



Leota Middle School Parent Newsletter

April 1, 2022

Good evening Leota families,

As I've mentioned before, I'm always surprised at how quickly the year progresses and am again amazed that April has already arrived. With the arrival of spring comes our season 4 sports which started earlier this week. I'm proud to shared that almost a quarter of our students (over 200 of them) are participating in sports this spring. I think it is a testament to students' desire to be with friends, exercise, and rejoin activities they enjoyed prior to the pandemic. Here are a few other things of note:

- Leota received a \$600 grant from Woodinville Gardening Club Youth Gardening Committee to help pay for this year's Leota Grows Project. Thank you!
- Our Future Problem Solvers team, coached by Matt Bohannon, represented Leota well last week when they participated in a state competition.
- Congratulations to both the girls basketball and wrestling teams for wrapping up a fantastic season last week!
- Leota's drama club will wrap up final performance of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe tonight. It was a tremendous week of performances so congratulations to all of the students and parents involved as well as our director Doug Poage.
- As a safety reminder for parents during pick-up and drop-off, please be extra cautious and attentive when pulling through the loop, especially when driving through the crosswalk. When entering or exiting the parking lot, please ensure you aren't blocking the road to allow for safe passage of other vehicles. Additionally, if you pick up your athlete in the back bus loading zone, please pull in the loading zone entrance, not the exit.
- Spring break is next week, April 11-15. Because of this, our next parent newsletter will go out on April 22.
- Public School Volunteer Week is the following week, April 18-22. Thank you in advance to all of our incredible and dedicated volunteers. We appreciate you!

I want to close on a more serious note and ask for your partnership on a topic we all care about. As you have likely heard in the news this past year, there has been an increase in behavior issues in schools around the nation as students returned to school in-person and Leota is no different. Things like disrespectful actions and/or words, racial slurs, gender or sexuality comments, arguing with staff, and being too physical with peers (touching, pushing, shoving) are examples of behaviors that are completely unacceptable yet have increased this year. There are likely many causes for this phenomenon but our staff at Leota is making it a priority to help

remind and retrain students on how to appropriately conduct themselves at school. This work includes mini lessons about our three pillars of respect, empathy and effort, accountability measures for misbehavior, student voice, restorative justice measures, mental health supports, digital citizenship, and an emphasis on kindness. My ask of you as parents is to partner with us by having an intentional conversation with your child about our three pillars and being clear about your expectations of them as a positive member of the school community. Together we can make a difference!

In closing, I want to personally thank you for your partnership and ongoing support. I hope you have a wonderful weekend and a fun spring break the following week!

Sincerely,
Bryan McNiel
Interim Principal



April 4	Periods 1-6 + Pride Game Club 2:30 Library Green Team Club 2:30 Room 619
April 5	Periods 1-6 + Pride WEB Leader & A Team Training during Pride Star Time: 2:30 Library Yearbook Club: 2:30 via Zoom
April 6	Blocks 1,2,3 Batch Testing During First Period PTSA Staff Appreciation Luncheon: Soups
April 7	Blocks 4,5,6 + R&W+Pride Yearbooks sales open through April 28 WEB Social During Pride Star Time: 2:30 Library
April 8	Periods 1-6 + Pride Last Day of Third Quarter

Week of April 11-15 Spring Break - School is closed

Week of April 18-22 Public School Volunteer Week

April 18	Periods 1-6 + Pride Season 4 Team Sports Photos Game Club 2:30 Library Green Team Club 2:30 Room 619
April 19	Periods 1-6 + Pride Star Time: 2:30 Library
April 20	Blocks 1,2,3 Batch Testing During First Period
April 21	Blocks 4,5,6 + R&W+Pride Star Time: 2:30 Library
April 22	Periods 1-6 + Pride Bookworms Book Club: 2:30 Library

Leota Yearbooks on sale April 7th – April 28th

If you have not purchased a yearbook for your student and want to, they will be going on sale starting April 7th. Yearbooks are \$28.00 and can be purchased either online via [Online Payments](#) or in the office with check, cash or credit card. If you are not sure if you have already purchased one you can check on your Touchbase account or in the office. If this is a hardship for your family please contact your student's counselor or Mr. McNiel. If you have any questions please reach out to Mrs. Spencer @ 425 408 6503 or mspencer@nsd.org

Attn: Parents of 8th Grade Students

WHS Cheer Tryouts

Interested in trying out for the 2022-2023 Cheer Squad? Tryout applications are now available the WHS main office and on the WHS Cheer athletic website. Please complete an application and turn it in to the WHS Main Office (specified turn in box) no later than Wednesday April 20th. Questions? Email Coach Laura Frost lfrost@nsd.org



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Celebrate Leota Artists!

Northshore Council PTSA is hosting a Virtual Art Showcase to celebrate those who participated in this year's Reflections program. Check out the artwork from all 10 Leota Artists who qualified for Council as well as hundreds of students from across the district!

<http://www.northshorecouncilptsa.org/council-blog/reflections-2021-2022-art-showcase-state-results>

We are also excited to announce that two of Leota's very own have earned an Award of Excellence from WA State PTA for their art:

- Divyata B. - Visual Arts - "Transformer"
- Shrita P. - Literature - "Your Next Door Neighbor"



Staff Appreciation Event – April 6th

Our soup Staff Appreciation event in November was so well received, we're doing it again! Let's treat the amazing Leota Staff to another hearty homemade soup lunch this month.

If you are able to bring a soup, please drop it off between 9-10:15am, warm, in a Crock Pot (with a liner if possible, for easy clean up), with a serving spoon. All Crock Pots and serve ware

should be labeled with your name, and can be picked up after school on April 6.

Non-perishable items (marked "for Staff Appreciation") can be dropped off at the Leota office on April 4 or 5, or in the morning on April 6. <https://signup.com/go/fTrZUEv>

Thank you for your help! Vicki Johnson and Karla Pak

Leota 8th grade party:



Hello Leotians! We are excited to be part of planning a memorable 8th Grade Party on June 10th! Due to Covid restrictions, we had planned to host the party at Leota, on the field. We are now considering using the cafeteria as well as an outdoor space.

Right now, we are looking for connections/access to a dance floor, a drone, (and its operator), that takes good quality

pictures, including the 8th grade class in its entirety, food truck connections, bistro tables/chairs, casino tables/cards/chips, and yard games for outside (corn hole, ladder ball, Yahtzee, giant connect 4).

The theme is "After Party," so we have some fun stuff planned around that. The kids will be having casino tables, yard games (outside), and a dance floor/DJ, and photo booth set/up. We are still coordinating food and beverage options. We will need TONS of help decorating!

As I said, we have some fun stuff planned, but would like to surprise the kids with some of it, so right now, let the kids know that we are working on it! The attire is **Red Carpet**, but ANY school-approved attire is fine...there is no pressure to dress up.

We would LOVE help from our parents as not only chaperones, but to borrow stuff we need for the party...see above list. **Contact: skosenski@outlook.com (or the 8th grade party email alias) for more information!**

If you want to volunteer on campus/chaperone, EVERYONE needs to be approved by NSD, and vaccinated. Here is the link. This is district policy.

[Become a Volunteer - Northshore School District \(nsd.org\)](http://www.nsd.org)



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Volunteer - Northshore School District. All athletic volunteers, not in a coaching role, in Northshore are required to complete an online volunteer application for the 2021-22 school year, even if they submitted a volunteer application last year.

www.nsd.org