tardiness or extra credit because those elements do not reflect a student's knowledge.

Proficiencies: Mastery of specific knowledge and skills demonstrated by consistently superior performance, measured against established standards.

Core Classes: Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies

Content Knowledge and Skills: These are the skills most commonly associated with the assessed state standards. (See further clarification through examples below under "grades".)

Participation / Citizenship Skills: These skills are those that help to develop the content knowledge and skills and are more associated with being a good citizen (being on time, respectful, safe and responsible). (See further clarification through examples below under "grades".)

Summative Assessments: This assessment summarizes the development of learners at a particular time, usually at the end of a unit (example: unit tests).

Formative Assessments: This is any assessment that informs the teacher and the students where the learner currently is in the learning process and can take place at any time during the unit so that the teacher / students can plan accordingly (example: quizzes). Formative assessment is more valuable for day-to-day teaching when it is used to adapt the teaching to meet students' needs. Formative assessment helps teachers to monitor their students' progress and to modify the instruction accordingly. It also helps students to monitor their own progress as they get feedback from their peers and the teacher. Students also find opportunity to revise and refine their thinking by means of formative assessment. ***(Summative assessment is characterized as assessment of learning and is contrasted with formative assessment, which is assessment for learning.)***

Grades

Academic grades under the Proficiency Based Learning model will reflect a student's master of the subject's knowledge and skills according to state standards, allowing teachers to be more objective in their grading practices. Therefore, extra credit will not be provided. Academic grades are calculated based off a weighted scale where 80% reflects content knowledge and skills, and 20% reflects participation / citizenship. The following criteria will be used to define hard and soft skills:

Content Knowledge and Skills (80%)

- Tests and quizzes on knowledge and skills, state standards, and proficiencies
- Alternative assessments (verbal, demonstration of skills or understanding, etc.)
- Writing samples / inquiry labs / math problem solving (state samples)
- Projects (if the teacher knows it is the student's own work or when an individual student's contribution can be assessed based on their understanding of the knowledge and skills in the standards.)
- Summative and formative assessments

Participation / Citizenship Skills (20%)

- Effort in learning, respect, participation, responsibility, creativity
- Openers / Warm-ups
- Daily Work
- Homework
- Class Work
- Projects (when a teacher cannot be certain that it is a student’s own work)
- Turning in grade printouts / progress reports

Reassessment

Students may be given opportunities to retake assessments that they fail in order to demonstrate proficiency, provided that they are making adequate progress toward proficiency. The assessment grade will NOT be the average of all the assessments. The highest grade for each assessment will be awarded to the student.

Missing Work / Incompletes / Make-Up Work

In order to demonstrate proficiency, students must score a 70% or better on the assessment, which is equivalent to a “C” average. “D” grades will no longer be awarded to student work. If an assessment is below a 70%, they have the opportunity to retake the assessment and get additional support from the teacher or building support services. If all, or most, assessments are failed within a grading period, a student may earn an “F”. However, if a student is making adequate progress toward proficiency and utilizing resources available, they will be assigned an Incomplete and will have 10 school days to demonstrate proficiency on missing / incomplete assessments at the end of the trimester. Third trimester incompletes will result failures.

(Below is a comparison of the new PBL grading scale compared to the traditional grading scale.)

<u>Proficiency Based Learning</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
<u>Grading Scale</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
A (Master)	A
B (Approaching Master)	B
C (Proficient).....	C
I (Incomplete)	D
F.....	F

(Below is a graphic illustration of a blank rubric for assessing the level of knowledge and skills demonstrated by a student.)

Three Rivers School District: Standards
--

Standard:	Developing (I)	Proficient (C)	Approaching Master (B)	Master (A)

Student Support

A variety of support will be provided to students to help them reach a proficiency level within their classes. The following programs and opportunities are available for them to take advantage of, in order to help them be academically successful.

- Regularly scheduled academic support within the school day
- Increased academic support opportunities
- Increased intervention classes
- Extended learning opportunities / Enrichment Time / Re-take – Re-do

Elective Classes

Elective teachers will be using the PBL model; however their grades will still reflect hands-on activities, projects, participation and work ethic. Elective teachers will inform students of their grading expectations and criteria in their syllabus, which will be handed out at the beginning of each trimester.

eSIS continued from Page 2

How do I log off the Parent Assistant system when I am finished?

Please click on the "Log Off" button in the upper right corner of your window. Then just close your browser.

I get a message that says that I did not have the Java plug-in required to view the site.

You will need to install the free Sun Microsystems Java Virtual Machine the very first time you log in. You should only have to do this once and once again if upgrades to the system are made. Here is a link <http://java.com/en/download/index.jsp>

What hardware or software is required?

To use Parent Assistant, you must have a computer with internet access and a browser that will allow cookies to be set. Windows based PC's: This system requires the use of Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.5 or above or Firefox. At this time, eSIS is not compatible with Internet Explorer 8.0. Macintosh Computers: This system requires the use of Microsoft Internet Explorer 5 or above. (It also works on newer versions of Firefox and Safari) Parent Assist works best on a high-speed connection. It may not work well on dial-up.

Why does it take so long for my student's assignments to be graded?

Different schools and teachers operate differently and on different timelines.

I don't see any assignments, or grades but I know my student has had homework.

Not every teacher is using the Teacher Assistant module of eSIS. If your son's or daughter's teacher is not using this software, the assignments and grades will not be available in Parent Assistant.

Why can't I see the information on my second or third student?

When I login, I only see one. If you have two children attending a Parent Assistant school and you do not have a student selection dropdown available with your other students, you should contact your school and request that the registrar update the siblings in eSIS. Once this is done, you will have access to your other students with the same login.

Some of the screens in the program are blank. Why is there no information available?

Parent Assistant only displays information that has been entered into the Student Information System. Example: If your student is on a team, but it has not been recorded in the system, the teams screen would be blank and not reflect your student's membership.

Why doesn't my student's average on the Current Progress screen add up correctly?

Each teacher applies different weights to assignments so the current average will not necessarily reflect the average of all displayed scores. For a detailed explanation on the weighting please contact your student's teacher.

LBMS Dress Code:

To maintain a positive atmosphere for learning, we ask that students wear appropriate school clothing — underwear and midribs should be covered; slogans or pictures should not make reference to tobacco, alcohol, drugs, sex or be demeaning to any person or group.

Additionally, we ask that sweatshirt hoods be down during the day.

Hats are not allowed, unless it is a designated day by the Principal.



Cell Phones: During the school day cell phones must be turned off and kept in your locker. Students may use cell phones before the first bell and after school.



Student Lockers

Students will be assigned a locker to use throughout the school year. Expensive or valuable items should be left at home. Lorna Byrne Middle School does not assume responsibility for student property in lockers or any other place on campus. Students agree to accept the responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of the locker combination and to keep the locker in good order.

*See student handbook for full locker policy.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. What time does school start and end?

Monday to Friday 8:45 - 3:15 (first bell rings at 8:40)

2. When do I find out my schedule?

The first day of school.

3. When do I get a locker?

Lockers are issued when your enrollment paperwork is turned in to the office.

4. What do I do if I'm going to be absent from school?

Your parent / guardian needs to phone the Attendance Office to report your absence (541-592-2163, ext. 3037).

5. Am I allowed to put my skateboard in my locker?

If it will fit, otherwise ask Ms. Hennings if you can keep it in the office.

ATTENDANCE

It is proven that school attendance is a factor in the overall success of students.

If your student is ill or must be absent, please **be sure to phone** the LBMS Attendance Office and let us know.

Homework can be requested on the second consecutive day of absence. Homework requests need to be made before 10:00 am.



Students may only miss 14 days total.

PHONE 541-592-2163

ATTEND ALL PARENT PROGRAMS

Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

This program gives parents / guardians an opportunity to see the school, meet your student's teachers, and learn something about the courses your child is taking.

When you attend parent programs, you learn valuable information about your child's educational program. You also show your student that you're interested in his/her academic progress.

HELP SET ACADEMIC GOALS

Setting goals will give your child something specific and positive to work towards. At the beginning of each grading period, work with your student to figure out what grade he/she should realistically be able to earn in each course.

Middle School students need a lot of direction, guidance, and support from their parents / guardians.

LORNA BYRNE MIDDLE SCHOOL
101 SOUTH JUNCTION AVENUE,
CAVE JUNCTION, OR 97523
PHONE 541-592-2163



TO: