

**Principal's Corner**



I always find that students and parents are interested in what happens over summer break on campuses.  Let me give you a glimpse into what we have been working on and the focus of our work over the next few weeks.

This week the leadership team met to review some of the new systems we put into place this past year.  We reflected on these goals and actions, and generated a list of data that can give us the clearest picture of our progress on these goal items.  We began gathering that data to review, and will discuss that information next week to help us choose the areas that still need improvement.  Let me share with you some of those items:

* GOAL 1:  Increase and improve access to counseling services for students.
  + Action: Increase fulltime services through Communities in Schools from 2.5 mental health counselors to 3.0 mental health counselors.  CIS contract includes referrals for family services through local partners and service organizations.  Tutorial support with partnering agencies is also included as an on-campus service.
  + Action: Relocate CIS Offices to the 2nd floor of the new building with all other student services.
  + Action: Open up services to drop in or referral.
  + Action: Hire two more Academic Deans with counseling certification to give students immediate access through their neighborhood administration team.

* GOAL 2: Improve school culture, reduce discipline rates and increase access to high quality teachers for all students.
  + Action: Organize school into small, heterogeneous learning communities with aligned support services.
  + Action: Create embedded time during the day for access to tutoring, in addition to before and after school tutoring services
  + Action: Assign Assistant Principal, Academic Dean and Clerical staff member to support 350-400 students and 8-10 neighborhood teachers.
  + Action: Develop IB Career-Related Program so that all 11th and 12th graders participate in one of our IB programs with a more flexible level of participation in our most rigorous coursework.  This allows all students to leave Lamar with college credit in 2 or more courses, and potentially an industry-related certification.
  + Action: Implementation of an individual student led conferences and electronic portfolios for all students, allowing parent and student the opportunity for a more personalized experience to reflection on learning and receive academic advising for selecting the most rigorous course of study to meet long term goals.
  + Action: Reduce time out of class by providing all student services in the reception area outside student neighborhoods, including things like requesting VOEs or transcripts, turning in excuse notes for absences, requesting the use of loaner uniform shirts to meet dress code requirements.

* GOAL 3: Develop IB course options to support more students in earning the IB Diploma or IB Course Certificates through the IB Career-Related Program.
  + Action: Retool all IB Middle Years Programme units of study to ensure strong integration between disciplines for all 9th & 10th graders.
  + Action: Implement Yr 1 of phase-in for two year IB Math sequence for 11th and 12th.
  + Action: Plan for phase-in of two year IB Science sequence for 11th and 12th.
  + Action: Plan for transition from IB Literature to IB Language and Literature as a two year SL or HL sequence in 11th and 12th.
  + Action: Plan for introduction of IB Psychology as a one-year SL choice that pairs well with our IB Career-Related Human Services and Business pathways.
  + Action: Ensure all new students start in a pathway so that both IB Diploma and IB Career-Related Programmes are open courses of study, with the student led conference at the end of 10th grade as the decision point for program participation.

**Contact Information**

**General Questions**

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**Lamar employees will be working virtually and will receive emails Monday -Thursday between 8 am - 5:30 pm**

**Highlighted Events**

* **Sun. June 14th- Virtual Graduation** **@ 1 pm**[www.houstonisd.org/lamarhs](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/-tNR-NCw8OTSiDeLfLCndg~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgxADeP0QhaHR0cDovL3d3dy5ob3VzdG9uaXNkLm9yZy9sYW1hcmhzVwdzY2hvb2xtQgoASF7N4l5iZ-ofUhZETUVSTEFOQGhvdXN0b25pc2Qub3JnWAQAAAAB)

**Virtual Graduation**

This Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. we will celebrate Lamar Seniors in an online graduation ceremony.  I hope that you are making plans for your at-home graduation party, and that you plan to celebrate with your loved ones in a BIG WAY!

You will find a Graduation Celebration kit in your swag bag from the senior celebration last week, with your ceremony program and a small bag of party fun.  Get into those caps and gowns and put on that “big achievement” smile. You will be able to access the link from the Lamar website at [www.houstonisd.org/lamarhs](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/-tNR-NCw8OTSiDeLfLCndg~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgxADeP0QhaHR0cDovL3d3dy5ob3VzdG9uaXNkLm9yZy9sYW1hcmhzVwdzY2hvb2xtQgoASF7N4l5iZ-ofUhZETUVSTEFOQGhvdXN0b25pc2Qub3JnWAQAAAAB).  During the graduation ceremony, please send me pictures of the Lamar graduate with family and friends to @viewfromthelhsbalcony on Instagram so that I may share it with the rest of the Lamar community.

**Diploma Delivery Delayed**

We are sorry to report to the Class of 2020 that our outside publisher for diplomas and covers is backlogged because of COVID-19 and has postponed our shipment’s arrival date.

Therefore, the pickup of senior envelopes – which includes transcripts, programs, diploma and cover – is now scheduled for the week of June 29.  There are no scheduled pickups until then.

Continue to check for updates and information about how to send final transcripts to your next campus via Naviance or TREx.

**Yearbooks**

The projected date for the delivery of the yearbooks is June 26th.  Due to COVID-19, production was only operating at 30%. Therefore, this caused a delay. More information will be provided in regard to a future distribution date once the yearbooks are delivered.  We thank you for your patience.

**Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Due to COVID-19**

Because of school closures from COVID-19, Texas received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide more than $1 billion in pandemic food benefits to families with children that have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals.

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) provides eligible families with a one-time payment for each child who previously received free or reduced-price meals. P-EBT works the same way Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits do and will help families get the food they need during the current pandemic. P-EBT will be administered by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas Education Agency.

Go to:  [https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-information-texans/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt-due-covid-19](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/OQ0pqb51P-cAi57I1WplVA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgxADeP0SCaHR0cHM6Ly9oaHMudGV4YXMuZ292L3NlcnZpY2VzL2hlYWx0aC9jb3JvbmF2aXJ1cy1jb3ZpZC0xOS9jb3JvbmF2aXJ1cy1jb3ZpZC0xOS1pbmZvcm1hdGlvbi10ZXhhbnMvcGFuZGVtaWMtZWJ0LXAtZWJ0LWR1ZS1jb3ZpZC0xOVcHc2Nob29sbUIKAEhezeJeYmfqH1IWRE1FUkxBTkBob3VzdG9uaXNkLm9yZ1gEAAAAAQ~~) for additional information.

**College Corner Summer Series**

College Corner will be hosting a summer series of workshops to help you learn more about applying to college and all the steps needed to complete and have a competitive application to the college of your choice.

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| **Topics**    **June 11th** – Applications 101 – how to apply to colleges.    **June 17th** – Naviance 101 – how to use Naviance to search colleges, request transcripts, linking accounts, and more!    **June 18th**– application & scholarship essays, resumes, & personal statements    **June 24th** – financial Aid, FSA ID, FAFSA & TASFA, CSS Profile    **June 25th** – applying to highly selective schools, CSS Profiles, ED & EA    You can come to one or all the workshops! All workshops will be held on Microsoft Teams – **College Corner Join code – dulsac8**    **All workshops will start at 3pm and will have a Q&A to follow.**    **Google Form**  If you are planning on coming please fill out the google doc so we can send you all the documents and resources for pre-work and follow up info from the workshops.    [https://forms.gle/2gewQpPU9JuLAFx27](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/sIqQxPzKr9VJc6OrOyWvnQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgxADeP0QjaHR0cHM6Ly9mb3Jtcy5nbGUvMmdld1FwUFU5SnVMQUZ4MjdXB3NjaG9vbG1CCgBIXs3iXmJn6h9SFkRNRVJMQU5AaG91c3RvbmlzZC5vcmdYBAAAAAE~) |

**PEERS sponsored by the University of Houston**

**What would you do with 5 million dollars to improve preventative care in your community?**

Lamar students, under the sponsorship of Ms. Noble, participating in PEERS Program through UH this year.  They began in the fall and continued during COVID-19 online learning and have a whole new experience to completing this project.

The students have continued work doing virtual zoom meetings over the past weeks on their presentations and then presented their final projects this week to a panel of judges and did amazing.

**At the awards ceremony they won the following awards:**

Each team won $100 for continuing the program to its finality through COVID-19.**but then......**

**1st place winners for $1000 (each person) Lamar High School**

**Teens Across the Board:**

**Rebecca Asare**

**Leylah Walker-Battle**

**Adrian Williams**

**(all current 11th graders)**

**2nd Place winner for $500 Lamar High School**

**Telehealth:**

**Eva Reese**

**(current 11th grader)**

**High School Fine Arts Students Use Dance to Connect**

Students from Bellaire, Lamar, Madison, Milby, Westbury, and Westside high schools collaborated on a dance piece performed in response to a strong poem written and recited by Andrea Minotti, a senior dance student at Westside High School.

“This situation will fade, but we can’t run away from it,” he writes, “so as the days go by, sitting inside, what you will make of it?” Minotti’s powerful message inspired the dancers to express their emotions during this difficult time.

Paris Kent, Andy Ayala, Corinne Miller, Candiss Drexler, Tanya Jones, and Amberly Altamirano Daniels collaborated on the dance project. Simon Chardey, a senior from Lamar HS, complied and edited the individual videos to express the students’ belief that through dance they can connect, heal, and stay strong.

Go to: [https://blogs.houstonisd.org/news/2020/05/29/high-school-fine-arts-students-use-dance-to-connect/](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/ipE1p5yykYZudZr1vJdE7g~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgxADeP0RhaHR0cHM6Ly9ibG9ncy5ob3VzdG9uaXNkLm9yZy9uZXdzLzIwMjAvMDUvMjkvaGlnaC1zY2hvb2wtZmluZS1hcnRzLXN0dWRlbnRzLXVzZS1kYW5jZS10by1jb25uZWN0L1cHc2Nob29sbUIKAEhezeJeYmfqH1IWRE1FUkxBTkBob3VzdG9uaXNkLm9yZ1gEAAAAAQ~~) to view.

**HISD COVID-19 Crisis Hotline**

 The HISD has implemented a mental health hotline for students and parents. This hotline runs 24/7, and gives FREE mental health advice during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students and parents may call the hotline at **713-556-1340**to speak to trained staff from HISD’s Social and Emotional Learning Department. Below, you will find an article posted by HISD providing details on the hotline. Please feel free to share. Thank you.

**Inspirational Moment**

"Work hard dream big!"

Sheryl Swoopes

