

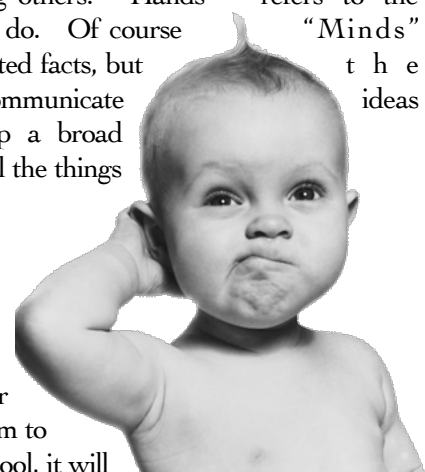


Guiding Principles that Guide our School

THE LYME SCHOOL

♥ Hearts ✋ Hands 🧠 Minds

Organizations lose ground if they do not evolve and innovate, at least that is a belief that underlies my philosophy of education. However, strong schools must also maintain fidelity to core values that help shape and prioritize their evolution to adapt to the changing environment of our world. The Lyme School's guiding principles come from our [Principles of Learning](#) and the commitment to influence not only the minds of our students, but their hearts and their hands as well. Hearts, hands and minds reflect three of the dimensions of a child. "Hearts" refers to their character, social/emotional skills and capacity for understanding others. "Hands" refers to the students' ability to put ideas into action, to construct, to build, to create - to do. Of course "Minds" refers to the pursuit of knowledge, but here that is not just limited to accumulated facts, but development of the ability to analyze, develop practical and creative solutions, communicate through a variety of modalities, and to engage one's curiosity to develop a broad understanding of the patterns, connections and relationships that exist among all the things they experience and investigate.

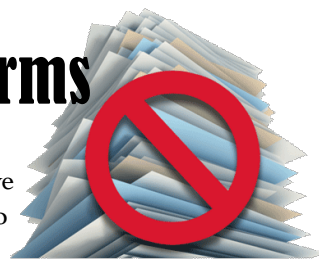


Digital Distraction



Despite what you may be told, not everyone has a smart device and your child does not NEEDED to have one. Our policy is that we strongly discourage students from bringing them to school (or even to own one - more on this later) and if they do bring it to school, it will not be powered on or be visible while school is in session. The wellness committee and board are looking closely at how we can support healthy habits around devices. They are currently reauthorizing [our policy surrounding their use](#) and looking at how we can support parents and families with the decisions around their availability and use. We are gathering resources to share and organizing events which will help answer parents questions. Our focus is on how to build healthy habits with such devices, the use of social media platforms and availability of the content on the internet. The introduction of such resources must also consider the developmental stage of the child. This may be the greatest challenge of this discussion within a family. We are hoping to support families with information and to facilitate conversations with other parents to assist with these decisions. At the Middle School Parent Night scheduled for **September 5th at 6pm** we will be discussing this as well as other subjects. In the meantime, don't feel like your child needs to bring their phone with them to school, most likely it will wind up in the office. Please see the draft of the [Device Policy](#) to learn more and to understand how you can be in contact with your child without the possession of any device.

Electronic Forms



After years of attempts we have finally created the means to complete the beginning of year forms electronically (I am imagining a town full of parents leaping with joy upon reading this). We will be sending out a link on Tuesday, August 28th so you can complete them by Friday, August 31st. The form will allow you to enter contact information, bus information, permissions and other details which in the past needed to be completed by hand for each of your students. This is a healthy use of technology long overdue.



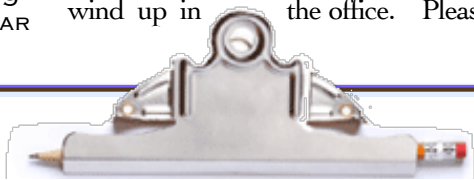
SERVING THE LYME COMMUNITY FOR OVER 100 YEARS

THE LYME SCHOOL

Newsletter



• **VOLUME: 13** •
2018-2019
SCHOOL YEAR



Events to add to your calendar

Ice Cream Social Tue, Aug 28 6pm

First Day Wed, Aug 29 8 am

Opening Ceremony 8 am - 9am



No School Days

September 3rd (Labor Day)

October 5th (inservice day)

Don't Forget:

Thursdays- early pick up at 2:00pm



HEARTS



HANDS



MINDS

Changes to the Middle School Schedule

One of the changes our middle school will experience this year is a new schedule. We believe this new schedule will provide several advantages to students.

- **Choice:** Students will have choices about what they study during the Academic Club periods and Elective Blocks.
 - **Academic Clubs** meet twice a week for ~ 35 minutes. These are options for students who want to delve more deeply into specific Academic subjects with a small group of students and the club teacher. The clubs are offered each quarter and students sign up for them the week prior to their beginning. The club is not graded and the motivation comes from curiosity for the theme of the club that quarter.
 - **Electives** meet once or twice a week for 90 minute blocks to allow students to immerse themselves into projects and activities. These include more performance or activity based programs versus academic. These activities include offerings in Band, Art, Music, Design Lab, Film production, Drama, Physical Training, Math Enrichment, Science Investigation, Geography as well as other project based courses. These electives change each quarter and students can choose to participate or attend a study period.
- **Relationships-** Electives, Academic Clubs, and Middle School advisory are all intended to provide small group activities which allow students to work closely with teachers in an area which they all share an interest. We anticipate that students and teachers will build connections around shared interests that will lead to greater familiarity with one another on different levels. We believe that through these opportunities they will develop respect for one another which will contribute to strong relationships. This in turn will provide opportunity to support students as they work through the developmental, social and emotional challenges of this point in their development.
- **Time:** The new schedule creates longer learning blocks to enable more active and project based learning. It also decreases the number of transitions and the number of different subjects that are encountered each day
- **Pace:** Due to the shift from 7 periods to 4, students experience fewer transitions and interruptions to their day resulting in a less harried and frenetic day which is likely to reduce stress and anxiety.

GOLDEN RULE:

Parents:

Never Perseverate - Communicate!

Don't lose sleep or worry needlessly, together we can work on a solution.

Call me, stop by or send a telegram, I would love to hear from you. My hope is to ensure that before you lose any sleep worrying about something, you feel you can call to get the support, attention, information and reassurance you need.



Lyme Bus Routes 2018-2019

With the closure River Road in limbo, the bus routes will be changing. If you are interested in your child riding the bus and/or would like to know details, please contact the school and let Patience or Denby know at 795-2125. Once we have a firm idea of who is riding the bus, we can finalize our routes.

Lunch Accounts

Students purchase lunch via a debit from their lunch account. Checks can be made out to "Lyme School Lunch Program". Application to the Federal free and reduced program are being sent home the first day of school with your child. If you don't qualify for the federal program, but require support, complete the form and contact me (Jeff) to determine if there are alternatives that can assist you.

Want more locally sourced food? Less of this, or more of that? If you have an interest in helping shape and advise the hot lunch program, please contact the School, Chef Larry or Hayes Greenway as the Wellness Committee would appreciate your involvement or input.



WE ARE MOBILE!

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Search under "Lyme Schools"

