

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 Families,

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you well and that winter break provided you and your family with some well-deserved rest and joy. As we begin the new year and resume our academic journey, students will have the opportunity to reflect on their progress toward meeting academic goals and set new goals for the rest of trimester 2 and beyond. We are excited to see how our students continue to grow and thrive, demonstrating resilience, creativity, and a desire for learning.

At Leman, we set academic and cultural goals for our students, staff, and families. In the coming months, we will ask for your participation in a couple of important surveys. These surveys will help us gauge how we are doing in key areas such as academic progress, family engagement, and communication within our school community. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping how we plan for the rest of this school year, as well as how we look ahead to the next one. We truly appreciate your input and hope you will take a few minutes to share your thoughts when the surveys arrive.

Additionally, this Spring, your child will be participating in several standardized tests. We ask that you support us in encouraging your child to do their best, as these assessments provide valuable insights into their progress and growth. We are confident that our students will rise to the occasion and demonstrate all the hard work they've put into their studies this year.

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children. We look forward to seeing the continued progress our students make and to a successful 2025! Here's to a fantastic start to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Maggie Lay
Principal



Important Dates

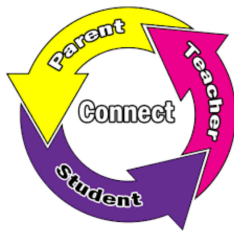
- **Monday, 1/6:** Students Return to School
- **Wednesday, 1/8:** 8th Grade Open House at West Chicago Community High School 7:00pm-8:30pm
- **Wednesday, 1/13 - Friday, 1/17 :** Winter MAP testing
- **Monday, 1/20:** No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- **1/23, 1/27 and 1/31:** Access Testing
- **Friday, 1/31:** Trimester 2 Midterm Grades available in Home Access Center



Wear it Wednesday!

- 1/8:** Mismatch Day - Dress in mismatched clothing
- 1/15:** Soccer/Futbol Jersey Day - Support your favorite futbol team!
- 1/22:** Flannel Day - Also known as dress like a lumberjack day
- 1/29:** Twin/Triplet Day - Wear matching outfits with a friend or group of friends! Twinning!

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>



Parent Square

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!

ACCESS Testing will begin on

January 23, 2025.

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

ACCESS Testing is almost here!



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.



- Talk to your child about the importance of always doing their best.
- Make sure your child has the mindset that a test is just showing everything that they know. Anything that they don't know just shows what they need to learn. There is nothing wrong with not knowing it yet.

¡Las pruebas de ACCESS ya casi están aquí!

¿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.



- Hable con su hijo sobre la importancia de hacer siempre lo mejor que pueda.
- Asegúrese de que su hijo tenga la mentalidad de que una prueba solo muestra todo lo que sabe. Todo lo que no sepan solo muestra lo que necesitan aprender. No hay nada de malo en no saberlo todavía.

ACCESS Testing will begin on

January 23, 2025.

[Check out some tips and test-taking strategies here -->](#)

THE NIGHT BEFORE

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep.
- Be encouraging. Let your child know that you think he/she will do well on the test.
- Plan for the morning ahead. Make sure they have everything ready to go.



- Get up with enough time so you are not rushing.
- Make sure that your child eats breakfast at home or takes breakfast at school.

LA NOCHE ANTES

- Asegúrese de que su hijo duerma bien por la noche.
- Sea alentador: hágale saber a su hijo que cree que le irá bien en el examen.
- Planifique para la mañana siguiente. Asegúrese de que tengan todo listo para funcionar.



- Levántate con tiempo suficiente para que no estés apresurado.
- Asegúrese de que su hijo desayune en casa o desayune en la escuela.

- If your child wears glasses or hearing aids, be sure they have them.
- Be positive and supportive. Acknowledge that taking a test can be hard.



After each test day:

- Talk to your child about his/her feelings about the test.
- Acknowledge that they put in great effort while taking the test and how they can apply that to other tests.
- Celebrate the completion of the test!

- Si su hijo usa anteojos o audífonos, asegúrese de que los tenga.
- Sea positivo y comprensivo. Reconozca que realizar un examen puede ser difícil.



Después de cada día de prueba:

- Hable con su hijo sobre sus sentimientos sobre la prueba.
- Reconozca que se esforzaron mucho.
- Pregúntele a su hijo lo que pudo haber aprendido mientras tomaba la prueba y cómo puede aplicar eso a otras pruebas.
- ¡Celebre la finalización de la prueba!

Chargers in Action

Check out what the students at Leman have been up to!



Updates From the Social Studies Classes at LMS!

6th Grade Update

6th grade social studies has been having a great year so far! We began our year learning about map skills and how our first civilizations functioned. In class, we have been learning about the geography, religion, achievements, politics, economics, and social structure of each civilization. We were able to attend a field trip to the Museum of Ancient Cultures in Chicago where our students had a blast! This museum was an amazing opportunity for our students to connect what they are learning about civilizations like Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt to physical artifacts. In each of our units we have been using map skills, guided note-taking, reasoning techniques, and various document analysis opportunities.

This past month we have been learning about Ancient Egypt. We began our unit learning about the importance of the Nile river and the surrounding geographical features. As a 6th grade social studies class we used the Virtual Reality headsets to take a trip to Egypt to sail the Nile river, visit the pyramids of Giza, and some awe-inspiring temples. Students made their own advertisements about Egyptian inventions and voted for the most impactful pharaoh in Egypt (Hatshepsut won!). We are finishing the unit with a written test where students will answer the question "Where would you rather live?". They will use text

7th Grade Update

During this unit, students will focus on the question "Is the history of Reconstruction a story of continuity or change?"

Students will explore a variety of primary and secondary sources to investigate topics like how different viewpoints of the North and South impact Reconstruction, how the Civil War and Reconstruction affected the lives of future generations of Americans, and what were the successes and failures of Reconstruction.

As a final assessment, students will use their notes and apply their knowledge to answer a variety of questions about Reconstruction.

8th Grade Update

8th grade social studies is continuing our study on World War II. This unit asks students to think about how a war changes a society. We will focus on the impact of the War on Women, Latinos, and African Americans, and all Americans as a

evidence to argue which of the three civilizations is the best to live in. After winter break we will begin unit five: Ancient India.

Some important reminders for the rest of the school year: Homework is given to students each week beginning on Monday that is due on Friday. It is of the utmost importance that students are utilizing their planners and completing their homework weekly. Please check-in with your child to check the progress on their homework. When homework is not completed, it adds to the next week and students then have more homework to complete. Please remind your child to come to class prepared with a pencil, take home folder, and planners. This will ensure they are successful during class. Tests in sixth grade can be document-based assessments, multiple choice tests, or projects. Assessments are worth fifty percent of their overall grade and are important to be completed in a timely manner. If a student needs extra time for missing work please speak to your child on speaking to their teacher to get extra help in class or advisory. We are always willing to help! We hope you had a restful break!

6th grade Social Studies Team: Monica Williams, Sara Smith, and Maria De Prado

whole.

We will also look at major events of World War II including Pearl Harbor and European battles. Students will be assessed on their ability to identify the impact of the War on the rights of citizens as well as their evaluations of the events of the war.

This unit will include sensitive language and images that, used within the context of our classroom, are necessary to understand the historical events covered.





Please take time to discuss these topics with your students at home and always feel free to contact us if you have any questions about content or assessments



6th Grade Social Studies VR and Field Trip Pics!

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 Being on time Seeking help when needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I will try better next time" "How can I improve?" School appropriate conversations Holding each other accountable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ownership Self-Respect You are listened to and heard

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!

6th Grader Stephanie Hernandez

and

7th Grader Chris Cruz



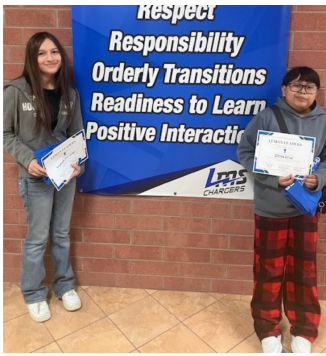
Leman Leaders

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

In December, the focus was on **Positive Interactions**.

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 December's Leman Leaders!

6th Grade- Stephanie Hernandez: Stephanie's teachers say that she is kind to everyone, and is able to work well with everyone in class, no matter who she sits with or is paired with.

7th Grade - Chris Cruz: Chris's teachers report that he is very friendly and respectful. He engages with all students and treats them all with respect. Chris is also very involved in the school.

8th Grade - Andrea Garcia: Andrea's teachers describe Andrea as being very positive with teachers and classmates. She is very enthusiastic with her academics and is always going the extra mile.



Coach's Corner

Motivating Your Child to Read at Home

[Click here](#) for some great tips to motivate your student to read.

Also, check out the

[2025 Rebecca Caudill Young Reader's Book Award](#) Nominee List

Updates From Explore Classes at LMS!

SEL Class Update:

Students in Career Cruising classes are discovering their personal strengths and preferences via both personality and career surveys. This information will help them choose a career to research in depth. In SEL classes, students are drawing upon their knowledge of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to understand why people sometimes choose to engage in behaviors that wind up getting them in trouble. With this understanding, students will soon be applying this to a logical decision-making process, using pro-con charts to map out the consequences of choices.

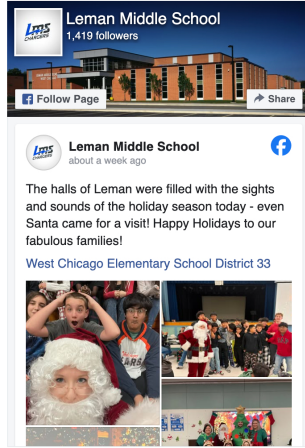
STEM Class Update:

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. It is an exciting, hands-on learning experience where students explore engineering concepts while integrating math, science, and technology concepts and skills. Our focus is on the engineering design process, where students identify challenges, define criteria for solutions, and work within specific constraints to develop creative solutions. Last week, students created paper circuits with LED lights. They learned about simple circuits and electricity flow while strengthening their problem-solving skills. This week, they are tackling the "Snowman Stretch" challenge, working in teams to design the tallest snowman using materials like paper, straws, and balloons.

Throughout the trimester, students will engage in a variety of hands-on activities, such as building catapults and constructing a paper roller coaster. These challenges will help reinforce STEM concepts and enhance students' understanding of how engineering, math, and science work together in real-world applications.



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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