

**Principal's Corner**



This week the leadership team reviewed data that would inform us on the effectiveness of our actions related to our improvement goals.  I would like to share some of that information with you.  I am thrilled with the many areas of improvement this year.

* GOAL 1:  Increase and improve access to counseling services for students.
  + Through our partnership with Communities in Schools, three full time mental health professionals were placed on the Lamar campus during the 2019-2020 school year, as well as one fulltime administrator with counseling certification.  The total cost of the program was $418,262.  Lamar funded $254,280, and $163,982 was underwritten by CIS donors.
  + Over the course of the school year prior to shutdown, 157 students received regular, weekly mental health counseling on campus.  Another 535 students were supported through short-term walk-in counseling support.
  + After shutdown, 185 students were provided mental and behavioral support.
  + CIS partnered with 350 community agencies for referrals, and facilitated Lunch Bunch groups for students struggling with relationships and belonging, as well as Breakfast Club for students struggling with the transition to high school.  Additionally, CIS partnered with Montrose Counseling Center to provide SAFE Zones therapeutic support group.  The following is a demographic breakdown of students receiving regular support through CIS: male – 31%, female – 69%, Hispanic – 29%, Black/AA – 43%, White – 20%, Asian – 2%, Two or More – 6%.

* GOAL 2: Improve school culture, reduce discipline rates and increase access to high quality teachers for all students.
  + 2019-2020 Attendance Rate: 96.14% (previous 2-yr history 94.54%, 94.27%)
  + 2019-2020 Graduation Rate: 93.5% (previous 3-yr history: 91.0%, 86.7%, 87.4%)
  + Discipline Rate: 114 Out of School Suspensions (previous year: 183); 7 Disciplinary Placement Referrals (previous year: 13)
  + Student Survey Results: >85% of respondents indicated the neighborhood system was an area of strength for Lamar. (Administrators are continuing to breakdown the survey results related to academic rigor, support services and availability of administration.)

* 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.
  + IB Diploma Programme Candidates for 2020: 263
  + IB Career-related Programme Candidates for 2020: 40
  + Rising 12th Graders continuing in IB Diploma Programme in 2020-21 school year: 314
  + Rising 12th Graders continuing in IB Career-related Programme in 2020-21 school year: 111
  + Rising 11th Graders entering IB Diploma Programme in 2020-21 school year: 224
  + Rising 11th Graders entering the IB Career-related Programme in 2020-21 school year: 353
  + Through our partnership with CIS, nine partners provided volunteers for tutoring and mentor support for a total of 284 hours of in-kind service.

**Highlighted Events**

* **Thursday, June 25th**- FFA Award Pick Up (LHS Transit Center) 5 - 7 pm
* **Monday, June 29th & Tuesday, June 30th**- Diploma Pick-up (LHS Transit Center)

**District Parent Survey**

The HISD Research and Accountability Department has launched a districtwide HISD COVID-19 Response Parent Survey, which runs through July 2. Parents are asked to complete the survey online at [**HoustonISD.org/ParentSurvey**](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/zryztBubX11WkSXxJEgMrA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgzUoKP0QiaHR0cDovL0hvdXN0b25JU0Qub3JnL1BhcmVudFN1cnZleVcHc2Nob29sbUIKAEaKFuxeY2kAa1IecmFjaGVsLnJ1dGxlZGdlQGhvdXN0b25pc2Qub3JnWAQAAAAB)**.** Included in the survey are general family questions, as well as questions about each child’s experience with remote learning.

**2020 - 2021 Academic Calendar**

The Academic Calendar for 2020-2021 has been finalized.  After feedback from all stakeholders, the District has decided to operate under the original calendar that was approved by the HISD Board of Trustees, rather than adopting an 11-month calendar.

**Dates to Know:**

August 18, 19 or 20          New Student Orientation, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

August 24                         First Day of School

November 23-27              Thanksgiving Holiday

December 21-Jan 1          Winter Break

March 15-19                      Spring Break

May 28                              Last Day of School

Click the following attachment for further details: [2021 School Calendar 6-18-2020.pdf](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/h8eQPgpLhetpxXVuQ_P6PA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgzUoKP0R1aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9tLz9zPUt0UFQ5TTVVWHpvJm1hbD1iNTVhNmIxMWIyYmIzNjllMjBjYjgzZjcyYWFhNDAyMWJmNGVlYTUzYTFlNjliYTlmZTZjZTdkZGE3ODM4YzRhVwdzY2hvb2xtQgoARooW7F5jaQBrUh5yYWNoZWwucnV0bGVkZ2VAaG91c3RvbmlzZC5vcmdYBAAAAAE~)

**Welcome New Texans!**

The 2020-21 school year is likely to start a little differently than it has in the past.  We want to make sure our newest Texans get a good orientation to Lamar and are able to navigate the online components of the Lamar instruction plan.

New students are asked to sign up for an orientation date at [bit.ly/NewTexansDay](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/4o4rlxZ6fbOal1OSHZMLBg~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgzUoKP0Q8aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2lnbnVwZ2VuaXVzLmNvbS9nby85MDQwODRhYWJhYjJkYTVmZTMtbmV3dGV4YW5zVwdzY2hvb2xtQgoARooW7F5jaQBrUh5yYWNoZWwucnV0bGVkZ2VAaG91c3RvbmlzZC5vcmdYBAAAAAE~).  We can accommodate 250 students on each of the three days.  Students should be dropped off before 9:00 a.m. and picked up at 11:00 a.m.  Students will be required to wear a mask while on campus and one will be provided if the student arrives without a mask.

**2020-2021 Student Parking**

Class of 2021, don't forget to secure your parking spot for the 2020/2021 school year by the June 19th deadline. New this year, our PTO is sponsoring a fundraiser allowing seniors who have submitted a parking application before the deadline to paint their parking spot for an additional $50. More details will be sent to those seniors who've submitted an application.

The student parking application permit information for the 2020-2021 school year is listed below:

Parking Permit 2020-2021 Link:  [bit.ly/ParkingApp20-21](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/PpYIfJHoVtnT83VOEOXTXA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgzUoKP4SnAWh0dHA6Ly90cmFjay5zcGUuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9mL2EvTGlQeWlTaS1qOWdYdWNrdWZ1U2swZ35-L0FBQUFBUUF-L1JnUmd6TE9rUDBUSGFIUjBjRG92TDNSeVlXTnJMbk53WlM1elkyaHZiMnh0WlhOelpXNW5aWEl1WTI5dEwyWXZZUzluVDFOMmRGSTROWEZGY3psNWEzSjVhRk5RTm5GQmZuNHZRVUZCUVVGUlFYNHZVbWRTWjJ4ak1HbFFNRkZsWVVoU01HTklUVFpNZVRscFlWaFJkV0pJYTNaVlIwWjVZVEpzZFZvd1JuZGpSRWwzVEZSSmVGWjNaSHBaTW1oMllqSjRkRkZuYjBGU2NVdGFkRVkzU2xwR1pIbFZhR1JGVTJzNVQxSldUWGhOTUVKdllqTldlbVJIT1hWaFdFNXJURzA1ZVZveFowVkJRVUZCUVZGLWZsY0hjMk5vYjI5c2JVSUtBRWNrZ090ZXBHZW9DbElXWVhsM1lXeHJaWEl4TWpjNVFHZHRZV2xzTG1OdmJWZ0VBQUFBQVF-flcHc2Nob29sbUIKAEaKFuxeY2kAa1IecmFjaGVsLnJ1dGxlZGdlQGhvdXN0b25pc2Qub3JnWAQAAAAB)

You can also click [Student Parking Application Announcement\_.docx](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/-D9jb8mwu-qWYoIcHl400g~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgzUoKP4Q3AWh0dHA6Ly90cmFjay5zcGUuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9mL2EvTGppZXFIX1V3MktEQXFmdUJtMkphUX5-L0FBQUFBUUF-L1JnUmd6TE9rUDBSMWFIUjBjSE02THk5dGMyY3VjMk5vYjI5c2JXVnpjMlZ1WjJWeUxtTnZiUzl0THo5elBVcHJkRXRpVDI5ck5tdzRKbTFoYkQwd00yTmpabUl3T0RkbFpUWmxNak15Tm1ZM01USTFaV1ZpT0dZeFlXRTVZalU1TkRRd05tTmtPVGxtTXpZeVkyTTVOek00TjJVd1l6UXhObUV4TVdZNFZ3ZHpZMmh2YjJ4dFFnb0FSeVNBNjE2a1o2Z0tVaFpoZVhkaGJHdGxjakV5TnpsQVoyMWhhV3d1WTI5dFdBUUFBQUFCVwdzY2hvb2xtQgoARooW7F5jaQBrUh5yYWNoZWwucnV0bGVkZ2VAaG91c3RvbmlzZC5vcmdYBAAAAAE~)  for further details or email [Lamarhshouston@gmail.com](mailto:Lamarhshouston@gmail.com).

**Diploma Pick-up**

On June 29 and June 30, class of 2020 graduates will be able to sign up for an appointment to pick up their diploma, diploma cover and two official copies of their final transcript.  Please sign up for an appointment at[bit.ly/Seniorpickup](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/VN8UsPNfEgJPx3rndlrxJQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgzUoKP0TraHR0cDovL3RyYWNrLnNwZS5zY2hvb2xtZXNzZW5nZXIuY29tL2YvYS9nUHA0akFQeHVSdGRNVFlxZTE0ZHhnfn4vQUFBQUFRQX4vUmdSZ3pRTzNQMFE2YUhSMGNITTZMeTkzZDNjdWMybG5iblZ3WjJWdWFYVnpMbU52YlM5bmJ5ODVNRFF3T0RSaFlXSmhZakprWVRWbVpUTXRjMlZ1YVc5eU1sY0hjMk5vYjI5c2JVSUtBRVkzME90ZVkybEFIMUlYUkVwUFRrVlRNVE5BYUc5MWMzUnZibWx6WkM1dmNtZFlCQUFBQUFFflcHc2Nob29sbUIKAEaKFuxeY2kAa1IecmFjaGVsLnJ1dGxlZGdlQGhvdXN0b25pc2Qub3JnWAQAAAAB).  This will be a drive-thru, no contact process, and all graduates and families are asked to wear a mask when driving through for your items. Diplomas not picked up during this time will be available for pick up in the Main Office after regular operations are resumed.

**New for Class of 2021**

Congratulations and welcome to your senior year!  New this year, for seniors only, a red “seniors” uniform shirt is now available.  Pre-order on school pay now to make sure your senior shirts are available when school starts.

**Lamar FFA Award Pick Up**

The FFA award pick up is scheduled for Thursday, June 25th from 5 - 7 pm.

Please stay in your vehicle.  This will be a drive-thru, no contact process, and all are asked to wear masks.

**COVID-19 Relief Fund**

Harris County established the Harris County COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide much-needed relief to Harris County residents most impacted by the global pandemic.

Public Application open **June 23 and June 24** online and by phone.

[https://www.harriscountyrelief.org](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/bQNxN3vVa_5miHhsb37lOA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgzUoKP0QiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuaGFycmlzY291bnR5cmVsaWVmLm9yZ1cHc2Nob29sbUIKAEaKFuxeY2kAa1IecmFjaGVsLnJ1dGxlZGdlQGhvdXN0b25pc2Qub3JnWAQAAAAB)

**Underclassmen Laptop Return**

At this time we are awaiting official word on whether or not laptops will be collected and redistributed in August.  With the need to continue to social distance both collection and redistribution would be complex processes.  Please continue to watch the newsletter and emails for updates around this.  If you find that you are moving and will not return to Lamar, please schedule a Summer Tech appointment to return you laptop and begin the withdrawal process.  Summer Tech appointments can be made at [bit.ly/Lamarsummertech](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/EiBoar3-zflVFrxCZpVNXw~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgzUoKP0Q5aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2lnbnVwZ2VuaXVzLmNvbS9nby85MDQwODRhYWJhYjJkYTVmZTMtc3VtbWVyVwdzY2hvb2xtQgoARooW7F5jaQBrUh5yYWNoZWwucnV0bGVkZ2VAaG91c3RvbmlzZC5vcmdYBAAAAAE~).

**Tech Problems?**

We are here to help!  If you are having trouble with your laptop, wifi or charger, we can assist.  Please schedule an appointment at [bit.ly/Lamarsummertech](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/EiBoar3-zflVFrxCZpVNXw~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgzUoKP0Q5aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2lnbnVwZ2VuaXVzLmNvbS9nby85MDQwODRhYWJhYjJkYTVmZTMtc3VtbWVyVwdzY2hvb2xtQgoARooW7F5jaQBrUh5yYWNoZWwucnV0bGVkZ2VAaG91c3RvbmlzZC5vcmdYBAAAAAE~).   Appointments are required to ensure we meet CDC guidelines for social distancing.

**Yearbook Update**

The projected delivery date for the yearbooks is June 26th.  Production was delayed due to COVID-19.  We will keep you updated in regards to a distribution date and time.

**Amazon Smile**

Did you know that every purchase you make through Amazon can generate a donation back to the Lamar PTO?  Amazon Smile is now available on your Amazon smartphone app.  From the top menu icon, select Settings and then Amazon Smile. Select Lamar High School PTO.  All donations go to the PTO to enrich opportunities for Lamar students in the classroom.

**An Inspirational Moment**

"The key to success is to focus on the goals, not obstacles."

Unknown

