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Dear Varsity Lakes Middle School Families,

We are nearing the end of first quarter and beginning to prepare for second quarter. Parents were recently given the option to change their students instructional model selection for next quarter. As a result, we will be welcoming over 200 students back to campus.

It's amazing to see the first quarter end so quickly. I want to thank all students and parents for the support and patience shown these last several months. We have had success and some challenges, yet, we continue the work that has to be done to ensure the safety and educational needs of our students. A special thanks goes to all our teachers and staff who are in classrooms supporting student learning and ensuring our students are our top priority.

Several exciting activities have occurred recently. We had the opportunity to expand our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, SuperBOLT program. Our Cross-Country team was the first to begin practice and compete in a local meet. As we move into second quarter, we look forward to more engaging, well-rounded experiences for our students.

Sincerely,

Carol Woelke

Principal

The School Board of Lee County, Florida

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The School Board of Lee County, Florida, prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, marital status, religion, or sexual orientation.

November 5 @6:00: SAC Meeting

November 11:
No school/Veteran's Day

November 23-27:
No school/ Thanksgiving Break

December 3: Picture Day Make-Up

December 7 @6:00: SAC Meeting

December 21-January 4: No School/Winter Break



Science Fair Information

Science Fair is coming to VLMS! Information will be coming home to your students from their science teachers. All students are welcomed to participate. Science fair judging will be December 10th.



PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a technology-based program that provides pathways in computer science, engineering and biomedical science. This year at Varsity Lakes Middle School, we offer PLTW through our Robotics course. This course engages students in hands-on activities, projects, and problems empowering students to solve real-world challenges. If you are interested in learning more about PLTW, contact [Ms. Smiley](#).

Virtual Curriculum Night

VLMS Virtual Curriculum Night has been posted to our school website and Grade Level Google Classrooms. Take a moment and check it out! You will learn about VLMS and the academic programs and curriculum that your child is experiencing.

Click [here](#) to view the Virtual Curriculum Night

GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODES

Be sure to join our grade level Google Classrooms. School information will be posted in the classroom. Parents are encouraged to join to stay up to date with school events.

6th Grade



Google Classroom

gvqehqu

7th Grade



Google Classroom

wfz42lh

8th Grade



Google Classroom

dp7goha



WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

This year, the school district will designate ten dates as Wellness Wednesdays, in order to engage students in learning that will provide students with tools to enhance their social-emotional well-being and support our families in the development of the whole child. The school district utilizes the Edgenuity Purpose Prep prevention curriculum and includes the following topics:

- (a) Recognition of signs and symptoms of mental health disorders;
- (b) Prevention of mental health disorders;
- (c) Mental health awareness and assistance;
- (d) How to reduce the stigma around mental health disorders;
- (e) Awareness of resources, including local school and community resources;
- (f) The process for accessing treatment;
- (g) Strategies to develop healthy coping techniques;
- (h) Strategies to support a peer, friend, or family member with a mental health disorder;
- (i) Prevention of suicide; and
- (j) Prevention of the abuse of and addiction to alcohol, nicotine, and drugs.

DRESS CODE

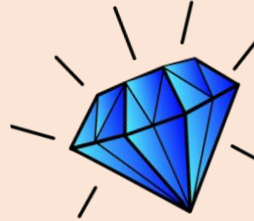
- **Shirts:** Solid color, single brand logo, polo style collared shirts or Varsity Lakes t-shirts
 - Polo shirts can have no more than 2 buttons open.
Students are only allowed to wear a plain colored t-shirt/long sleeve shirt underneath the polo shirt.
- **Pants/Shorts/Capris/Skirts:** Acceptable colors –Navy, Khaki, Black, Grey & Brown
 - Uniform bottoms must be worn at the waist, above the hip/pelvic bone and fit appropriately; if they do not fit appropriately, then a belt is required
 - Length of skirts and shorts must be at or below the knee in the standing position.
 - **Jackets/Sweaters:**
 - Jackets/sweaters must be unbuttoned or unzipped
- PANTS MUST BE A DIFFERENT COLOR FROM SHIRTS
- **Footwear:** Closed toe shoes, no higher than the ankle
 - No sandal, slipper-type shoes or beach-type shoes, including shoes made out of mesh or plastic,
 - High heels, or wedges are allowed.
- **Backpacks:** *Students are permitted to carry backpacks to class as lockers are not available for rent this year*
- **Face Masks:** Cloth or surgical face coverings/masks will be required in the Face to Face model of instruction, except while seated eating breakfast or lunch. Masks shall adhere to the Student Code of Conduct for all apparel. Ski masks, full face/head coverings are not permitted. Students may not wear a shield in place of a mask, but may wear one in addition to a mask. At this time, based on guidance from health authorities, open-chin triangle bandanas, and face coverings containing valves/vents, mesh material, lace, holes or other largely porous material are not suitable. Masks that are disruptive or offensive in nature are prohibited.

Dress Code will be strictly enforced beginning 2ND Quarter, which will begin November 2, 2020- only zip up jackets will be allowed. Collared shirts must still be worn under zip-up jackets which must be partially unzipped



Club Information

Student involvement in clubs is about more than just having fun. Club involvement assist in the development of social skills, fine tune interactions with peers and faculty members as well as the community while connecting with.



GEMS is a student group specifically designed for Varsity girls. The purpose of the group is to help young ladies Grow, Empower, Mature, and Shine together as they go through their years in middle school. Girls are mentored about self-image and self-respect, while other times we discuss drama, boys, academics, and settings goals. We talk about real problems we each face, and how we can support one another in every-day life. GEMS is open to all 7th and 8th grade girls, and apart from our bi-weekly meetings, we also host a few events. Each year, we invite moms to the school and host Muffins with Moms, as well as have a holiday lock-in. At our lock-ins, our girls donate much needed items and put together care packages for the ACT Women and Children's shelters in Fort Myers. Ultimately, GEMS is meant to be a place where all girls can come to feel safe, respected, and loved for who they are!

We will Grow, Empower, Mature, and Shine together as GEMS!

STUDENT ATHLETICS: CROSS-COUNTRY

The Cross-Country team is up and running under the direction and guidance of Coach Windey. They have begun to compete and are doing well as they represent Varsity Lakes Middle School with pride.

Congratulations to our boys team who placed first at the October 14th meet! Great job to our girls' team who placed second overall. The boys team also placed 8th at the state meet on October 31st!

On November 10, 2020, our student athletes will be competing in the Lee County Championship. At this time, the school district is allowing and encouraging parent involvement, however, we must be sure to follow the CDC Guidelines. Come out and support our Varsity athletes.





SuperBOLT: STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

September launched a new program at VLMS. Upon teacher nomination, students are selected and highlighted for their positive contribution to the Varsity Lakes Middle School community. SuperBOLT's are students who display positive behavior, good citizenship, dedication to their scholastic endeavors and are ambitious about their future. Here are the students who were nominated for September's SuperBOLT from each grade, and what their teachers had to say about them:

6th

Home Connect

Faith Hudson

"Faith advocates for herself, asks questions, and is always striving to improve."

Moises Arredondo

"Moises participates consistently. He is also prepared for class and works steadily."

Face to Face

Hannah Marie Aziz

"Hannah is prepared, organized, accountable, on task, and awesome."

Sergio Ramirez Silva

"Sergio takes academic risks and always tries hard to learn concepts in ELA. He is always polite and eager to help. Even the substitutes take notice of Sergio! I highly recommend him for this honor."

7th

Home Connect

Kendra Brooks

"Kendra is an actively engaged student, despite attending school over the computer. She is on top of her work and frequently asks for clarification when she needs it. She also does a wonderful job at reminding us to post things we said we would and keeping up with us, despite any confusion that comes about due to the current situation."

Teddy Prophete

"Teddy is a dedicated student. He goes above and beyond with his work and often asks for clarification in instances where his classmates are afraid to do so. He has taken his education into his own hands and is doing extremely well."

Face to Face

Tra'nya Dickerson

"Tra'nya always does what is asked of her. She does her best at everything in Math."

"Tra'nya has been extremely hard-working and helpful in the classroom this year. She is extremely motivated."

Ty Williams

"Ty is one of the most respectful students I have had the pleasure of teaching. He tries his very best at all assignments and isn't afraid to ask for help or clarification. He is eager to try new things and learn new material. Ty is an exemplary student and a joy to have in class."

8th

Home Connect

Jessica Morales

"Jessica laughs at my jokes, her name is pretty cool, she stays on task, she always participates, her effort is unmatched, she doesn't seem to mind when I say "hi" to her mom on Zoom, and her smile helps to keep my day going."

Domonic Alarcon

"Domonic is always early for ZOOM class, has his materials ready, and is an star student. He participates and has an energy that his classmates can feed off of! He is a leader within the classroom by working hard every single day."

Face to Face

Madelyn Peterman

"Before the assignment is due, she always asks questions about what she can do to improve her work. She is also a good friend to her classmates. She obviously cares about her friends, grades, and her future."

Christopher Gardner

"This student has shown major leadership and integrity in the halls, lunchroom and in his classes. I've witnessed him help students find their classrooms when they are lost, he stepped up in the Cafe, cleaning up other students mess so his class could return to class; he heard that one of his teachers (guest teacher) was having a difficult time with managing the class he is in (talking & disrespect) and he took it upon himself to help her. His grades are all in the 90's with one CORE CLASS at a 103! His academic improvement from last year to this year is nothing less than remarkable. I am beyond impressed with Christopher this year."



INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL CHANGE

The School District of Lee County offered families several options for student learning at the start of the school year with very specific windows of time for an opportunity to change. The next opportunity for families to change their selection from Lee Home Connect to Face to Face Learning, or vice versa will be in December, which will go into effect in January at the beginning of 3rd quarter. Additionally, parents should be aware that current enrollment in Lee Virtual School is not an option at this time.

Things to consider prior to making a change in learning models:

- Possible change in teachers
- Potential change in class schedule
- Social Distancing is minimized due to influx in student population on campus
- Masks are required while on campus



Home Connect

Lee Home Connect is an instructional model where students follow their schedule virtually from home. It is a structured learning environment and students are expected to be in their virtual class the entire period. Lee Home Connect mirrors the in-person classroom experience therefore students are expected to:

- Arrive to school on-time by 9:45 am
- Arrive to each class period on time according to the bell schedule
- Have their video turned on at all times
- Submit all assignments on-time through their Google Classroom
- Follow school and district Code of Conduct expectations
- Adhere to school dress code
- Turn off and put cell phones away
- Communicate with teacher when assistance is needed
- Use the Zoom chat feature for academic purposes only

If your child will be absent from their virtual class(es), please call the school or email DeloresTH@leeschools.net. As with Face to Face learning, students are not permitted to sign themselves in or out of school nor are they permitted to excuse their own absences. Parents must contact the school anytime a student will not attend virtually. School district attendance and tardy policy applies to Lee Home Connect students the same as Face to Face.

For the detailed district plan on Lee Home Connect visit:

<https://www.leeschools.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=676305&pageId=30848194>



TITLE 1 AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Title I information: Click here for [Title 1 Information](#).

SAC Meetings: Click here for [SAC Meeting information](#).

Varsity Lakes' School Advisory Council (SAC) is made up of school employees, parents, and community members. We meet monthly throughout the school year to discuss current school data and other school related topics.

SPAR: You can access Varsity Lake Middle Schools' public accountability report from the following link. For information about Florida's Consolidated State Plan, see Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and for detailed information about School and District Grade calculations see the School Grades Overview and Guide to Calculating School Grades, District Grades, and the Federal Percent of Points Index. Click here for [Annual School Public Reports](#)



If you would like to support VLMS in the form of a sponsorship or donation, please contact [Mrs. Rogers](#) to discuss the options we have for you!

THANK YOU

Thank you to our business partners for supporting our students, families, and staff.

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