

Believe: It's our time to shine!



Welcome back to Laurens County Schools!

We are looking forward to a fabulous school year! Renovations at West Laurens Middle School, East Laurens High School Vocational building, and the OWL (Old West Laurens High School) have our facilities looking much better. The extensive renovations at WLM, completed by Dublin Construction, have the school looking like a new one. Some of the highlights include a more spacious cafeteria, a renovated office space, and a beautiful facility. In the ELHS Vocational Building, Lentile Construction updated a very old facade, and put paint in rooms which had had none in 40 years. The facelift at the OWL is a work in progress. Ceilings, lighting, roofing, painting, and flooring are a few of the things the building has experienced. Floors in all buildings across the county are shiny, and classrooms are ready for the energy of students and the enthusiasm of teachers.

Our second year of Georgia Milestones scores have come in, and Laurens County Schools have seen much growth. Are we where we want to be? Certainly not! Every day, we are on a continuum of improvement... searching for a way to do things a little differently and perhaps even a little better. Students deserve our best, and LCS have awesome teachers and staff who are always willing to meet every child's need.

Of course, we welcome all new staff members to our neck of the woods! We hope you find LCS a place where every individual is all about Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships. On that same note, we are excited to introduce a few new staff members at the central office: First, Dr. Ronda Hightower returns home to Laurens County from a 7 year stint in Wheeler County. She is our new director of Teaching and Learning. You will see Ronda visiting your school and classroom regularly. Welcome home, Dr. Hightower. Next, Mrs. Dana Hall joins our central office staff as our RTI coordinator. She brings a lot of enthusiasm and expertise for the program, and we are excited about the great growth we are expecting from our RTI students. Finally, Mrs. Christy Lord is our new special education facilitator. Mrs. Lord has had many years of teaching in special education in our county, and brings a lot of knowledge and passion to her position.

Remember, as we kick off a fantastic school year... we are all on public relations duty! Be proud of yourself, your students, your school, and your system. Laurens County is a great place to be. So... Believe: It's our time to shine!

Dr. Alligood

ESPLOST Facelifts Summer 2016

West Laurens Middle School is beautiful. The facility has undergone a complete renovation in just ten and a half short weeks. Our hats are off to Dublin Construction and specifically Chris Morris for getting the job done so quickly. For those who thought... “Oh, it’s just going to be a little paint,” I believe you will be pleasantly surprised.



East Laurens High School Vocational Building no longer looks tired and distressed. It has undergone a little work, and Lentile Construction did a great job facilitating this process for us. It is ready for many more years of CTAE instruction.



The Old West Laurens High building (The OWL) has been transformed into a training facility which also houses The Diamond Academy, Heartland Academy, and some offices for SPED. Of course, the Career Academy is still there as well. We have already begun enjoying the training space!



Thanks to the voters in Laurens County. You penny worked hard this summer!



I am truly honored to serve as the Director of Teaching and Learning for Laurens County Schools. I look forward to the many memories and celebrations we will have as we see our efforts transcend into the success of our students. Teaching and Learning, Curriculum and Instruction cannot be directed most effectively from a distance. Similar to the participatory nature of athletics which requires an athletic director to be on the fields seeing and hearing the needs of coaches and athletes, so does a curriculum director need to be in the classrooms seeing and hearing the needs of administrators and teachers. The beauty of that is there is no place I would rather be than seeing what you do every day that makes our students successful.

~Dr. Ronda Hightower

I am very excited to get this school year started with some great promising practices with RTI. We will- for the first time ever- have common interventions throughout the county for grades K-12. The district has purchased HeadSprout, Read 180, Math 180, and System 44 to be used in our intervention classrooms. These programs are scientifically research-based with proven results. Furthermore, all schools have incorporated the needed forty-five minute (minimum) time block for these programs to be implemented with fidelity. I cannot wait to see the growth results for our students!

As always, RTI is NOT an interventionist's job only. Tier 1 is the responsibility of every classroom teacher. Academically, tier 1 lays the foundation for best practices in classroom teaching including differentiation, flexible grouping, and data driven instruction. Behaviorally, tier 1 creates an atmosphere that is conducive to learning for all students, so best teaching practices can occur.

I look forward to visiting classrooms in order to gain insight of some of the amazing things our teachers are already doing to create stellar lessons in Laurens County. Each of your experiences and knowledge will serve as a repertoire of ideas I can share with teachers throughout the county to enhance tier 1 instruction. I am also available to observe students and offer suggestions to help each child reach his or her full potential. Let me know how I can assist; I am happy to be a part of Team Laurens. Let's make this year this best one yet!

Dana Hall

The special education department is looking forward to the 2016-2017 school year! At the end of last school year, Mrs. Anita Graham-Smith retired after having a tremendous impact on special education in Laurens County. We are excited to have Mrs. Christy Lord join us as Special Education Facilitator this year! Laurens County serves over 600 students with disabilities each day. The unique needs of these students will be met this upcoming year by the collaboration of regular education teachers, special education teachers, and paraprofessionals. We are anticipating great things for Team Laurens this year!



New Teacher Orientation

We are so excited about our new faculty and staff in Laurens County. We welcomed over 55 new certified employees to our district on Monday, August 1. Dr. Greer and the Human Resource Department did a fabulous job putting on the program for our new teachers at the newly renovated OWL. If you are a new teacher, please keep the following dates in mind for the Induction Program: August 15th, September 19th, October 17th, November 14th, and February 6th. All of these Induction seminars will be held at The OWL from 4:00 until 5:30. Learning together is so much FUN!



Welcome to Our Neck of The Woods!

- ◆ 41 teachers
- ◆ 11 paraprofessionals
- ◆ 1 nurse
- ◆ 2 counselors
- ◆ 2 assistant principals
- ◆ 1 director
- ◆ 3 clerical support
- ◆ 2 instructional coaches
- ◆ 1 speech pathologist
- ◆ 11 cafeteria support staff
- ◆ 3 custodians
- ◆ 7 bus drivers
- ◆ (and a partridge in a pear tree)



We are so proud to
welcome 85 new employees
to Laurens County Schools
for the FY 17 year.

Welcome to our Team!

Let's get rolling...



WELCOME BACK

Have you heard?

FREE Breakfast and Lunch Meals

will be available for

Northwest Laurens Elementary, Southwest Laurens Elementary, East Laurens Primary, East Laurens Elementary, East Laurens Middle, and East Laurens High

The schools listed above will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision program offered by the National School Lunch Program this upcoming school year. There is no paperwork or application to be completed by parents or students, as every child is included in this opportunity.

Other items like water, juice, and tea will be available for purchase daily.

Students at West Laurens Middle and West Laurens High are still eligible to apply for free or reduced meal benefits by completing a Free or Reduced Price Meal Application. Applications can be found at www.lcboe.net or at your school office.

Reduced-Price Student Lunch - \$40

Full Pay Student Lunch - \$2.00

Staff/Visitor Lunch - \$3.00

As a 2015 and 2016 Georgia Organics Golden Radish recipient, Laurens County School Nutrition Program is committed to promoting and serving local, Georgia Grown products throughout the school year. Look for local corn, applesauce, blueberries, wheat, grits, pickles, and watermelons on a school tray soon!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LUNCH BOX BUDDIES

ARE A NEW ADDITION TO THE MANY HEALTHY OPTIONS OFFERED DAILY WITHIN OUR LUNCHROOMS.

EACH BUDDY CONTAINS YOGURT, STRING CHEESE, CHIPS, AND FRUIT. THIS MAKES A GREAT PAL TO ANY LUNCHBOX!

School meals are a huge convenience for busy families... Let us help YOU!

BREAKFAST IS FREE for ALL STUDENTS!

Enjoy a delicious hot breakfast each morning or grab a breakfast bag and save it for break or snack!

Breakfast and Lunch Menus can be found at www.lcboe.net or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/laurenscountyschools/>

Bentos Are Back!

For the second year in a row, every Monday and Thursday custom Bento lunch boxes are offered at NWL, SWL & ELE! Pizza, Deli Sandwich and Chips, Chicken Nuggets, and Nacho Chips with Cheese & Salsa Bento Boxes are offered throughout the month. Vegetables, fruits, and milk are offered with this meal each day and makes such a great deal...

Just Say No to Lunchables and Yes to Bentos!

Laurens County
School Nutrition Program
478-272-4767 #teamlaurens



Hello everyone and welcome back! We hope you had a fantastic summer. As we look forward to kicking off the new school year, the technology department has a few things we know will need addressing. Please check out the list below:

- **Since upgrading to the new Office 365 software last school year, Microsoft requires Office software (Word, PowerPoint, etc.) to be verified every 30 days. You may notice when you open an application it won't work properly until it's verified. You can fix this by opening Word (or any Office app) and clicking the "sign in" link in the top right of the window and verify your credentials.**
- **We are asking that you leave all computers in your room on each afternoon of pre-planning. This will allow us to send out the most current updates for programs like Chrome, Firefox, etc. We will start the deployment each day after 4:00 p.m. to try and keep interruptions to a minimum.**
- **Be sure to check the date and time on your Chromebooks. If the date and time are not right, the Chromebook will not allow access to the network.**
- **Check your Clutter folder in your email for any important emails that may have been directed there. We have created new email rules to help prevent internal emails from going there, but the ones that have made it prior to the rules will still be sitting in the Clutter folder.**

Student network accounts are active. If the student was in the system last year their Windows and Chrome logins should be ready to use after the student submits a signed Acceptable Use Procedure form (AUP). We will be working as fast as possible to add new student accounts. The student login format is first name, middle initial, last name (all together) and their password is their lunch code. Remember Chromebook logins use the lcboe.info domain.

We wanted to remind you to please submit tickets to the Web Help Desk. Remember that you do not use [@lcboe.net](mailto:lcboe.net) on your credentials for Web Help Desk.

- **Please understand that the technology department receives a tremendous amount of work tickets at the beginning of a school year. We are also working to get the renovated buildings ready before school starts. We will be working hard to address all issues in a timely manner, but the time frame may be longer than normal at this time.**
- **If you have issues that need to be addressed by the technology department, please send a web ticket - not an email, phone call, text message, etc. We hope that everyone has a great year.**

FINANCE UPDATES:

Employee Self Service system – We will begin using an employee self service system on August 31, 2016. You will need to go online and register so that you can begin using this system. Look for an email with instructions on how to register. The ESS system will allow you to see your deposit information, W4 form, as well as your leave balance. You will also be able to submit changes to your direct deposit, address, and tax status.

Direct deposit - LCBOE has implemented a “no check” policy for the FY17 school year. All of you received your pay through direct deposit or on a pay card for the July payroll. Employee expense reimbursements will also be disbursed through direct deposit.

Payroll Review - The beginning of the school year is also a good time to review your tax withholdings and salary to ensure your pay and deductions are correct.

We understand that with change, problems will arise. Please let us know if you experience a problem. Have a great year!

***For time and the world do not stand still.
Change is the law of life. And those who look
only to the past or the present are certain to
miss the future.***

—John F. Kennedy