



# News from the Principal

*Once a Slicer, Always a Slicer*

## March 2017

As you probably know, the month of March is known as “March Madness” in our culture because of the NCAA basketball tournament. Fans (and non-fans) fill out brackets, root for their teams, and enjoy waiting for the “Cinderella” story to emerge from the tournament. Like many of you, I enjoy the excitement and I like to cheer for the underdog!

The end of a school year is full of excitement, too, and our students are winning. Completing the Work Ethic Certificate, finishing those final credits before graduation, taking the ISTEP, prepping for an Advanced Placement exam, filling out college applications, punching the work time clock after a full day of school, participating in athletics, performing at a competition, and the list goes on. In our student body there are lots of amazing stories- “Cinderella” stories so-to-speak. They aren’t always known publicly, but each school year teachers do amazing things to help students succeed. I hope as the school year winds down you get a chance to attend one of the many exciting events where our students are winning much like the teams who made the “Big Dance.” Award ceremonies, the prom, a spring sports event, an art show, a music competition, and the peak of it all: graduation on June 4.

Thanks for cheering on all Slicers. There aren’t any losers in this bracket!

Enjoy the upcoming Spring Break and let’s finish this school year strong.

It’s a great day to be a Slicer!

*Ben Tonagel*

## ISTEP

Students in grade 10 are preparing to take the second round of ISTEP+ in Mathematics, English/Language Arts, and Science.

- ISTEP Part 2 testing dates are Apr. 17 - May 5

All students in the cohorts of 2019 and beyond must take the ISTEP+ for their graduation exam to satisfy the state’s graduation examination requirement.

## Summer School Registration

LPHS is once again offering a variety of credit opportunities for students this June. Physical Education, Algebra Credit Recovery, an assortment of Virtual Learning Academy courses, College Readiness Workshop, and more are scheduled to run. Students should contact the counseling office for more info.

## Parent Teacher Conferences

Don’t miss the third and final round of P/T conferences which will take place on April 20 from 5:00-8:00pm at LPHS. Parents will be able to sign up online through the Skyward Family Access. Parents are strongly encouraged to visit LPHS on this evening to receive a third trimester student progress check and to visit with teachers about any questions or concerns about school.

## Slicer Support Services: Drug Education and Prevention

Herb Stepherson, former heroin user and author of “Junkbox Diaries: A Day in the Life of a Heroin Addict,” will share his shocking story about what lead him to drug addiction as a Valpo High School student, the destruction of drug use, and his road to recovery. Stepherson's Parent/Community Presentation will be Thursday,

April 20 at 7:00 PM (in conjunction with Parent-Teacher Conference Night) in the LPHS Auditorium. The student presentation is Friday, May 12. A book signing will follow each presentation. This event (April 20) is open to LPCSC parents, community members, and anyone touched by La Porte's drug epidemic.

### **Attendance Policy**

As announced throughout the school year changes are coming to the LPHS student attendance policy in order to better prepare our students to be job, college, and career ready. Throughout the school year a special attendance committee has been working to make recommendations to improve attendance interventions and strategies. While the committee's work is not complete yet, it is anticipated that updates to the policy will eliminate current Excessive Absence (EA) make-up time. The "EA" system is likely to be replaced to recognize attendance as classroom performance and participation. More information is forthcoming.

### **Prom and Good Standing**

Information has been posted in Skyward Family Access for students and parents about students being in "Good Standing" to attend Prom 2017 (May 13). This school year we are reminding students in advance the importance of being in "Good Standing" in order to get a prom ticket and attend with classmates. Page 201 of the LPHS Handbook outlines this requirement and it is every student's responsibility to be in Good Standing and working productively toward a high school diploma. If a student is not in "Good Standing," the result will be Social Probation which is a disciplinary step that eliminates the ability to participate in social functions like prom. The administration will review student "standing" to determine if adequate effort, academic progress, and behavior is being demonstrated. The follow criteria will be considered:

- Academic Progress: students must be passing at least four solid trimester subjects and be on track to graduate. Failing a course

graduation requirement puts a student in jeopardy.

- Attendance: students must not have any "EAs." Strive for +95% attendance.
- Behavior: students with major disciplinary infractions during the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester (Example: Out of School Suspension) will automatically be considered Not in "Good Standing."
- Other important school matters that affect Slicer Success.

### **Class of 2017 Information**

Commencement will be celebrated Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 2:00pm at Kiwanis Field. The senior class is being asked to nominate a staff speaker for this year's commencement. The graduating class participated in a survey to invite a special teacher to address the class. Mr. Olson, Math teacher, will be speaking to the graduates. The valedictorian and salutatorian (TBA) also address the Class of 2017. Additionally, the music department provides special music for this important ceremony. The class motto is "Ductus Exemplo" which is Latin for "Leading by Example." Class sponsors are Mr. Miller and Mr. Mrozinske. Class officers are Brandon Bellen, President; David Toth, Vice President; Bree Winter, Treasurer; Bianca Batten, Secretary. Students are reminded to complete any outstanding credits in a timely manner to be able to meet the requirements to walk in the ceremony. Students must be within 7 credits at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester.

### **Computer Science Workshop**

In partnership with Purdue University LPHS is offering a computer science workshop for students on Saturday, April 22. Current 9<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in learning more about computer science are encouraged to sign up for the workshop by April 12, 2017. The workshop will engage students in hands-on activities with LPHS staff and Purdue University's Computer Science Department. Questions can be sent to Mrs. Tobey, LPHS Business & Technology teacher, [stobey@lpcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:stobey@lpcsc.k12.in.us).

## Closed Campus

Students/parents are again reminded that LPHS operates closed campus precautions before, during, and after school. This means that when students arrive on campus in the morning they are to enter the school. During the school day students are not to leave school grounds for lunch, run errands, or otherwise loiter around. Students who leave campus must do so for an educational purpose or be excused by a parent for an appointment or valid reason. Any student coming into the building during the day needs to come through the Main Entrance doors on "I" Street where the Entry Monitor will buzz them in to report to the attendance window. Door #13 should not be used during the day. These procedures are in place for school safety and an orderly learning environment.

## LPHS Going to Semester Schedule in 2018-2019

LPHS will change from the trimester system to semesters in 2018-2019. This change means the school year will be divided up into two terms instead of three. Going to semesters will result in the school year being divided into two 18-week terms (9 week quarters). Our staff is working to design a new bell schedule to change from 5 periods a day to a new schedule. No changes are expected to LPHS credit requirements. LPHS is aligned with all state diploma types. Information will be shared with students and parents as the transition plan is developed.

## Variety Show

The LPHS Variety Show will be presented Friday, March 24, at 7:00 PM in the LPHS Auditorium. There are over 20 acts from various students, staff, clubs, and programs. Come out and support these Slicers as they share their talent with us!

## LPHS Athletics

Congratulations to all the Winter sports teams for their excellent seasons. Spring sports have started practicing and preparing for the upcoming seasons. With spring sports beginning and the inevitable rescheduling, postponing and cancellation of athletic events, the La Porte High School athletic department would like to encourage Slicer fans, athletes, parents

and media to sign up for alerts that notify you via text message, email message, Twitter and Facebook of changes in athletic events at LPHS. Simply go to the Slicer athletic website at [goslicers.com](http://goslicers.com) and click on the Alert link on the home page of the website. Follow the instructions that are provided and receive notifications for any or all Slicer athletic teams.

When changes are made to the Slicer schedule, notifications will be sent and those signing up will receive information of those changes instantly.

## Spring Play

Think Spring and mark your calendars for this year's Spring Play! The show is a comedy, *George Washington Slept Here* by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. The show dates are Friday-Sunday, May 19-21 in the LPHS Auditorium. Please come support the LPHS Theatre Program!

## LPHS Guidance News

Verification of LPHS course selections for the 2017-2018 school year will be sent home in the mail around Spring Break. Students and parents are asked to look over the information and contact the Counseling Department at 362-4503 if there are changes needed. We ask that all course change requests be in by **Friday, April 28**. Course selection information can be found at the counseling website: <http://www.lpcsc.k12.in.us/lphs/guidance/>

In addition, students who are interested in taking dual credit courses offered by Purdue Northwest are reminded the registration and applications are **due by May 1 to LPHS**, as PNW does not take new registrations and applications in the fall; students must turn in course intentions this spring. Additional forms can be picked up in the Counseling Office. Please do not delay on this opportunity. PNW has a strict application deadline.

The Counseling Department will be sponsoring a Parent University on Parent/Teacher conference night, April 20 at 6pm. While the meeting is primarily for junior parents, anyone is welcome to sit in to hear about what is required for college admissions. In addition, information about this

summer's College Application Workshop (running June 6) will be handed out. Signups for the workshop will be part of summer school registration.

**LPHS Safe Schools Hotline 324-1390**

The LaPorte Community School Corporation is committed to providing a safe environment for students and staff that is free of drugs, alcohol, bullying, harassment, and other illegal activities. This hotline was established to help all of us work toward this end.

324-1390 is an anonymous tip line for reporting information on drugs, alcohol, weapons, unsafe, and illegal activity that will harm our students.

**See page 5 for PSAT Information**

**One-to-World Program**

In the 2017-18 school year, LPHS will begin a new learning initiative called “One to World Learning.” Students will each be getting a Chromebook to use. Having a device will connect students to a world of information, giving them 24/7 access to a powerful learning tool, and supporting a more personalized and collaborative learning environment. More information about this exciting initiative can be found at <http://www.lpcsc.k12.in.us/one-to-world/>

## PSAT Performance

The following chart shows student growth performance from 2015 to 2016. Overall 74% of the Class of 2018 demonstrated college and career readiness growth on the PSAT. For the Class of 2019, 75% demonstrated growth. LPHS is striving for 100% of students to demonstrate college and career readiness growth on the PSAT each year of their academic career. Although not a state-required test, the PSAT is a key component of a student's high school and career plan.

LPHS students take the PSAT each fall in grades 9, 10, & 11. The test measures the necessary skills and knowledge for college and career readiness and success. Taking it each year allows students, parents, and educators a chance to compare scores year-to-year (same scale). For upperclassmen it allows students to know how they would have scored on the SAT.

The PSAT tests are not currently a graduation requirement, but they can help a student avoid the state-mandated Accuplacer test their Junior year by scoring a qualifying score on the PSAT. All students have access to free, personalized study plans aligned with their strengths and weaknesses through the Khan Academy. Students are encouraged to log onto their College Board account to link their scores to the Khan Academy. Some of our teachers incorporate Khan Academy into classes. Contact your counselor or administrator for help with Khan Academy.

