



## LUTHER BURBANK MIDDLE SCHOOL

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### BURBANK BULLETIN

March 12, 2018

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Following the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, last month, students across the nation have begun to develop organized protests including a potential student-led walkout on March 14, from 10:00 to 10:17 AM. Over the past two weeks, I have met with a small group of students who have expressed an interest in participating and planning for this event. I write to you today to make you aware of this event and to share our district perspective should your child decide to participate.

As school leaders, our top priority is to support the academic and social emotional needs of our students while maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment for all. We respect and support the right of our students to advocate for causes that are important to them, and we are further committed to providing our students the tools and resources to empower their voices and opinions. At the same time, we are obligated to provide a learning environment that remains apolitical and focused on our primary purposes in the teaching and learning process. As well, some students may not be willing or ready to take a position in support of the message related to the March 14 walkout. For these reasons, staff will not participate in, nor endorse, such a protest.

Our teachers will continue on with their lessons through this proposed time. We will consider a student-led walkout an Act of Civil Disobedience and, by definition, a violation of our school's rules. Students would not be disciplined for missing class time, but they would be responsible for any work missed during their absence. Students should also be aware that teachers will not be expected to reteach their lesson outside of class if a student misses the initial instruction because of participation in the walkout. With this being said, I have asked our teachers to not administer tests, quizzes, or other assessments during this timeframe.

In addition, it is important to note that disorderly conduct that disrupts school operations is not acceptable and will be handled compassionately but firmly, in accordance with the rules and guidelines outlined in our school handbook. Safety for our students is critical. To this end, we will not condone students leaving campus for this event and, instead, will have a designated assembling area for those students wanting to participate. Student plans for this event include time for quiet reflection and optional letter writing to elected officials and/or families of the Parkland victims. Participating students will be supervised by administration, myself included, and non-teaching staff. I have also contacted our local law enforcement who will also be present to further ensure a safe environment. For those students participating, we expect a prompt return to class at 10:17AM.

As educators, we recognize that student activism is a part of the learning process. When students are passionate about an issue, it is an opportunity for educators to help them see the connection between curriculum and real life. At this time, we have an organized plan should the need to debrief this event with students present itself, and we would do so in a way that is respectful of all viewpoints and aligned with our curriculum and state standards.

At the time of this writing, there has been very little conversation that teachers are aware of concerning plans for this type of student protest. Still, we want to be prepared for every possible eventuality and have given a considerable amount of thought as to how best to approach the situation with the greatest amount of respect for all of our students.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura J. Friend".

Laura Friend  
Principal

Hollywood Drive  
Lancaster, Massachusetts, 01523  
Phone (978) 365-4558 Fax (978) 365-6882

Judy Ursuliak  
Administrative Assistant

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

March 12 – Trimester 2 Grades Close  
March 15 – Early Release, Afternoon & Evening Parent Teacher Conferences, 11:30 AM (dismissal)  
March 16 – Early Release, Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences, 11:30 AM (dismissal)  
March 23 – Report Cards Issued  
March 23, 24 – “Mirror Image,” LBMS Musical, 6:30 PM  
March 28 – Second Annual District Jazz Concert, NRHS, 6:30 PM  
March 29 – Trimester 2 Honor Roll Breakfast, 7:00 AM

## **Mark Your Calendars:**

April 3 – Spring MCAS Testing Window Opens  
April 5 - LBMS Spring Concert, 6:30 PM  
April 6 – Early Release, Professional Development, 11:30 AM (dismissal)  
April 16-20 – Patriot’s Day, April Vacation

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Parent Teacher Conferences – Important Reminder

Due to school cancellation last week, all conferences originally scheduled for Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> have been rescheduled to this Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Original conference times will be maintained with this date change. If the new date presents a challenge with your schedule, please contact the office to schedule a different time. Please also be reminded that this Thursday will also be an early release to accommodate the afternoon and evening conference schedule.

### Spring Interscholastic Season Right Around the Corner: Baseball, Softball, and Track and Field

The LBMS 2018 interscholastic spring season will soon begin. All information needed for the upcoming season will be addressed during the following meetings:

Baseball (Coach Dillon) – Thursday, March 22 at 6:00 pm in LBMS Library/Media Center  
Softball (Coach Gruca) – Wednesday, March 21 at 6:30 pm in the LBMS Library/Media Center  
Track and Field (Coach Gormley) – Tuesday, April 3 at 6:00 pm in the LBMS Cafeteria

For more information, including important registration information, please refer to our school [website](#).

### Intramurals are Back Up and Running

Intramurals will begin today, Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. The offerings are impressive and varied. Thank you to Mr. Gormley and to our staff members who have volunteered to run a session. Participating in intramurals is a great opportunity for our students to engage in healthy activity with peers whom they typically may not interact.

- Volleyball...Monday and Wednesday PM
- Badminton...Tuesday and Thursday PM
- Dodgeball...Wednesday AM
- Fitness Room...Thursday AM

Permission slips can be found on the web site and in the school office.

## Yearbooks on Sale Until March 16<sup>th</sup>

Be sure to preserve your middle school memories---it is time to order the 2017-2018 Luther Burbank yearbook! It will feature color photos of school activities, special events, groups and clubs. This year, students and families will have the additional option of ordering online. Order forms were distributed to all students and the deadline to order is this Friday, March 16. Please have your child see Mrs. Brennan if an additional order form is needed. Don't miss out and order now!

**Please note:** For those students who submitted hard copies of their eighth grade baby pictures, the photos will be sent home prior to April vacation with your eighth grade student. If you would prefer to pick up the picture in person after April 13, please email Mrs. Brennan ([ebrennan@nrsd.net](mailto:ebrennan@nrsd.net)) and it will be left in the office for you.

## LBMS Spring Musical, "Mirror Image" – Mark Your Calendars!



Luther Burbank Middle School Drama is proud to present *Mirror Image* on Friday, March 23, and Saturday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the MRE and LBMS auditorium. Tickets will be available at the door for \$4.00 for students and seniors and \$6.00 for adults. For more information, email [lbmsdramaclub@gmail.com](mailto:lbmsdramaclub@gmail.com).

Written by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcu with music by Dennis Poore and produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado, this musical adventure will surely delight. Fantasy comes face to face with the hard reality of high school in this pop musical where the best — and

worst! — of both worlds meet. In the fairy tale world, princes are charming, and stepsisters are wicked. But the Woodsman dreams of being more than an incidental character without a name. When Cinderella's stepsisters find a portal to another world, they get zapped into a very real high school. The Woodsman jumps at the chance to rescue them, but the stepsisters have no intention of returning to the fantasy realm. The Woodsman finds himself in over his head and recruits the help of Danica, a hard-core realist who never believed in fairy tales. Meanwhile, the sky is falling in the fantasy world! As reality seeps into the fairy tales, the characters start to break free of their patterns and the classic princesses cross the portal and discover they can be their own heroes! You'll love this complex, rich tapestry of enchanted fun woven with a poignant, meaningful thread about what it means to be alive and in control of your own destiny.

## Important Calendar Information: Spring State Assessments, MCAS

As we head into this spring's state-wide assessment window, please be reminded that there continue to be changes to our state-wide assessment. The Next-Generation MCAS test builds upon aspects of prior MCAS assessments. The test includes items developed by PARCC, along with new items specifically created to assess the Massachusetts learning standards. Our 7th and 8th grade students will be taking this year's assessment on the computer. 8th graders will use their 1:1 Chromebooks, while 7th graders will use school Chromebook devices.

As you plan ahead for the spring, please mark your calendars for the important Luther Burbank MCAS testing dates below. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring your child's attendance during his/her testing dates.

	ELA	MATH	STE
Grade 6	April 3, 5	May 8, 10	N/A
Grade 7	April 4, 10	May 9, 11	N/A
Grade 8	April 11, 12	May 15, 16	May 17, 18

**PICTURE OF THE WEEK**



8th grade social studies on a “field trip” learning about fire and safety codes resultant from the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, 1911