LEMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Charger Wire

January 1, 2026

Notes from Administration

Dear Leman Families,

Happy New Year! I trust this message finds you well and that winter break provided time for some relaxation and joy for you and your family. As we begin the new year and resume our academic journey, students will reflect on their progress toward meeting academic goals and begin to set goals for the Spring. With many state-required tests on the horizon and high school transition beginning for our 8th graders, this can be a busy time of year for our students!

As a building, Leman sets academic and culture goals for our students, staff, and parents. Over the next several months, you, your students, and our staff will be asked to fill out a couple of different surveys to let us know how we are doing in the areas of academic progress, family engagement, and the level of trust and communication we have in our school system. It is our hope that you will participate in these surveys of the Leman community because your responses help us decide how to plan for the remainder of the school year, as well as for next year. We look forward to seeing all the progress our students have made this year so far!

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children. Here's to a fantastic start to 2026!

Sincerely,
Maggie Lay
Principal

Important Dates

Upcoming Important Dates

1/5: First Day of School in 2026!
1/12-1/16: MAP Testing in Math and ELA
1/19: No School: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/23: ACCESS Testing
1/28: ACCESS Testing
1/20: ACCESS Testing

Wear It Wednesday - January Dates

Each week, our students and staff dress up for Wear It Wednesday. Here are our themes for this month:
1/7: Pajama Day
1/14: Flannel Day
1/21: Camouflage Day
1/28: Swap Day (Students dress like teachers and teachers dress like students!)

January Testing

Each year, our students participate in various standardized tests to assess both individual progress and our school's overall performance. In January, students will undertake the second round of MAP testing in Math and Reading. Students start taking this assessment in elementary school. Students will set goals with their Math and ELA teachers based on their MAP scores. The data from MAP tests is utilized for multiple purposes, including class placement, determining intervention or enrichment eligibility, and tracking student growth throughout the school.

Additionally, the ACCESS test will be administered in January. This test evaluates English Language Proficiency and is divided into four sections: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Not all students are required to take this test; some have already passed it or are exempt. Successfully passing the ACCESS test is a significant step toward earning the Seal of Biliteracy on a high school diploma.

It is crucial for students to be present and well-rested for these tests. We encourage students to perform their best while maintaining a stress-free mindset.

People You Should Know

School Nurses

As illness season is upon us, lets take a moment to recognize our school nurses who work to keep us all healthy at school. We are fortunate to have two full-time nurses at LMS!

Mrs. Borges

Mrs. Quiroga

WICOR

At LMS, we have been successfully implementing WICOR strategies across all content areas for the past two years. WICOR stands for:

- **Writing**
- **Inquiry**
- **Collaboration**
- **Organization**
- **Reading**

Each area of WICOR is supported by a building-wide strategy. We will go over a different strategy each month to share and demonstrate how these strategies are being utilized at LMS.

Our chosen writing strategy is RACES, designed to help students organize their thoughts and articulate their answers using appropriate academic vocabulary. RACES stands for:

- **Restate the Question**
- **Answer the Question**
- **Cite Evidence**
- **Explain the Evidence**
- **Summarize**

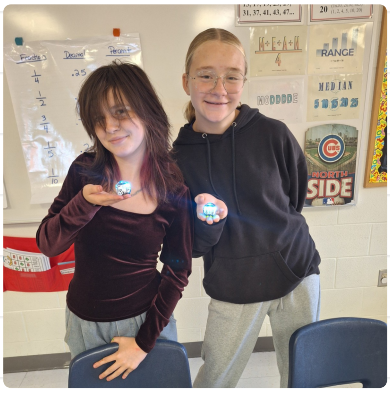
Earlier this year, we held a "Drop Everything and Write" week, during which students crafted formal RACES paragraphs in every class. In our upcoming series, students will write a formal RACES paragraph in a different class each week throughout January and February.

We are proud of the significant improvements we are observing in our students' writing skills!

Congratulations, Leman Leaders!

In December, our Leman Leaders award was presented to students who showed the Leman Value of Positive Interactions. Congratulations to Mathias, Luis, and Melissa!

Instructional Coach Corner



Testing Tips for Parents

No matter what your personal feelings on standardized testing are, there is no escaping the reality that these assessments will be an important part of your child's academic experience. And, every parent wants to see their student experience success in the classroom. So, what's the best way to help your child prepare for tests—and keep a healthy mindset while doing so? Here are a few simple tips for parents to help your child perform and feel his or her best on testing days.

Talk to your child about test taking

Sometimes, the purpose and goals of testing are difficult for children to understand. Without that foundation, it's easier for children to be intimidated by testing or simply not feel motivated to put forth their best effort.

Offer positive reinforcement

A little encouragement can go a long way in helping students walk into testing days feeling confident—which, in turn, can have a huge effect on their performance. Praise your child for the work that he or she does to prepare for testing, and share in his or her excitement when he or she has success with a new concept or skill.

Keep testing in perspective

No single test is *that* important. Avoid putting too much emphasis on your child's test scores—doing so can make your child feel pressure that will ultimately only affect his or her performance negatively.

Debrief after the test

After testing day has come and gone, talk with your child about his or her results and how he or she felt about the test. By discussing his or her answers, thought processes, and feelings, you can gain further insight into what he or she is struggling with and excelling at and then help him or her better prepare next time. Talking about testing can also help your child process the experience and overcome any anxiety that he or she might have had.