

The Charger Wire

December 1, 2025

Notes from Administration

The three weeks of school between Thanksgiving and Winter Break are some of my very favorites. Our students come back from the first break with energy and excitement that rivals the first days of school! The new trimester gives many students a fresh start and a change in their schedule. First trimester grades were posted in PowerSchool on November 21st. I hope you will take some time to review your child's grade with him/her and contact teachers with any questions you might have. It was really lovely to meet so many of you at Parent Teacher Conferences! I hope you enjoyed hearing your child talk about his/her progress, and that you will continue to ask them for updates as we move through the year. Our goal for family attendance at our Open House was 40% and we surpassed that goal!

It is my hope that your family has a peaceful and safe holiday season. We know that for many, this is a challenging time. If my team can do anything to support you, your student, or your family, please contact us. We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve your family, and wish you the very best as we wrap up 2025!

Sincerely,

Maggie Lay

Principal



Important Dates

Upcoming Important Dates

12/2: Latinos In Action Family Night 5:30 PM
12/3: Trimester 1 Honor Roll Ceremony 5:00 PM
12/5: Ballet Folklorico Posadas event 6:00 PM
12/9: 8th Grade Choir Concert at WCCHS 7:00 PM
12/10: 8th Grade Orchestra Concert at WCCHS 7:00 PM
12/11: 8th Grade Band Concert at WCCHS 7:00 PM, D33 Art Show at LMS 5:00 PM
12/19: Last Day before Winter Break
Classes Resume on Monday, January 5th, 2026!

Wear It Wednesday - December Dates

Each week, our students and staff dress up for Wear It Wednesday. Here are our themes for this month:

12/3: Lights Out Day (wear all black)
12/10: Disney Day
12/17: Ugly Sweater Day

Friday, 12/19 will be a pajama day!

Attendance Matters

With the holiday season upon us, we typically see an increase in the number of students who miss school for extended family trips. Especially as students get older, extended absences can be detrimental to a student's learning progress and are therefore discouraged. It can be very challenging for students to catch up on the learning that they miss when they return to school, which in turn can cause stress and anxiety for our children.

Please note that, according to the District 33 handbook, family vacations are considered unexcused absences. Accumulating unexcused absences may result in referral of the student to the DuPage Regional Office of Education due to Chronic Absenteeism. Students whose families choose to remove them from school for extended periods of time for reasons that qualify as unexcused absences may also be subject to unenrollment from District 33 during the period of absence.

If you must remove your child for an extended period of time, you must notify our building principal, Maggie Lay, in advance of your absence. You and your child will be responsible for contacting teachers for missing assignments and arranging to complete any tests or quizzes that are missed. Your child is also highly encouraged to enroll in the ASAP after-school program upon return, so they can receive tutoring in any areas they missed while out of school.

Your child's success academically, socially, and emotionally is very important to us! We appreciate your partnership in supporting their hopes and dreams by maintaining high expectations for student

attendance!

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

Al mismo tiempo que los niños crecen y se vuelven más independientes, las familias desempeñan un papel clave para asegurarse de que los estudiantes vayan a la escuela todos los días y comprendan por qué la asistencia escolar es tan importante para el éxito en la escuela y en el trabajo. Las familias también pueden solicitar los recursos para ayudar a los estudiantes a aprender si no pueden ir a la escuela personalmente.

¿USTED SABÍA?

- Los estudiantes no deben perder más de 9 días de clases cada año para mantenerse involucrados, exitosos y encaminados hacia la graduación.
- Las ausencias frecuentes pueden ser una señal de que un estudiante está perdiendo interés en la escuela, teniendo problemas con el trabajo escolar, lidiando con un acosador o enfrentando alguna otra dificultad.
- Para el sexto grado, el ausentismo es una de las tres señales de que un estudiante puede abandonar la escuela secundaria.
- Para el noveno grado, la asistencia escolar es un mejor indicador de las tasas de graduación que los puntajes de las pruebas de octavo grado.
- Faltar un 10%, o 2 días al mes durante el transcurso del año escolar, puede afectar el éxito académico de un estudiante.

People You Should Know

School Counselors

LMS is fortunate to have one counselor per grade level to support our students academically, socially, and emotionally! Our counselors work hard every day to check in on student progress and support their needs to make school a safe and supportive learning environment. They run school-wide programs for students to support their development through the crucial adolescent years.

They also oversee our student 504 plans, are part of our attendance teams, and meet with teachers regularly to foster connections between students, families, and teachers when students need additional support.



Mrs. Ayala
6th Grade



Mrs. Koch
7th Grade



Mrs. Lopez
8th Grade

Congratulations, ILMEA Musicians!

This year, eighteen students who auditioned for ILMEA District 9 Honor Band/Orchestra/Choir, and **nine** students were selected to participate! This is the largest group ever selected from the Leman music department. The students had to put together a complex and competitive audition above and beyond their music for class to be accepted into this group, which includes some of the best schools for music in the state.

Selected students include:

- Jesus Garcia Balbuena - Clarinet (8th grade)
- Stephanie George - Clarinet (7th grade)
- Noah Hayward - French horn (8th grade)
- Samantha Munoz - Bass Clarinet (8th grade)
- Livia Williamson - Flute (8th grade)
- Audrey Erickson - Alto Choir (8th grade)
- Sala Habimana - Alto Choir (8th grade)
- Laina Rivera - Soprano Choir (8th grade)
- Jenna Severance - Cello (7th grade)

Congratulations to our talented musicians!



Congratulations, Leman Leaders!

In November, our Leman Leaders award was presented to students who showed the Leman Value of Readiness to Learn. Congratulations to Josue, Noah, and Eliza! These students are prepared for class with their materials, arrive on time, and are eager to learn. Their teachers note that they are organized and get all of their work done, even after they participate in clubs or sports!

Instructional Coach Corner

Middle School Reading Engagement at Home

Between extracurricular activities, hanging out with friends, and engaging in screen time, it's possible your middle schooler hasn't spent much time exploring new books. From searching for a new word definitions to starting a new chapter book, use these tips to encourage your older child to make time for reading.

1. **Let your child choose what to read.** While you may cringe at their preferences, they may never touch a title if it's force-fed.
2. **If they are struggling or bored with a book, let them put it down.** Forcing them to stick with a difficult or dull book that's intended for pleasure will reinforce the idea that reading is a chore.
3. **Keep up on what they are reading.** If you can, read a few pages of their books yourself so you can discuss them with them.
4. **Encourage writing.** Whether it's via snail-mail or e-mail, suggest that they keep in touch with distant friends or relatives. Keeping a journal or chronicling a family vacation will also provide reading practice.
5. **Suggest books from movies he/she liked.** They may enjoy getting even more detail in the book.
6. **Listen to books on tape in the car.** If you're heading on vacation, or even back-and-forth to school, try listening to a novel that will appeal to everyone.
7. **Model reading.** Your pre-teen will still follow your reading habits (though they'll never let you know it!). Let them see you reading, make comments, and share interesting passages with her.



Leman Middle School

www.wego33.org