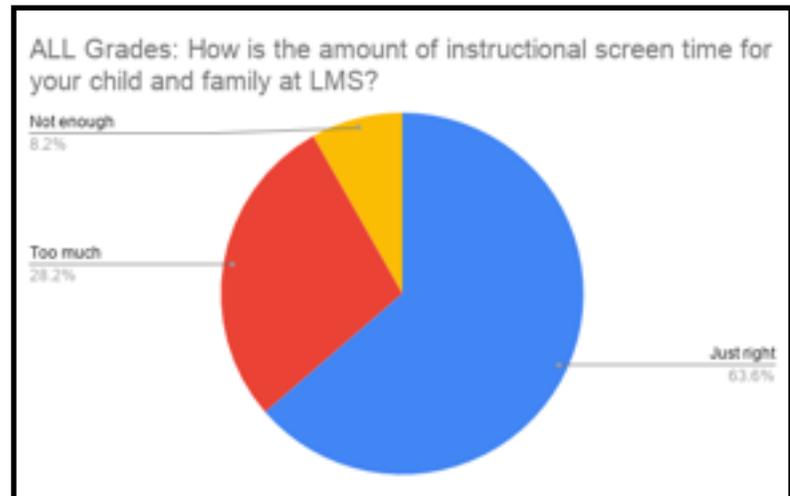


LMS SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Gert Nesin, Principal

Screen Time Survey and CAC

We heard from several families that students at LMS were on their screens for school for too much of the day. So we sent out a brief survey, with just two questions. We received 110 responses, spread evenly across grade levels. Here are the questions and what we learned:



- 1) How is the amount of instructional screen time for your child and family at LMS? The graph above shows the response for all grade levels. Most families think the time is just right, with a significant number believing it's too much, and a smaller number who think it's too little. The response varied by grade level and team, and each team has been given their specific numbers and suggestions.
- 2) Parents listed some concerns; too much screen time, not enough screen time, long blocks of time without instruction, and too much homework after being on the screen all day. They also listed some suggestions: More independent work and/or paper packets, insist that students keep their cameras on, have more Q & A sessions, pay more attention to fully remote students, (continue to) make remote time focused on instruction, interaction, and engagement, provide supervised social time outside of class, add independent physical activities, and give students Wednesdays off. And a few of the kudos: "Extremely pleased", "We are very happy with how things are going under the circumstances. Thank you LMS!", "I like how interactive the remote days are", and "I have been so proud of LMS and its dedication in trying to teach our kids as much as possible and as close to a full day as possible when remote." (cont on next page)



For anyone who has/had middle school children, this may sound familiar.

Athletics at LMS

We continue to assess COVID numbers in the state and Penobscot County week by week, as well as contacts and cases in our school. As soon as we believe it is safe, we will offer intramural activities for each cohort.

Staffing Challenges

Staffing is our biggest concern. With 0 or 1 substitute available most days, we scramble to keep all of our classes supervised and taught. Teachers fill in for each other as available, and Mr. Barker spends most of his days teaching a variety of subjects and grades.

At the suggestion of our COVID Advisory Council (CAC), we sent out a request for emergency substitutes. We will call these substitutes only on days when we may otherwise have to shut down due to a shortage of staff. We hope several parents will answer the call.

The LMS COVID Advisory Council (CAC) discussed the survey results on January 12, and asked that, as a whole school, we focus on two things: 1) Incorporate more physical activity, and 2) keep the current structure and support in place.

Each team is reading its own data and responses, and is discussing possible ways to address a wide range of perceptions, concerns, and suggestions.

Remote/In-Person Fluctuations

We are able to bring all students back to school for 2 days, as requested. It is a very fluid process of students coming back in person, and going remote, as contacts, sickness, and comfort with the level of COVID infections fluctuates.

Thinking About Wednesdays

We continue to think about effective ways to use our Wednesdays. We are finding that the afternoon planning time for teachers is vital to effective, consistent, full-time teaching and learning for the rest of the week.

We are beginning to invite some fully remote students into school on Wednesday mornings, so that they can get in-person instruction with minimal exposure. We have tried many strategies to get some of these students engaged, and this seems to be most effective. We will continue to expand these opportunities.