

# 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 Leman Community,

As we approach the end of the first trimester and move into the second, I am proud of all the growth and progress we've seen in the classroom and beyond. The weeks leading up to Winter Break always bring a bit of extra excitement, as students anticipate the holidays and time away from school. It's also a time when we begin to see some new learning opportunities unfold as we head into the second trimester.

On Monday, December 2nd, we officially kick off the second trimester. For many students, this means a new schedule and fresh opportunities to explore different subjects or dive deeper into areas of interest. It's a great time for students to re-focus, set new goals, and challenge themselves academically.

First trimester grades will be posted in the Home Access Center on Friday, December 6th. I encourage you to take some time to review your child's progress and discuss their grades with them. If you have any questions or concerns about specific subjects or assignments, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers. Our goal is always to support students in their learning, and we are here to help if there are any areas where your child needs assistance or additional resources.

I would also like to thank all of you who attended this year's Parent-Teacher Conferences. It was wonderful to meet so many of you and have the chance to hear directly from your children about their learning experiences. The student-led conferences are always a highlight of the year, as they give our students an opportunity to reflect on their own progress and take ownership of their education. I hope these conversations help foster ongoing communication and set the stage for continued growth throughout the school year.

As we prepare for the winter break, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your family for a peaceful, joyful, and safe holiday season. I know that this time of year can be both exciting and challenging, and we want to be here for you. If you or your child need support, whether academically or personally, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are always happy to help however we can.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve this wonderful community, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together as we move into 2024.

Wishing you all the very best as we wrap up 2023!

Sincerely,

Maggie Lay

Principal



### Important Dates

- **Monday, 12/02:** Trimester 2 Begins!
- **Thursday, 12/05:** Open Mic Night - 6:00pm-8:00pm
- **Friday, 12/06:** Trimester 1 Grades available in Home Access Center
- **Friday, 12/06:** D33 Art Gala 5:00pm-6:30pm
- **Tuesday, 12/10:** 8th Grade Choir Concert at WCCHS 7:00pm-8:00pm
- **Wednesday, 12/11:** 8th Grade Orchestra Concert at WCCHS 7:00pm-8:00pm
- **Thursday, 12/12:** 8th Grade Band Concert at WCCHS 7:00pm-8:00pm
- **Friday, 12/13:** Ballet Folklorico Posada 6:00pm-8:00pm
- **Monday, 12/16:** Parent Safety Presentation at Leman 5:30pm-7:00pm
- **Friday, 12/20:** Last Day of Classes in 2024



### Wear it Wednesday!

**12/4** LMS Day - Wear LMS Shirts/School Colors (Blue & White)

**12/11:** Disney Day - Don your favorite Disney gear!

**12/18:** Holiday Sweater/T-Shirt Day - Wear a fun/ugly holiday sweater/t-shirt!

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>

**Checking your child's grades**

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 that looks like the image below.

If you click on "Grades," you will see any **report card** grades that have been entered by your child's teacher. Teachers complete grade reports halfway through the trimester, and then again at the end of the trimester. However, you can also see how your student is doing on their daily classwork. To see their **daily progress**, click on "Classes." 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!

**ACCESS Testing will begin on  
January 21, 2025.**

**This important assessment provides  
key information for further class  
selection guidance and supports  
needed for students.**

**ACCESS Testing is almost  
here!**



**¡Las pruebas de ACCESS ya casi  
están aquí!**

**What is ACCESS?**

ACCESS is the English proficiency test. It measures the level of academic English a student knows. The test has four different tests: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.

**Who takes ACCESS?**

Your child takes ACCESS because they are amazing and knows two or more languages.

**Why do they take it?**

When your child was registered for school it was marked "yes" for other than English spoken in the home.

**When do they take it?**

The test is taken in January and February. The scores are sent to the district in the Spring.

**When does my child stop taking the test?**

Your child will stop taking the ACCESS test when they reach an overall score of 4.8 or passed the test when they enter school.

If your child still takes the ACCESS test they will be reviewing last year's scores and goal setting for the upcoming test during their Advisory class.

Over Winter Break please review the papers coming home: Last Year's scores, Goal setting sheet, High School Trajectory, and practice sheet.

Please encourage your child to practice for the test over Winter Break!

**¿Qué es ACCESS?**

ACCESS es la prueba de competencia en inglés. Mide el nivel de inglés académico que sabe un estudiante. La prueba tiene cuatro pruebas diferentes: comprensión auditiva, lectura, escritura y expresión oral.

**¿Quién toma ACCESS?**

Su hijo/a toma ACCESS porque es increíble y sabe dos o más idiomas.

**¿Por qué lo toman?**

Cuando su hijo fue registrado para la escuela, se marcó "sí" que se habla un idioma a partir de inglés en el hogar.

**¿Cuándo lo toman?**

La prueba se toma en enero y febrero. Los puntajes se envían al distrito en la primavera.

**¿Cuándo deja de tomar mi hijo el examen?**

Su hijo dejará de tomar el examen ACCESS cuando alcance un puntaje general de 4.8 o apruebe el examen cuando ingrese a la escuela.

Si su hijo aún toma el examen ACCESS, revisará los puntajes del año pasado y establecerá metas para el próximo examen durante su clase de Advisory.

Durante las vacaciones de invierno, revise los documentos que le llegarán a casa: puntajes del año pasado, hoja de establecimiento de metas, trayectoria de la escuela secundaria y hoja de práctica.

¡Anime a su hijo a practicar para el examen durante las vacaciones de invierno!



# Chargers in Action!



Trimester 1 PBIS Assembly Fun!



Check out some pictures of LMS Chargers around the school!



## Updates From the Math Classes at LMS!



### 6th Grade Math Update

In 6th grade Math, we have been busy working through our first two modules this trimester. The first module that students worked on was based on Ratios. Students worked hard to understand how to use tape diagrams and tables to solve ratio problems. We also spent a lot of time focusing on unit rate and what item is the better buy. The second module in 6th grade is quickly coming to an end. This module focuses on Arithmetic Operations. We started the module by dividing fractions using tape diagrams and then moved to being able to do this algebraically. Students then moved on to adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals. Finally, the module concluded with discussing least common multiple and greatest common factor.

Looking ahead, we will be taking our Winter MAP test the week after winter break. Please ask your child about their MAP goals. It is very important that we continue to have conversations based around goal setting and growth that students are making. These are conversations that we have almost daily during class, but continuing the conversation at home is equally important. Please reach out to your child's math teacher if you have any questions about MAP scores or goal setting.

### 8th Grade Math Update

Our year in 8th grade math started off with a focus on geometry as students learned how things move through a series of transformations: translations, reflections, rotations and dilations. Students are currently working on modeling and solving problems algebraically. We are building on skills from 6th and 7th grade to advance to solving multi-step equations and systems of equations.

Throughout the year and especially as we close out the first trimester, students are tracking their progress on IXL, grades, and NWEA MAP scores. We're celebrating growth, identifying strengths, and making plans to focus on our areas of greatest



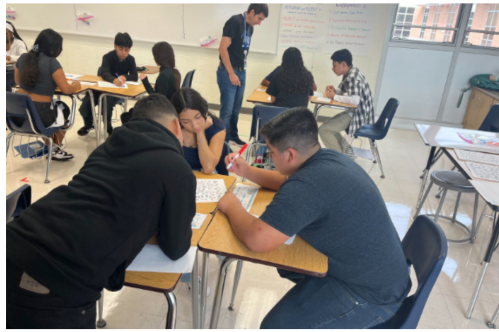
### 7th Grade Math Update

Our seventh-grade mathematicians have been making great progress in building their math skills! Currently, we are focusing on solving equations and applying our understanding of rational numbers—including negatives, fractions, and decimals—to solve both equations and inequalities. In addition to our in-class work, students are using IXL as a personalized learning tool. Each week, they complete a diagnostic test (about 10 questions) that generates recommended skills for them to practice, helping to boost their diagnostic scores and overall math abilities. Each student has set a personal goal for their IXL diagnostic score, and they can also work on specific IXL skills aligned with their MAP scores. IXL also includes an IAR test preparation component, which will help students get ready for the IAR test in March. Homework is assigned weekly and focuses on reinforcing skills covered in class so be on the lookout for these assignments!



strengths, and many plans to focus on our areas of greatest need. Students are able to identify their individual strengths and areas of need through IXL and work on those independently or with a small group.

We are also focused on language, yes language in math! Students are applying problem solving skills to find an answer AND providing an explanation verbally or in writing. If students can explain a concept to a peer, that is mastery.



**Winter Break :**

**December 23rd- January 3rd**

**Students Return to School:**

**Monday, January 6th**

## Boredom Busters

### Winter Break Edition!





Check out the list below for some ideas on how to keep boredom away from your winter break.

Use this [Link](#) to check out the website!

- Gather everyone together!** Make artwork to display on the fridge or tackle a giant puzzle,
- Turn up the Music!** Throw a dance party in the living room
- Make yourself warm!** Gather in the kitchen to bake cookies or drink hot cocoa
- Plan a playdate!** Invite a friend over for an indoor scavenger hunt
- Check out the Library!** The West Chicago Public Library is open over break and offers many, many programs, classes and, of course, books and other media to borrow.

## 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!

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

**Leman Middle School Bolt Bucks**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Leman Values**

Respect for Others

Readiness to Learn

Orderly Transition

Positive Interactions

Responsibility

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

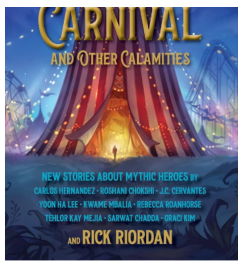
**#1**

Students: redeem this ticket for a prize in the cafeteria! Thank you for living out our Leman Values!



## Coaching Corner





Click [This Link](#) for a  
**One School, One Book Program**  
Follow Up!

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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