

The LMEA

Apple Core



The officers publish the Apple Core for LMEA members

June 2021

2020-21 Comes to an End

Remember at the beginning of the year, when we all gathered in the LM auditorium, caught up with colleagues, saw some slides with data and a video of students talking about their experiences, dreamed of lunch and a couple hours to prepare our classrooms? Remember a couple days after that, when students came rolling in for the first time, fresh from summer vacation and camp? Smiles on their faces, hope in their hearts, success in their future? Remember that? And that time in October when the kids all came to school in their Halloween costumes and the administration was really emphatic in saying students shouldn't wear any costume with a mask due to safety concerns? And finally in June, after a long, normal year in school our students gathered at a perfectly normal prom, with perfectly normal graduation ceremonies just around the corner? Remember that? No? Me either.

This obviously has not been a normal year. It has challenged us in ways we could never have expected, and for which there simply is no way to prepare. On top of the awful task of surviving COVID and navigating its impacts at home—concerns over family members, our own health, quarantine conditions, supply chains, political upheaval, social unrest, and constant argument and second-guessing about how to respond to any of those items—we've had to reinvent almost everything about how we do our jobs. We've struggled, and we've seen students struggling. We've brought an essentially analog profession into a digital environment, adjusted expectations, met expectations, and in my view, wildly exceeded expectations. If you had said 16 months ago that we would be able to do all the things we've done while adjusting to several schedules and endless tumult, I think most of us would have doubted it. But we have, in fact, made it to the end of this school year.

Even though we still must be on guard against a recurrent virus and continue to consider the health circumstances of those around us, we can begin to look forward to a much more normal year next year: no LM@home, no Zoom backgrounds, no weekly testing programs. Long lines at the copiers, in-person faculty meetings. Parent conferences at a table.

But first: summer. We all deserve a long break, and time in the sun with our families and loved ones. Enjoy yourselves, LMEA—you've earned it. Along with the officers, I want to thank you for all you've done for our students, our community, and each other this year. We will be available to you should a need arise, as usual, but we hope not to send urgent emails for at least the next couple of months.

Important Dates

June 17—Last student day

June 18—Last teacher day (includes IAs)

August 30—Return to school

September 9—First student day