

Leonard Middle School

School Board Report

December 15, 2021

COVID Updates

While we continue to have a regular stream of positive cases, the numbers in school are surprisingly low given the rate of community spread. We credit this to vaccinations, masking, pooled testing, and the care most of our families take to keep sick kids at home.



We continue to reduce our quarantine numbers, in most cases. In our two cases on Thursday that we caught through pooled testing, we had 51 student and adult close contacts and only 1 quarantine.

We did have a few adult positive cases reported over the weekend. These adults worked mostly with a more vulnerable population. Out of approximately 35 student and adult close contacts, 12 had to quarantine. With every quarantine call we make, we encourage families to consider vaccinations and pooled testing to limit quarantines. Many have heeded that advice, but not all.

Challenged Book

Recently, a parent challenged one of the books we have in our library and in two of our 8th grade classroom collections. The book was seen by a student, and not assigned or recommended.

We are following written policy (IJJ) to process this challenge. Below are the steps we have completed.

- ✓ Parent meets with the teacher
- ✓ Parent files a formal book challenge with the principal, which is shared with the Superintendent
- ✓ Superintendent appoints a Review Committee to review the book. The committee consists of 4 members: principal, teacher, and librarian/media specialist.

These are the steps to come:

- > Principal convenes the Review Committee to review the book, and create a written report including the decision of the committee
- > Superintendent informs the complainant of the decision
- > If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the Review Committee, they may appeal to the School Board.

The Review Committee will review the book, write the report, and submit it to the Superintendent in January. As the Review Committee deliberates, all communication regarding the challenge goes through the Superintendent.

Student Support

As we navigate academic learning with our students through focus standards, we are also supporting their behavioral and social/emotional learning. We are experiencing more challenges than in a typical year, as students re-learn the routines, expectations, and community of learning in a school. These are some of the ways we are supporting that learning:

- > Weekly community-building activities and restorative circles. These are sometimes based around student concerns, such as anxiety or bullying. At other times, they may be to address school-wide challenges.
- > Create common schoolwide expectations and routines for hallways, classrooms, and common areas.
- > Develop guidelines and activities for a safe and fun recess. With recent snow and ice, our choices for outdoor activities have been quite limited. We are working with kids to develop a plan.
- > Teach, practice, and re-teach school and classroom routines
- > Upcoming professional development with clinicians from Acadia on understanding trauma, and positively managing classrooms with affected students.
- > Restorative practice, to help students understand their behaviors and effects, to repair any harm, and to learn to do better.
- > More counselors, providing more students with therapy and support on a regular basis

Thai Cooking

In connection with our Big Read, students were invited after school to make Thai spring rolls with Chef Josh. They very much enjoyed the culinary experience, and the spring rolls were delicious!



December Fun AND Learning

Our teachers are doing an excellent job making learning engaging and fun. Like our door decorating contest, with personal shields developed by students...



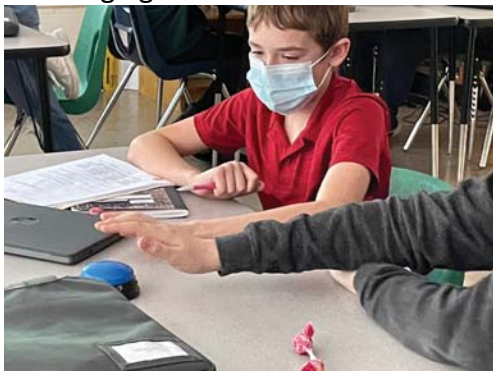
Some winter art on leftover tiles...



Math games...



Challenge games to review content...



Still Middle School

Even through a pandemic, middle school kids are still middle school kids.

The diversity of development in one 8th grade classroom.



8th grade point of view in a pose.
We love these kids!

