



## LUTHER BURBANK MIDDLE SCHOOL

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### BURBANK BULLETIN

September 6, 2016

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I hope that everyone enjoyed the long weekend. We had a fantastic first week of school. It is great to have our hallways and classrooms filled once again with voices and laughter. Evidence of learning has already taken place. Last week I was able to visit every classroom, and I must say I was so impressed. I observed engaged and happy classrooms with students not only learning about grade level expectations and course curricula, but learning about one another. By the end of the week, I stopped counting how many teachers had commented on how impressed they were with their new group of students. No doubt about it. It's going to be a great year.

Communication between school and home is critical to student success at any age; it is especially critical during the rapidly changing adolescent years. In an effort to further strengthen school-home communication and support our two-way partnership, I will be keeping you updated on school happenings and events with a bi-weekly edition of the Burbank Bulletin. Last year, I communicated monthly via the Burbank Bulletin. As a result, the Bulletin was quite lengthy. It is my hope that this new bi-weekly edition will provide you with timely information in a more concise and readable format. As the year progresses, I will look to you for feedback on this new format.

I'm off to maximize our four day school week... lots to do and even more for all of us to learn!

Warm Regards,

#### LBMS – A New “Bell Free” School

Chances are your son or daughter has already told you - it's awfully quiet at the Luther Burbank Middle School! That's because we have made the school-wide decision to transition to a bell-free school. The reason for this is both philosophical and logistical. Philosophically, the move away from bells takes us one step closer to a more progressive middle school scheduling model, one that includes advisory, supports interdisciplinary team-teaching, and paves the way for project-based learning. Not to mention, without the sounds of those 16+ bells ringing throughout the day, LBMS is just a more welcoming place! Logistically speaking, our bell system was outdated. The system was just not smart enough to adapt to the needs of our new schedule with the addition of our new technology class, Innovation Lab, for grades 6 and 7 and our school-wide advisory program beginning in October. So far, our teachers and students have done an excellent job of adjusting to this new (quieter) way of school life.

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## Gaga has Arrived!

We have a new addition to our recess area – a Gaga Pit! Gaga is a game that students are familiar with from their time at Nature's Classroom and MRE. It will be great for the students to have another option for recess time. A heartfelt thank you to the Lukaszewicz family for their very generous donation and for making the dream of middle school Gaga a reality. Thank you!

## 1:1 Chromebooks

Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will receive their 1:1 Chromebooks today, Tuesday. This year marks the second year of the Chromebook initiative. The 1:1 initiative presents learning possibilities for our teachers and students that have never before been possible. A personal mobile device offers students anytime, anywhere access to rich educational resources and 21st century learning experiences that align with the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks. Consistent access to a mobile device ensures that students are provided opportunities to use technology to create, collaborate, communicate and think critically. A 1:1 model enables teachers to regularly guide students in the ethical and safe use of technology and to use digital resources to personalize and self-direct learning. This digital learning model promotes equitable access to curriculum, differentiation of instruction and independent discovery.

## Cross-Country Informational Meeting

Parents and athletes interested in joining Luther Burbank's Cross Country team, there will be a **Mandatory Fall Sports Meeting on** Wednesday, September 7, 2016, at 6:00 PM in the LBMS Cafeteria. This meeting will cover all information relevant to the upcoming season, and should not last more than 30 minutes.

## Intramurals to Begin September 12

The LBMS intramural program is open to all students in grades 6-8. It is a supervised after school athletic activity that promotes fair play and physical fitness, free of charge to LBMS students. All sessions begin at 2:15 and end at 4:00 (with the exception of fitness room which ends at 3:15) at which time all participants must have transportation home. Students may not take the elementary bus at 3:15 due to space restrictions. Any student wishing to take part in any of the activities must submit an Emergency Contact/Parent Consent form which may be downloaded from this [link](#).

CAPTURE THE FLAG  
TWICE A WEEK - DAYS TBD  
2:15-4:00

FLAG FOOTBALL  
TWICE A WEEK - DAYS TBA  
2:15-4:00

FITNESS ROOM  
TWICE A WEEK – DAYS TBA  
2:15-3:15

## Back-to School Information Packets

If you haven't already done so, please return your child's completed back-to-school information packet by Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Information in this packet is critical for contact purposes and student safety.

## LBMS Spring Musical

LBMS Drama is in the process of selecting a musical for this year. The following survey is to help us determine the number and types of students who may be interested in being a part of drama this year. We appreciate your help in providing the information we need to complete our selection. Thank you!

Please complete the survey if your son/daughter is THINKING about participating in this year's musical. This is NOT a registration form. The form is simply intended for information-gathering purposes only. Click [here](#).

## Open House

Mark your calendars! All parents/guardians are invited to our annual Open House on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this evening is to provide you with an opportunity to meet our staff and learn important information about our school programs and expectations. Presentations will begin at 6:00 PM in the Rowlandson auditorium. The presentation will be preceded by a Title I presentation in our Luther Burbank library at 5:30 PM. All are welcome to attend. Since this evening is intended for parents and guardians only, I respectfully request that students do not attend this event. I am hopeful that at least one parent or guardian from each family is able to schedule time to join us for this important opportunity.

## School Pictures

Please note that Tuesday, September 27, is School Picture Day and that informational packets for purchasing pictures will be distributed soon. Although all students will need to have their picture taken, purchasing pictures is strictly optional for families.

## LBMS School Council – It's Not Too Late!

Parents and community members can become directly involved in the continual improvement of our school by serving on School Council. School Council plays an important role in shaping school policies and programs. This year, we are seeking one parent and one community member to serve on School Council for a 2 year term. The Council meets on a monthly basis after school. Time and date will be determined based on member availability and consensus. Please email Judy Ursuliak, [jursuliak@nrzd.net](mailto:jursuliak@nrzd.net), by September 14, if you are interested in serving on this important site-based committee.

## Picture of the Week



7<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher, Mrs. McBrearty, "cooking" up the perfect math student with her students during the first week of school. Secret ingredient?... Perseverance!.