

## PTO Coffee with the Principal - September 13, 2018

### 1) Principal Damien Cooper

- Opened with welcome and thanks to the parent community for the success of LCJSMS.
- Introduced: New Assistant Principal, Mr. John Ciferni; Assistant Principal, Ms. Alicia Subervi; SES Supervisor, Ms. Lijoi; and New Student Assistant, Ms. Ferrogine

Ms. Ferrogine explained that she is an additional resource for the counselors, as well as runs prevention programming at LCJSMS. She announced the program that will be held on October 3, 2018 at 7:00 at the Summit High School Auditorium. Adolescence...the Good, the Bad and the Healthy. Watch for more information to come.

Mr. Ciferni further introduced himself as a prior middle school teacher in Madison. He explained that he is in charge of Culture and Climate, as well as Student Affairs. He announced that the YMCA is providing a leadership program this year, on Wednesday nights. 8th graders can get service hours that count toward their Ryder's Challenge twenty-hour requirement.

Ms. Subervi went over her new role this year. She is now in charge of Curriculum and Instruction. Her telephone extension is -4506. Ms. Subervi discussed the homework policies at LCJSMS:

- Went over the book Rethinking Homework and the research on the subject completed last year.
- Each team is required to have an agreed upon homework platform to assign and post homework. myHomework will be used by some.
- If there is a problem, first contact the teacher/team, next the counselors, and finally administration.
- If the length of time homework is taking seems too long, make sure there are no distractions such as cell phone. Make sure it wasn't an assignment expected to be done over a period of time, and the student waited to do it all at once. Find out the teacher's expectations.
- Have your children find a homework buddy for each class so they have someone to contact if they don't understand something.
- Don't help complete an assignment that you don't understand.
- The staff offer extra support. Find out when those times are and have your student go in for help.

- Reviewed Morning Routine:

Breakfast - 7:30 AM

Intramurals - 7:15 AM in the gym

Library - 7:30 AM

Computer lab - 7:15 AM

Many teachers are "open" in the morning for extra help. Teachers check in in the morning and let the security guard know if they are open for help. Students can ask if the teacher they want to see is open. Many teachers will let the kids sit in their rooms to do work quietly.

When the weather is nice, the students are outside in the morning until 7:55 AM unless they come in for one of the above reasons. If it is 32 degrees or colder outside or if it is precipitating, everyone will be brought inside. 6th grade goes to the cafeteria and 7th/8th grades go to the auditorium.

- Drop off and pick up  
Drop off spots are in the back of the school off of Oakland or in the front of the school through the parking lot. There is NO DROP OFF in the circle drive off of Maple near the Connection. Please use the drop off zone in both areas by pulling all of the way forward to the first cone.
- After School Clubs will be finalized and posted on the website by Monday. The secretary is checking with teachers to get the accurate list.
- Daily announcements will be posted on Powerschool
- STOKES is coming 9/21-9/23. If you have any questions go to [STOKES.summit.k12.nj.us](http://STOKES.summit.k12.nj.us) The first half of the alphabet will leave Friday morning and will return Saturday afternoon. The second half will have school on Friday (not regular work; activities for them to do), leave Saturday morning, and return Sunday afternoon. There will be an 2-3 hour overlap for everyone. Follow packing instructions. Make sure the students bring a bright flashlight, bug spray, rain jacket, sleeping bag, and everything needed for overnight.

## 2) Co-Presidents : Meghan and Allie

- If you have not yet paid dues/donated to the PTO please do so.
- Goal of the PTO this year is transparency. The PTO funds many programs for the students at LCJSMS including the Teacher Grant Program, twice-monthly Advisory (bagels and curriculum).
- Volunteer opportunities:
  - Social Media Manager - Looking for a volunteer to set up and run a LCJSMS PTO Facebook page
  - Hospitality committee - The committee chairs are looking for people to help with events and functions at LCJSMS such as Back to School Night and the Teacher Luncheon
  - Night of Fun - Looking for a lot of chairs. Someone to handle games, cake walk, baskets, etc.
  - 8th Grade Graduation Chairs - They set up and coordinate the 8th grade activities such as the pool party and graduation dance. Last year a few people shared this job and broke it into committees.
  - School Supplies - Looking for a chair to head this fundraiser. Most of the commitment is in late August when the supplies are coming in. Prior to that, the tasks involve setting up contract with the vendor, communicating with families, and placing the orders.
  - Book Fair - Set up is 9/14. It is running the next week. There is a signup genius in emails sent from LCJSMS for volunteers to sign up.

## 3) Other Updates:

- The SPARC representative this year for LCJSMS is Nicolette Angelos-Noss. She let everyone know that last year SPARC gave about \$20,000 to LCJSMS. They assisted the TedEx program with providing outside mentorship. They provided funds for the STEP Team. They provide support for both the fall play and the spring musical. On October 20, from 7:00-9:00 PM the SPARCtoberfest will be held at the Grand Summit Hotel. It is a fundraising

event. Watch for information to come. In the spring, watch for information about the SPARC Pancake Breakfast.

- Newcomer's Coffee will be held soon, probably in October. This is for families that are new to Summit and are looking to connect with other families. It will be at Nikki McKay's home. Watch for information to come.

- Parents brought up that Powerschool is not working correctly. Mr. Cooper thought it had been fixed. He is going to look into what is wrong, and will communicate when the issues have been resolved so families can confirm that they can log in successfully.