

PTO MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

PTO Chairperson: Kayvon Zand
PTO Secretary: Ilea Kozak
PTO Treasurer: Komal Kapoor Fox
Head Class Rep: Meredith Kennedy

HOT TOPICS:

- I. Talent Show
 - a. PTO planning to hold this event later this school year – event will be open to all students, families and faculty members.
- II. Lobbying Updates:
 - a. Lobbying for Charter Schools to receive access to money for capital improvements has paid off – bill was passed!
- III. WHATSAPP:
 - a. Place for parents to connect and help one another plan for weather related emergencies.
 - b. Contact Ilea Kozak to be added to chat group.
- IV. A Night at the Book Fair Event/ PTO Meeting 2/6/24:
 - a. Volunteers for book fair should reach out to Mr. Mulholland.
 - b. Pete the Cat (Mr. Hogan) will make an appearance.
- V. Let's Talk About Middle School:
 - a. Middle school is not just an academic conduit for high school and college, should be a place where children are seeking opportunities to shine and are taught social & emotional skills to use in advocating for themselves in high school.
 - i. Ms. Wright (School Counselor)
 1. Assists with high school applications (encourage students to create and participate in extracurricular activities); mental health/social emotional management in individual and group forms (anxiety, test prep, social anxiety, “no homework days” etc.)
 2. LCCS middle school offers a rigorous work load – balanced by extracurricular activities.
 - ii. Ms. Carr (Middle school math teacher)
 1. Curriculum allows teachers to adapt to students needs (we offer 8th grade algebra – to prepare for and earn high school credit 9th grade)
 2. Balanced by projects to explore areas of curiosity and real world applications.
 - iii. Ms. Tracy Papperella – ELA Teacher
 1. Novel based curriculum (all units follow novels about children of similar ages living in different countries).
 2. Writing, vocabulary, spelling and grammar all tied to literature the students are reading.

3. Homework: Do not want to overwhelm students, math and ELA homework is nightly, science and social studies homework given 2x/week to keep homework load at about an hour a day.
 4. 95% of students meet or exceed 7th grade requirements.
 5. LCCS students had 100% acceptance rate to St. Peter's Prep (many with scholarships).
- iv. Ms. Hittner (lower school reading specialist & runs Performing Arts Workshop "PAW")
1. PAW for 6th – 8th grade students, 2x/week
 2. 8 classes to choose from (dance, coding, fine arts, music, guitar, music studio, etc.) Students rank their preferences for courses and LCCS tries to accommodate preferences.
 3. 2 performances per year to help students manage nerves, gain confidence, get feedback from audience.
 4. LCCS partners with Nimbus Dance and Code Advantage (how to develop gaming through programs such as Scratch and Python) and hopes to include other community professionals in its programming.
- v. Ms. Bonnafiti (Science Teacher)
1. Full year course work in each subject areas (earth science, biology and chemistry/physics) with lab activities and writing lab reports.
 2. Curriculum includes "SMATH" – science integrated with math.
 3. Partnership with River Keeper (conservation activities on Hackensack River).
- vi. Ms. Acox (Algebra Teacher and LCCS alumnist)

MIDDLE SCHOOL TOUR