

LCJSMS Principal's Coffee
May 10, 2018
8:30am – Cafeteria
MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 8:45am

Kristen Pierotti welcomed all in attendance and introduced guest speaker, Staci Grimaldi, Principal of Summit High School.

Mrs. Grimaldi gave a brief history of her 17 year career in education. There are two VPs at SHS, Mr. Nicholas Steffner and Ms. Lorena Dolan. Mr. Steffner will be assigned to work with the incoming 8th graders for their entire 4 years. Mr. Steffner is in charge of clubs and activities. All three administrators are available for all students. Freshman orientation is scheduled for August 29th. It will be a 3-hour program in the morning. The students meet with their counselors and administrators, peer leaders, find their lockers, find out their schedules and do a tour of the building. The building is open all summer to tour in case they are unavailable for orientation day. The first Friday of the school year there will be an orientation/informational session for parents (tentatively scheduled for either Sept 7 or 14 at 9:00am). The counselors and administrators will be there to meet and answer questions that morning. Your children should be getting a list of courses available in early June. There is more freedom at the HS and classes are held on a different schedule. The HS works on a block schedule with 8 classes but only 6 periods per day. There is a one-hour block in the middle of the day where students have a variety of opportunities for lunch, extra-help, clubs. By their senior year, students are allowed to leave for lunch if they wish. Please encourage your child to get involved in activities that are available during the lunch block. Some students can feel overwhelmed by work and activities and the school is available to work with students and parents to help them find a balance. There are many ways for parents to remain actively involved in the school community as they enter HS and Mrs. Grimaldi encourages all parents to find a way to get involved.

- Question: How much homework can students expect? 30-45min homework per subject nightly is expected on average. There is typically homework on the weekend as well. Homework levels may be more if students are in honors classes. If a child is struggling with homework, they should see their teacher in the morning before school or speak to their counselor.
- Question: Are there midterms and finals? Yes, there are both midterm and finals for all classes. Midterms cover material from September to January. Finals cover material from January to June. She suggested students keep track of material they are struggling with during the year to assist them in studying for midterms/finals.
- Question: Do freshman struggle more with these tests since they do not have them in middle school? Typically freshmen grades do not drop with testing. Midterms/finals are not weighed heavily overall. Teachers also do chapter/unit tests to prepare students and do reviews and prep for midterms/finals for freshman.
- Questions: Do you know when the summer reading assignment will be available? The list will be available online by mid to late May.
- Question: Are there any other assignments due for incoming freshmen? No. Moving forward there may be summer assignments for students in honors courses. The school communicates regularly with students through their school email. Daily announcements are also sent out daily through email. She suggested that parents make sure they have Powerschool daily bulletin available and linked to their email to stay informed.

- Question: Is there a peer leadership program? Yes. They are assisting with the student orientation. They are available during the school year as well. This program will be available starting in the early in the year to assist students with their transition. Peer leaders have training from staff regarding different topics covered in health (drugs, dating, etc).
- Question: When do sports practice? Typically 5-6 days/week afterschool. Fall sports start in August in terms of practice. Winter season starts after Thanksgiving. Spring season starts in March. Sunday is typically SHS website. Announcements are the typical way clubs communicate. Orientation will also be an opportunity to introduce students to these clubs. There are several TVs throughout the school that offer information in loop.
- Question: Do students get tests back? Students get tests back to review but this practice is teacher-based.
- Question: How do students pay for lunch? There is the same system for payment of lunch at the HS as there is at the MS.
- Question: Is there PE everyday? Yes. We have one quarter of health. Freshman year is sexuality, healthy living and good-decision making.
- Comment: I'm concerned about vaping. The school does a lot of education with students regarding the dangers of vaping and makes them aware of school policies about vaping. Teachers and parents are also offered educated on what to look for regarding vaping. Parents are encouraged to have conversations with their children on how to get out of situations where they are feeling uncomfortable.
- Question: Are students allowed to play sports if caught with alcohol and/or drugs? On school grounds, it is a violation of policy and consequences are clear. Off-campus, the school is limited in their ability to discipline students. There is discussion of the code of conduct for athletes.
- Comment: There is a Chatham, New Providence, Millburn, Summit parent wellness program scheduled tonight in Chatham that will cover these topics. All are welcome to attend.
- Question: Is there a supply list? There are no supply lists in HS so students will get a list of materials they need on the first day of school. They should come to first day of school with a notebook and a pen. They are not required to have their materials the next day.
- Question: Have you explored having a code of honor at the HS? That would be part of the code of conduct. We are looking for good citizenship and the code of conduct covers this topic broadly.
- Question: What are the rules for cell phones? Students can have them on their possession at all times as long as ringers are off. Some teachers may allow students to use them for apps or research. This practice is teacher-based. If they are not following teacher rules for cell phones, their phone is taken away for the day. If the behavior continues, parents may be called.
- Question: Is there PARCC testing in HS? Yes. PARCC testing is currently a requirement for graduation. There are three graduation requirements regarding PARCC testing for HS students.
- Question: Is there WiFi at the school? Their Chromebook is on WiFi, but cell phones are not.
- Question: What are lunch options? Deli, hot lunch options, burgers, fries, pizza, salad, desserts.
- Question: Are there providers that are better regarding service for cell phones in the HS? Verizon has the best service in the building.
- Question: Are there enough lockers for each student in the building? Yes. Most students choose not to use them.
- Question: Do the students get new Chromebooks or keep them from this year? I believe they get new ones.

Committee Business:

PTO Executive Board 2018-2019 school year slate was presented:

President – Allison Busam
President – Meghan Terry
Vice-President – Renata Araujo
Vice-President – Samantha Heimple
Communications VP (website) – Lisa Betz
Co-Communications VP (email blasts) – Stephanie Gallegos and Betsy McCeney
Treasurer – Gwen Franco
Asst. Treasurer – Mary Krunnfusz
Co-Recording Secretary – Thea Moore and Andrea Stein
Hispanic Family Liason – Carolina Canavosio

Motion to approve: Lisa Campbell

Seconded by: Joyce

8th grade graduation update:

Pool party is June 12, rain date June 13th. In the past, there has been a problem with people having private pool parties or going to the beach for the day. The PTO and administration are asking for parent support to avoid allowing this practice as it changes the climate of the day which is intended to be a class-wide celebration.

Graduation is on June 20th at 7pm at Tatlock for better seating and viewing. Rain plan is for Summit HS auditorium, details will be announced.

There is a reception following the graduation ceremony at Tatlock. Buses will take students back to the middle school for the 8th grade dance. 7th grade parents typically volunteer to for the graduation and graduation dance. Please reach to the committee if you are interested.

Treasurer: Financial Review

Details are available on the website.

Mini grants were offered this year to teachers nearing \$5,000, used across all grades. Funding of the landscape in the front of the school was provided. Drop off zones cones were provided to assist with the flow of morning drop off and improve safety. Night of Fun was our biggest fundraiser this year and we would like to thank all the chairs for their hard work making this event possible.

Principal's Report

Night of Fun: Over 600 students attended this event and had a great time. No incidents were reported. There were students who found money and cell phones which they returned, speaking to the character of our students.

Mrs. Cebula: On the issue of homework, a survey went out earlier this week. 230 responses have been received to date. On May 24th at 8:30 there will be a workshop with teachers and data from this survey will be presented. Parental support and upcoming changes will also be discussed.

Administration changes: Mrs. Cebula is going to be the new Assistant Director of Curriculum at the central office and the MS is in the process of filling the position of Vice Principal.

DC Trip: 6/4-6/5. Please do not let your children wear flip flops or slides. All policies regarding substance use will be enforced while on the trip. Sunblock and hats are recommended. Consider bringing a small disposable poncho in case of rain. Only one bag per student is allowed. Cell phones will be checked in with chaperones once they arrive at the 4H center.

Pool Party: Parents are again encouraged to avoid having alternative pool/beach plans for their children on the day of the scheduled pool party.

8th Grade dance: Students other than those from LCJSMS are not allowed to attend. Those this is the practice at the high school, it is not at the middle school level. Parents are encouraged to not pick up their children early from the dance.

Committee Business

Upcoming Events:

- 5/18 – Dorney Park
- 6/4-6/5 – DC Trip
- 6/12 – Pool Party
- 6/20 – 8th grade graduation

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Duff, Recording Secretary.