



# News from the Principal

*Once a Slicer, Always a Slicer*

## December 2018

Reflecting back on the calendar year is a common activity for many folks in December as a new year looms. Can you believe 2019 is just about here?! Many exciting happenings occurred at LPHS in 2018 and it is fitting to reflect back on some notable memories. Please note there were other worth mentioning memories, but here is a formidable list in no specific order:

1. The Class of 2018 started the school year as the 150<sup>th</sup> graduating class of LPHS. What a history! Soon these graduates will be walking the stage. Can't wait!
2. LPHS partnered with the Health Care Foundation of LaPorte and the LaPorte Hospital to start the student Slicer Health Clinic.
3. Construction of Performing Arts Center finished up and the new facility is now in use! I invite you to come see a show in the amazing space!
4. Canvas, chromebooks, and eLearning have started to change the way learning looks at LPHS.
5. Slicer Gym got a makeover and there is little doubt of our school colors! Go Slicers!
6. Several new career pathway opportunities were made available to students including a new dance program, PLTW, Advanced Placement, and Radio/TV/Communications.
7. Several safety improvements have been made to campus including the requirement of student identification, campus traffic enhancements and rerouting, additional safety drills, facility construction, and more.
8. After about 20 years in a trimester model schedule, LPHS transitioned to a semester format with a 7-period day.
9. LPHS elected to make the new graduation pathways available to all students immediately instead of waiting until the new legislation took effect with the Class of 2023.
10. LPHS was recognized as an American School Counselor Association Model Program RAMP award. The award reflects the school's commitment to delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. 140 schools nationwide received the RAMP designation.

Thanks for supporting our school and students. I am grateful to be a Slicer.

All my best in 2019,

*Ben Tonagel*

## **LPHS Earns a Spot on the College Board's 9th AP District's Honor Roll**

The College Board recently announced that the LaPorte Community **School Corporation** is one of 373 districts across the United States and Canada that have been selected for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual AP Honor Roll.

Districts on the AP Honor Roll have simultaneously increased access to Advanced Placement® coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Honor Roll Districts defy the expectation that expanding access automatically results in a decline in the percentage of exams

earning scores of 3 or better. Congratulations to LaPorte High School staff, students, and community partners for this achievement!

### **Business & Community Engagement Event**

The first annual LaPorte Business and Community Engagement Event was held on Wednesday, Nov. 28 4-5pm at the LPHS Performing Arts Center. The audience heard about new graduation pathways and how the business community could get involved in the LaPorte Community School Corporation. Guest speakers Blair Milo, Secretary of Career Connections and Talent and Ben Carter, IDOE Director of Workforce and Innovation spoke to guests and several schools in the district had information tables outside the PAC to provide engagement opportunities.

### **Campus Identification**

Over 90% of our students are responsibly doing their part to establish a safe school environment by displaying IDs on the school-issued lanyard. While we appreciate this number, we are not satisfied. All students are expected to responsibly display identification during the school day. Safety is a shared responsibility and it starts with identification on campus.

Students have been provided an orange lanyard that is to be worn to display their ID. A second ID was also provided to put in the chromebook case. IDs are required for hall passes, attendance on a school field trip, access to the media center, \$2 discount at home Slicer events, and more. Students who forget their ID can easily pick up a temporary ID from Student Services.

Identification procedures are common in any business, place of work, or industry. Identification is just one measure that is in place to help create a safer environment.

### **2019-2020 School Year Scheduling**

The process for scheduling for the 2019-2020 school year is underway. Scheduling activities will be conducted through Slicer Resource Time and by

cohort. This process helps counselors and programs better meet individual student needs and learning preferences. Cohort specific instructions, including a scheduling packet and corresponding videos, will be shared with students during SRT. SRT is a very important resource the school is using to help students develop their high school and career plan. SRT attendance is important!

### **Student Council Holiday Spirit Week**

Student Council is sponsoring a Holiday Door Decorating contest as well as a Holiday Spirit Week. Student Council members will be judging the decorated classroom doors on Wednesday, December 19. The winning SRT will receive a prize!

- December 17-21
- Monday- Holiday Socks
- Tuesday-“Who” Day
- Wednesday-Holiday Pajamas
- Thursday-Holiday Hat
- Friday-Ugly Sweater

### **Computer Science Week**

LPHS participated in Computer Science Education week December 3-7th with the support of the La Porte County Public Library. Mr. Fettinger and Mrs. Taylor in the media center conducted special activities with the community library to engage students in STEM. [Hourofcode.com](http://hourofcode.com) sponsored this event that will run through Monday December 17th. Check out this promotional coding and robot video:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/12MkY-t9QoCLX8OTFKT\\_PtvVKgfAy7Hor/view?ts=5c052c59](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12MkY-t9QoCLX8OTFKT_PtvVKgfAy7Hor/view?ts=5c052c59)

### **School Based Health Clinic**

Parents are encouraged to take advantage of the Slicer Health Clinic which is located in the Main Commons at LPHS. The clinic is available for routine visits, vaccinations, and other health care needs. Find out more at

[http://www.lpcsc.k12.in.us/health\\_clinic](http://www.lpcsc.k12.in.us/health_clinic)

## Semester 1 Finals

Finals week is December 17-21. A schedule has been set so that students are taking their finals throughout the week and no more than two finals on a single day. This should help students prepare and perform better. Teachers are sharing the finals schedule with their classes. Here is an overview:

- Monday P1, P2 finals
- Tuesday P3, P6 finals
- Wednesday, P4, P5 finals
- Thursday, P7 final
- Friday, make ups; regular day

## eLearning

LPHS will have the school year's first official eLearning day on January 21. As a school we have been preparing for eLearning for quite some time. Our staff and students are ready! LPHS staff will be utilizing Canvas to deliver instruction so students will be expected to check Canvas for instructions. Attendance will be taken via Canvas assignment participation. Teachers will have "office hours" to be available electronically from 10:00-11:00a.m and 1:15-2:45p.m. On this same day teachers will be participating in school professional development. Lastly, students are reminded to charge their chromebooks.

Want to learn more about eLearning and Canvas? Parents are invited to a special meeting on eLearning on January 8 from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Performing Arts Center. Parents from any level in the district should attend to get information on our district's approach to eLearning. There will be time for parent questions.

## A Message From Ivy Tech.. I HAVE A 4.0 GPA...HOW CAN I BENEFIT FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

Community college is for everyone looking to get a quality education, a career, and save money while attending. Ivy Tech Community College is the top choice of Indiana high school seniors no matter the GPA. Having a 4.0 GPA is outstanding and will not exclude you from attending the largest institution of

higher learning in Indiana which happens to be Ivy Tech Community College!

A student with a 4.0 GPA will benefit from attending Ivy Tech Community College by having 2 years at Ivy Tech + a transfer to a 4-year school as a junior with an associate's degree while saving upwards of \$10,000 on a bachelor's degree. That is the smartest move any high school senior can make in order to achieve their educational endeavors!

Ivy Tech Community College also offers our students over 150 programs to choose from with 19 campuses and 26 learning sites throughout Indiana.

Let's say you are concerned if your credits will transfer from Ivy Tech Community College to a 4-year university of your choice. We offer more than 100 transfer programs with in-state and out-of-state schools. Ivy Tech Community College currently serves nearly 170,000 students annually.

Feel free to stop by Ivy Tech Community College Michigan City campus to discuss the opportunities we have to offer and to make sure you and your parents get all your questions answered. Whatever your goal is, Ivy Tech Community College can give you a smarter start to reaching it! Visit our frequently Asked Questions at [IvyTech.edu/FAQ](http://IvyTech.edu/FAQ).

You can also apply now for free at [IvyTech.edu/applynow](http://IvyTech.edu/applynow).

For further information or to make an appointment, please contact our Director of Admissions.

- Arelia Bradley  
Phone: 219-879-9137 ext. 6236  
Email: [abradley79@ivytech.edu](mailto:abradley79@ivytech.edu)

## Healthy Communities of LP County JUUL Information Session

LPHS hosted Healthy Communities of LP County to visit student lunches in the first week of December to share information about the harmful effects of

electronic cigarettes and JUULs. Due to increased student infractions involving electronic cigarettes, the school is working with Slicer Support Services and resources like Healthy Communities to inform students and parents about how these products are being marketed to youth and the long term health concerns associated with today's cigarette. A special parent presentation is being planned for the March Parent/Teacher conferences. More info will be sent out to parents prior to the event.

All JUULs and electronic cigarettes are strictly prohibited at LPHS. Student possession of electronic devices and juuling supplies or use of the devices and supplies are subject to school discipline.

### **Athletic Department**

Congratulations to the La Porte Slicer Student Athletic Council for their success in coordinating, in conjunction with Cutler Funeral Home, the stuffing of over 80 stockings to be shipped to veterans and military personnel overseas.

### **P/T Conferences**

The second semester P/T conference event is scheduled for March 14, 5-8 p.m. at LPHS. As a reminder parents can sign up for conferences through their Skyward accounts. A special parent presentation on electronic cigarettes and JUULs is being planned. LPHS invites all parents to participate in the informational session to learn more about the harmful effects of these products.

### **Performing Arts Center (PAC) Traffic**

The Performing Arts Center area is open and the space is available to help with traffic on the "F" side of the building.

Before School: Parents will continue to drop off at Door 9 and proceed south towards the PAC. Traffic can exit on either side of the PAC "U" drive. The parent drive is not meant for two lanes of traffic.

After School: Parents who pick up students after school are urged to use the full drive that runs parallel to the building on the "F" St. side. Students

can now exit the school at Door 13 so cars should line the entire drive towards the PAC. The PAC now provides two additional exits so traffic can exit more efficiently.

### **Graduation Pathways**

Students who have attempted to pass the graduation qualifying exam (ISTEP), but have not passed have additional opportunities to meet graduation requirements with the state's new graduation pathways. The new graduation pathways provide additional options beyond a single test to qualify for a diploma. The graduation pathways have three requirements: earn required credits, learn and demonstrate employability skills, and show postsecondary readiness competency in one of eight ways. Information on the graduation pathways can be obtained from the counseling office or by contacting Matt Presley, College and Career Readiness Coordinator.

### **A Message from Sarah Fine, District Attendance**

By the time Winter Break arrives 86 of 180 school days will have been recorded in your child's attendance records. January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 will mark the half way point of the 2018-2019 school year. Please be aware student attendance for grades K-8 now factors into federal and state calculations for determining a school's overall grade, your child's consistent school attendance remains important. The Indiana Department of Education sets the benchmark for acceptable student attendance as less than 10 absences for any reason for the entire school year. This benchmark is the measurement that factor's into your child's school's grade. Parents play a critical role in helping their child understand the importance of school attendance. Doing your part in supporting consistent student attendance lays the groundwork for your child's school success and helps your child's school and the LPCSC district meet state and federal expected student attendance rates.

While it is recognized that sometimes a student's health will require him/her to miss school, please note the common criteria for determining whether or

not your child should attend school is if he/she has a fever. If your child's health requires him/her to miss 4 or more consecutive days of school, the student must return to school with a doctor's note. This note must be provided no more than 3 days from the last day of his/her school absence. A significant and long term medical diagnosis that would result in your child missing 18 or more school days may be considered for a Certificate of Incapacity. All Certificate of Incapacity requests must be processed through the District Attendance Officer. Please read your child's school's Student/Parent Handbook for further details on student attendance and state student attendance laws or call your child's school for more details.

As we end the 2018 calendar year and enter into 2019 and complete the remainder of this school year, I thank you for your support in valuing your child's education and prioritizing your child's school attendance.

### **ASVAB**

Has your student mentioned taking another assessment at LPHS? He/she might have been referring to the ASVAB which LPHS is offering as an option for students to meet the new graduation pathways (box 3). The ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude battery, broken into eight to ten sub-tests, that measure developed abilities and help predict future academic and occupational success in the military. But this is not just a test for those interested in the military. Students who have not passed the ISTEP may possibly benefit from the ASVAB. The test is given at LPHS on October 16, December 19, April 29, and June 15.

Parents/students should contact a school counselor with any questions about the ASVAB for their graduation pathway plan.

### **Student Acceptable Use Policy**

LPHS staff would like to remind all students on the correct usage of google drive and other technology based services that are made available to students. We have noticed an increase in the use of google drive and network storage drives to store

applications and files that are in violation of the student acceptable use policy. Google drive and network storage is only to be used for educational purposes. Students may not store files of the following types in their google drive or network storage.

- Copyrighted video and audio files (Music, Full movies and TV shows)
- Computer applications (with the exception of program classwork)
- Games and gaming applications

We have made adjustments to google drive to only allow teachers to create team drives and also share documents outside of the school corporation. Students should review their google drive and remove any files that may be in violation of the Student Acceptable Use Policy before December 21st 2018. Students can review the terms of the student acceptable use policy by visiting the school website and clicking "technology" under the department tabs.