

LPS Updates

December 13, 2023



Tarbox 4th & 5th Grade



- Students from the Tarbox Student Leaders and Honor Choir visited Mary Immaculate
- Students sang holiday songs to residents
- They also completed arts and crafts projects with residents

Oliver Topping Off Ceremony

- The last piece of steel is officially in place at the Oliver School building site
- The Topping Off Ceremony was attended by Oliver Elementary students, Oliver Middle students, principals Quiles and Deimel, as well as many members of the community and project management
- We look forward to June of 2025



LFISS at the Arlington

- The Lawrence Public Schools Family Institute for Student Success completed the Fall 2023 session at the Arlington School
- 92 parents received certificates for completing the program
- In a place very near to my heart, it was great to see my former students with their own children, taking the class to advocate for their kids' future



LPS Honor Choir

- City of Lawrence Tree Lighting
- Our choir had the privilege of attending and singing three carols



NJHS at the Super G

- The Guilmette Middle School recently inducted 22 new members into their National Junior Honor Society Chapter
- Congrats to all new inductees
- I was able to reconnect with Nilmar, who was in my Acceleration Academy Class in February, 2020



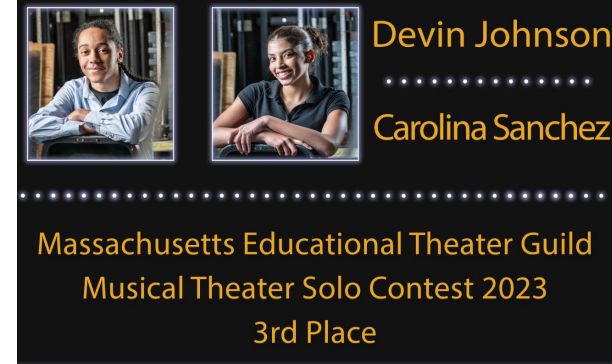
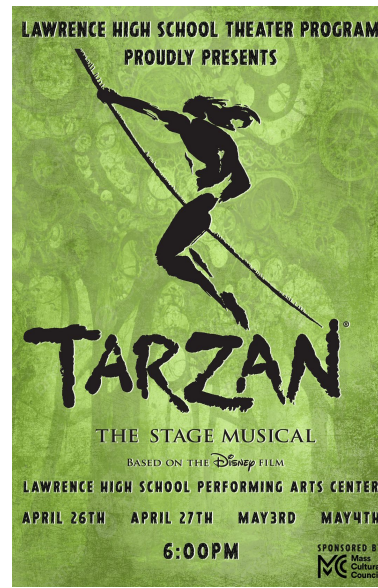
NHS at LHS

- The Lawrence High School Chapter of the National Honor Society also recently inducted 87 new members
- We congratulate all the members for their academic excellence and their commitment to the four pillars of scholarship, service, leadership, and character



LHS Theater

- Congratulations to Carolina, grade 9 ALA; and Devin, grade 12 Upper School – they recently received recognition from the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild
- LHS Theater completed performances of West Side Story
- Theater is looking forward to their spring performance of Tarzan



Thanksgiving Day!

- We enjoyed Thanksgiving Day with LHS vs CCHS Football prior to dinner
- Seniors from football and cheer programs were recognized prior to the game for their effort and teamwork
- I took a quick picture with Jeremiah, a member of our football and wrestling squads, he is interested in studying biology next year
- It was a great game with Central coming out on top 17-14



Winter 2023-2024 Athletic Start Date Information

Winter Sports

- Season began on Monday, December 1st
- Five winter sports are in action
- As always you can find sports schedule at:
<https://www.merrimackvalleyconference.org/public/genie/264/school/13/>
- Come and join the fun as a spectator, Friday night LHS hosting NAHS in girls hoops
- Don't forget about the Commonwealth Classic during winter break at Merrimack College

Sport	Level	Start Date	Start Time	Location	Head Coach	Contact Information
Wrestling	All Levels	11/27/23	3:30	Upper Cafè	Rob Niceforo	Roberniceforo@comcast.net
Cheerleading	All Levels	12/4/23	3:30	Lower Cafè	Katelyn Skerry	Katelyn.skerry@lawrence.k12.ma.us
Indoor Track & Field	All Levels	11/27/23	3:30	Fieldhouse	Jonathan Sping	Jonathan.Sping@Lawrence.k12.ma.us
Boys Basketball	Varsity JV	11/27/23	5:30	Fieldhouse	Jesus Moore	Jesus.Moore@lawrence.k12.ma.us Jesus.Moore@lawrence.k12.ma.us
	Freshmen	11/27/23	5:30	Fieldhouse		
Girls Basketball	Varsity JV	11/27/23	5:30	NCEC/Old High School	Suzanne Lessard	Suzanne.Lessard@lawrence.k12.ma.us Jeffrey.Basha@lawrence.k12.ma.us
	Freshmen	11/27/23	5:30	*All Levels of Girls Basketball will be bussed to the NCEC @ 4:30. Busses will be located at baseball field.		

Please note that ALL student-athletes must have an up-to-date physical on file with the school nurse in order to participate in any athletic sports at Lawrence High School. There will be absolutely no exceptions to this rule.

EVERY ATHLETE NEEDS TO REGISTER ONLINE THROUGH FAMILYID: <https://www.familyid.com/lawrence-high-school>




SquashBusters

- Sunday morning SquashBusters had their annual MashUp over at Brooks School
- Over 200 LPS middle school and high school students have been in the SquashBusters program over the past nine years
- This program has a focus on health, exercise, and academics
- Jomar is one of our students who was present Sunday at the MashUp; he has participated while at both the Arlington School and Abbott Lawrence
- He is planning on studying engineering next year in college



Responding to Safety Incidents

- Recently we had two safety related incidents which impacted the high school
- 1st – related to a hoax threat to the campus, we implemented our crisis plan to shelter within the building until the threat was determined to be non-credible
- Students continued to switch classes and had lunch in the cafeteria
- 2nd – related to an assault in proximity to campus, crisis plan was not implemented in this case
- In both situations school personnel worked closely with law enforcement



LAWRENCE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

IN AN EMERGENCY

STOP, LISTEN, ACT!

SHELTER IN PLACE

Building entryways secured and locked, students and staff await instructions

Students	Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen for instructions• Follow directions of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen for instructions• School may continue as scheduled inside the building• Or everyone may be directed to a designated safe area

Pillar III of the LPS Turnaround Plan

Accompanying this letter is the renewed turnaround plan for LPS with a continued focus on the Four Pillars set forth in the original plan:

- I. **Rigorous Standards:** Creating rigorous, standards-based curricula and assessments
- II. **High-quality Enrichment Opportunities:** Creating opportunities for students to participate in activities such as musical theatre, step dancing, and athletics
- III. **Mindset:** Inculcating the value of hard work and a growth mindset in our students
- IV. **Critical Thinking:** Ensuring that higher order thinking skills are embedded in classroom lessons

- Pillar III refers to focusing on growth, and believing that hard work matters.
- Effective effort will lead to academic, extracurricular, or social emotional gains.
- What we practice and focus on, we end up doing well on.
- Achievement doesn't happen because of being "smart," it happens through deliberate actions.
- Indicator 5 in our School Quality Review document refers to high expectations for students.

SEN Rubric Indicator #5

High Expectations (School Culture)

Establish a culture for learning that communicates high expectations to staff, students, and families, and provide supports to achieve those expectations

Rubric Look Fors

- There are school-wide processes in place to push all students towards high expectations and mastery.
- Students can articulate what criteria/goals they are working towards in individual classes and for their next grade level preparation. Students can articulate specific next steps needed for improvement and/or accelerated success
- High quality work is evidenced throughout classrooms.
- Expectations for staff are clear and embedded through written structures and learning experiences and teachers can speak easily and in detail to the non-negotiables of the school community
- Staff work together informally and formally in study groups, planning sessions, teacher teams, committees.
- There are clear and ongoing lines of written and verbal communication to families about assessments, promotion, graduation, and college and career readiness. Stakeholders can explain how they use those structures.
- School leadership and teachers have specific goals, systems and structures related to family involvement in student academic success.
- When school leadership and teachers speak about students' families, they use language that values family contributions to student success and demonstrates a view that family partnerships are assets.
- Families can articulate the criteria their children are being held accountable to in specific grade levels/subject areas and their strengths and areas of focus.
- Families express feeling informed and supported by teachers and admin.

District Trends: Indicator #5

YEAR	# OF LPS SCHOOLS BY RATING CATEGORY			
	Underdeveloped	Developing	Proficient	Well-Developed
2022-2023	0	13	14	3
2021-2022	3	11	12	4

YEAR	% OF LPS SCHOOLS BY RATING CATEGORY			
	Underdeveloped	Developing	Proficient	Well-Developed
2022-2023	0%	43%	47%	10%
2021-2022	10%	37%	40%	13%

57% of schools in spring 2023 received proficient or well-developed ratings for high expectations (up from 53% in spring 2022)

Indicator #5 - Testimony from SQR Reports

Developing & Underdeveloped Rating Evidence

- When students were interviewed about how they know how they are doing well and what they need to get better at academically, they all shared that they do not know without asking their teachers.
- “No student interviewed was able to articulate next steps they needed to take toward improvement without teachers’ guidance.”
- “From classroom to classroom at Wetherbee and even within some of its classrooms, varied “expectations” messages are conveyed to students.”

Proficient & Well-Developed Rating Evidence

- “Leaders at consistently communicate high expectations—such as for equitable practices, instruction, communication, and mindset—to the entire staff plus provide training, resulting in a culture of mutual responsibility for those expectations.”
- “School leaders and staff consistently communicate expectations designed to prepare students for their next academic levels as well as to encourage and support family partnerships in a process of ongoing feedback.”