

Lake County School District

UPDATE TO THE COMMUNITY • SPRING 2016



From our Superintendent

Greetings from Lake County Schools! We are excited to share an update from the school district with our community. Whether or not you have children in our schools, we are here to serve you by creating high quality schools. We are proud to report that our schools continue to improve in multiple ways.

Our changes—designed to improve student achievement at all levels—are beginning with a deep transformation of culture and climate in all three of our K-12 schools. Thus far, we are seeing incredible progress with the implementation of Expeditionary Learning in K-8. In all of these grades, students now begin each day in a small CREW, getting to know each other well, appreciating our diverse backgrounds and building a sense of team. Students at LCIS are leading school-wide community meetings, and kindergarteners are discussing the Habits of a Learner, such as perseverance or compassion, over the dinner table with their parents.

As our work on culture and climate takes root, we are creating safe learning environments where students can take intellectual risks. The rigor in our classrooms has increased in real and tangible ways, and we are using academic data to drive teaching and learning. As a result, our students' performance is rising to meet and exceed grade-level standards in increasing numbers. As the work progresses, our assessment data will reflect this transformation.

The updates in this newsletter are organized around our Board of Education's four goals for the Lake County School District. We hope you learn some new things about the exciting work happening in our schools.

Dr. Wendy Wyman, Superintendent

**Visit Our
Schools Week
starts April 23!**

*See back page for
more information.*

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Lake County School District • Elevating Expectations

Our Goals & Progress

The Lake County Board of Education has established four goals for the district. Here are examples of our progress related to these goals.

GOAL 1:



We ensure all students stay on or above grade level each year and graduate prepared to successfully implement a plan for college or career.

“Every day, we are college and career-ready.”

“Todos los días, estamos preparados para la universidad y las carreras profesionales.”

Closing the Gap

Our students' academic performance is a top priority. Though the new state assessments are extremely rigorous, our school and district 2015 PARCC results included some bright spots. Knowing that our schools have work to do to be on par with statewide averages, we track the difference between our schools' performance and that of the state as a whole. From TCAP 2014 proficiency results to 2015 PARCC results, though they are different tests, we can see that we are closing or reducing the performance gap in some significant areas. In 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th grade math, our district's 2015 PARCC results are closer to the state average results for the tests than they were in 2014 with TCAP. In 3rd and 7th grade reading, we likewise shrunk the gap between our results and the state's from 2014 to 2015.

College & Career Readiness

We share the community's belief that it is important for our students to have plentiful opportunities after they graduate from Lake County schools. This is why, in partnership with several local funders, we have started the Lake County Pre-Collegiate Program, which works with Lake County High School students who are interested in post-secondary education to achieve their goals and go on to two- and four-year colleges and universities. Another example of our focus on developing readiness for life after high school is our partnership with CMC, which now includes a welding class offered to LCHS students where they can learn a marketable career skill as well as earning college credit.

GOAL 2:



We provide all students with engaging learning opportunities.

“Rigor and engagement are everywhere.”

“El rigor y el compromiso están en todas partes.”

Expeditionary Learning

West Park Elementary, Lake County Intermediate School and Lake County Junior High School are now Expeditionary Learning (EL) schools. Our teachers have embraced the principles of EL to make learning engaging and relevant for our students. For example, our second-graders are doing a learning expedition about bees as a way to also learn about human communities. Third grade studies Leadville history and World War II through a learning expedition about the Tenth Mountain Division, and fifth grade meets its science standards through deep learning with medical field experts about human body systems.

The Arts

We saw many of you in recent years at our outstanding drama productions. *Seussical* (spring 2015) and *Beauty & the Beast* (fall 2015) both exemplified the high quality work that our students are capable of. We heard from many community members that the productions were the best high school productions they had ever seen. Likewise, our instrumental and choral music programs, as well as our visual arts program, are very strong--with students regularly winning awards for their work.

GOAL 3:



We create a space that is safe, inclusive and welcoming for all.

“Diversity and culture make us better.”

“La diversidad y la cultura nos hacen mejores.”

Healthiest School in Colorado

Lake County Intermediate School was the Colorado 2016 Healthy School Champion and won the Platinum Governor’s Award for its school health efforts. This award, which recognizes schools that create a healthy school climate and culture, is given in partnership with the Governor’s Council for Active and Healthy Lifestyles. All three Lake County Schools were award winners this year. Kerri Quinlan, LCSD Health & Wellness Coordinator explained, “With the adoption of Expeditionary Learning and its embedded social-emotional concepts and active learning model, LCIS is on a trajectory of providing exceptional supports for students. By adding more recess, additional time to P.E., and movement breaks throughout the day, the school has also seen a significant reduction in behavior referrals.” This is one example of how we are transforming our schools in surprising ways.



What are teachers saying about Expeditionary Learning?

“What I love about EL is how students are taking responsibility [and] setting goals. For the first time since I started in this district, the students truly care about their quality of work and increasing their knowledge.”

“Having the students doing the ‘heavy lifting’ and taking ownership of their learning is a huge change.”

GOAL 4:



We plan and execute the capital and human capital investments that will make our district better.

“We plan for the future.”

“Planificamos para el futuro.”

Teacher retention

We have heard from the community that retaining great educators is a key priority. We agree. We have invested significant resources in the past two years to understand what drives teachers to stay in Lake County, and to implement changes that will increase retention. Preliminary results are encouraging, and we expect to see our teacher turnover rate continue to decrease in coming years.

LCIS & West Park playgrounds

Community members and parents have been key drivers in plans to renovate our two aging school playgrounds. Raising funds, working with designers, choosing landscaping and equipment, these parents and other volunteers have done it all. The new LCIS playground opened in 2014 and the new West Park playground is slated to open in the fall of 2016. These projects are great examples of multi-agency partnerships that the district embraces.

Lake County School District R-1

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newsletter](http://www.lakecountyschools.net/newsletter)

Visit Our Schools Week is April 23-30

Don't take our word for it. Come see for yourself!

We hope you will take time to see for yourself what the Lake County School District is all about today.

All community members are invited into our schools this month to experience our district and our work in person. Choose one event or many, stay for the whole time or just pop in—we welcome you any time! If you'd prefer to schedule an appointment with one of our district administrators to hear more about what we are working on, or to provide us with feedback, please contact Kathleen Fitzsimmons, kfitzsimmons@lakecountyschools.net or 486-6813.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



SATURDAY, APRIL 23

A long tradition: The Grand March at LCHS Prom
6:30pm at LCHS

MONDAY, APRIL 25

Expeditionary Learning in action:
Community Tours of Lake County Intermediate School
with Principal Stephanie Gallegos
4-6pm at LCIS, meet in the front foyer at 4pm or 5pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

Our youngest students present their work:
West Park Celebration of Learning,
6pm at West Park Elementary

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

Preparing for the future: Annual Career Fair
8am-12pm at LCHS

Early childhood in the spotlight: Family Fun Night
5:30pm at The Center/Pitts Elementary

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

The arts matter: Annual District Art Show
5-8pm in the LCIS gym

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Panther pride: Girls soccer vs. Jefferson
11am at the Community Field

