

The LMEA

Apple Core



The officers publish the Apple Core for LMEA members

November 2020

What's next? Where are we now?

Well, we made it through the first quarter. And remote instruction, and a transition to hybrid instruction, and election day, and what seems like an endless parade of high-stakes challenges to our status quo. As always, the pandemic will demand things of us that we cannot predict far enough in advance, and we should be prepared to respond quickly to the changing landscape. We've been watching the numbers rise in recent days and weeks, and that's alarming. We're alarmed, and the district is alarmed as well. We should all get in the habit of taking everything home with us every day, as it seems pretty likely we'll have to revert to some form of remote instruction before this is all over.

In the meantime, Thanksgiving approaches. I know many of us are really struggling to deal with everything that's going on, but don't forget we do have some things to be thankful for. We have each other, and we have our students, and we have the capacity to not just survive, but succeed in the face of these challenges. Let's enter the holiday season with hope on our minds if we can.

Safe Schools Training

You may have received an email recently reminding you to complete a Safe Schools training module. This is a yearly requirement to comply with Act 71, which mandates annual updates of suicide prevention training, and you must complete it by the due date indicated in the email. You do not need to print and/or submit a copy of your updated certification—the module will automatically update the district's records when you complete it.

Important Dates in the Contract

January 1, 2021—Begins tuition reimbursement requests period for courses ending AFTER July 1, 2021.

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Don't Come to Work on December 31

While professional staff never work on December 31, the printed LMSD calendar has some support staff scheduled to work that day. This is incorrect: New Year's Eve is NOT a work day for ANY support or professional staff. While administrators may be working that day, you should not come to work.

Outreach Announcements

LMEA Outreach is looking for videos, pictures, & testimonials of what LMEA members are doing to make this transition to hybrid learning successful. I personally have seen instructional aides work with our life skills students to set up a delivery system for lunches & mail within the school building. Our custodians are working their tails off to keep everything sanitized, and administrative assistants are cheerfully greeting students from behind plexiglass. The cafeteria staff created a structure to effectively order and retrieve school lunch while maintaining social distance, and teachers have been employing unique ways to establish connections with students in this environment that is not conducive to meaningful relationships. We would like to feature these things on the LMEA website. If you see something great happening (as I do EVERY DAY!), please encourage your colleagues to share that with me (Andria Johnson) at lmeaoutreach@gmail.com.