



**Welcome to LW! High School Primer:  
For Parents, By Parents**

# Topics for tonight:

1. What's different from middle school?
2. Staying connected
3. Keeping track of student work, assignments, grades and fees
4. Academics and tests
5. Graduation requirements
6. Counseling and College & Career Center services
7. Extra-curricular & social activities
8. Sports and Booster Clubs
9. Parent volunteering
10. LWHS PTSA

Glossary (Common acronyms and terms)

# 1. What's different from middle school



- ▶ Curriculum: **Grades, course selections and academic rigor start to form a student's post-graduation path, especially if college is the goal.** Parents can help track work; however, **students should become comfortable taking charge of their learning.**  
Note: Parents do sign off on their student's course selections.
- ▶ Communication: **Students (not parents) are expected to take the initiative in communicating with teachers.** It's helpful for students to form a connection with their teachers and school counselor.
- ▶ Extra-curricular: **Student involvement in clubs and/or sports are more targeted, and are highly recommended** for any, but especially, college paths. Colleges like to see balance between academics and outside interests.

## 2. Staying Connected: Resources

### **School website: [lwhs.lwsd.org](http://lwhs.lwsd.org)**

Bell Schedule – can change throughout the year

Staff directory – teacher email addresses

Counseling Dept – Course catalog, graduation requirements

Library Staff – full-service library and e-books  
Affiliation with KCLS (public library)

School Bus Route Info/Orca Pass

School Parking Info

**And much more!**

### **Social media**

LWHS: Instagram ([lwhs\\_alwaysrising](https://www.instagram.com/lwhs_alwaysrising/)), Facebook & Twitter

LWHS PTSA: website, Facebook, Instagram, bi-monthly newsletter

### **Student-specific**

School video monitors

Morning announcements

Kang News (on LHWS website, Instagram, YouTube)

Student newspaper “The Pouch”

ASB Instagram (general & class-specific – must follow)

## 2. Staying Connected: Events

- ▶ **Curriculum Night** – Sep 22, 2021; virtual this year. You can find the link in the email sent out to parents or access this page on our school's website. (There are no formal Parent Teacher Conferences in high school).
  
- ▶ **Communication with Principal Christine Bell**
  - Principal letter in the Kang Crier, sent out bi-monthly (archived versions on [lwhsptsa.org](http://lwhsptsa.org))
  - Monthly Coffees with Christine – see PTSA Website calendar ([lwhsptsa.org](http://lwhsptsa.org)) or school calendar ([lwhs.lwsd.org](http://lwhs.lwsd.org)) for dates. **Upcoming: Thurs, 9/30 at 8:30 AM (virtual) and 6 PM (in-person)**
  
- ▶ **LWHS PTSA General Membership meetings** – visit [lwhsptsa.org](http://lwhsptsa.org) for dates. All are welcome!
  - PTSA business meeting – Wednesday, Sept. 29, 7 PM; Christine Bell, guest speaker
  - Presentations by LWHS staff
  - Parent education events
  - Connection with fellow parents

## 2. Staying Connected: Key Contacts at LWHS

### Administrative Team:

Assigned by students' last names

Principal: **Christine Bell** (Le-Re)

Associate Principals:

**Tim Schultz** (Rh-Z),

**Aric Kooima** (Fe-La),

**Melissa Super-Greene** (A-Fa)

Dean of Students: **Joe Joss**

### Counselors:

**Lenore Gallucci:** A-COO

**Phil Magnenat:** COP-FAQ

**Margaret Campbell:** FAR-HAK

**Cameron McGinnis:** HAL-LD

**Kaitlyn Bradley:** LE-OK

**Wendi Thomas:** OL-SI

**Perry Sampley:** SJ-Z

### Athletic Director: **Rick O'Leary**

Oversees athletics, advises booster clubs

### Activities Coordinator: **Zach Grundl**

ASB/Leadership Advisor and oversight for student clubs and social activities

### **Absence/Late Arrival/Early Dismissal:**

**425-936-1701**

**OR**

[LakeWashingtonHSAttendance@lwsd.org](mailto:LakeWashingtonHSAttendance@lwsd.org)

### 3. Keeping Track of Assigned Work, Grades, & Fees

- ▶ **Microsoft TEAMS:** Learning management system used by staff and students.
- ▶ **Skyward Family Access:** Legacy grade book and attendance system. Sign up missing assignment alerts (see next slide). Set your communication preferences for absences, etc. on the **Skylert** tab!
- ▶ **FEES: Online Payment Portal** (district website) **OR onsite School Cashier** (cash or check ONLY!)
  - **ASB Card** - All students are issued a school ID card. Participation in after-school sports, music or clubs require an ASB fee – usually \$50.
  - **Misc. fees** – yearbook (optional), PE shirts, class fees, parking, sports or club fees, test fees, fines (i.e., late books, laptop repair)
  - **Lunch accounts** – My School Bucks online pay portal or check to lunchroom cashiers (not school cashier)
  - **Other** – handled by cashier at the school (checks or cash only): parking (if needed), PSAT/NMSQT/AP test fees, loaner equipment (calculators)
- ▶ **Social Events** – ASB: Dance tickets, etc. generally sold at lunch or before/after school.  
PTSA: Senior Party tickets.

*Note: financial assistance is available to help students with school related fees. See the school counselors.*

- ▶ **Student Store:** Students and parents can purchase Kang Themed attire and other items. Open during lunch located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Pop-up store at other events.

# Missing assignments alert – how to activate

**Family Access**

DENISE FERGUSON **My Account** Email History Exit

**Account Settings**

Email: DENISE [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED] Ext: [REDACTED]  
Cell: [REDACTED] Ext: [REDACTED]  
Cell: [REDACTED] Ext: [REDACTED]

☐ I'm Using a Screen Reader  
☐ Outline Links When Focused

Family Access Logi: [REDACTED]  
Password Last Change: [REDACTED]

Address (Mailing Address)

Street Number: [REDACTED]  
SUITE: [REDACTED]  
Address: [REDACTED]  
Zip Code: [REDACTED]  
County: [REDACTED]

Address Preview: [REDACTED]

**Email Notifications**

☒ Receive Grading Emails for my student(s) ?

Save  
Change Password  
Profile Picture  
Undo



## 4. Academics and tests

**Course Catalog** – available on school website. Parents must sign off on student selections.

**Class Curriculum** – Assignments, tests, grading – see class TEAMS pages.

**Homework** – varies by class and student

**AP Classes** – National program designed to prepare students for higher education. College credits may apply if student opts to take the national tests (held in the spring) and achieves minimum required scores

**Career and Technical Education (CTE) – College in the High School.** Some LWHS courses also come with the opportunity to receive college credit through local community colleges – fees apply. Examples - See course catalog

**ELL or English Language Learning** – Classes are offered to empower new English-speaking students to both participate in classroom curriculum and attain English proficiency.

**Running Start-** Juniors and Seniors may apply to finish their high school years at Bellevue College, LW Tech or Cascadia. Discuss with counselors.

**WANIC** - A skill center program - Courses offered through WANIC introduce students to specific career paths. Students can also earn industry certifications. Some classes include culinary, nursing, EMT fields, mechanics, coding. Students sign up via the Counseling Center and take courses as part of their regular school day and/or before or after school

## 4. Academics and tests (cont.)

### Finals –

- End of each semester
- Daily class schedule is shorter to allow for study and review times with teacher

### State Required Proficiency Tests

- High school students must pass tests, or state-approved alternatives, to be eligible to graduate.
- A student must attempt state assessments at least once before qualifying for alternatives in each content area. Exceptions apply (Special Ed, out-of-state transfer students).
- ▶ **ELA:** Smarter Balanced Assessment - English Language Arts (SBA-ELA)
- ▶ **Math:** Smarter Balanced Assessment - Math (SBA-Math)
- ▶ **Science:** Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS)

**PSAT/NMSQT** – A standardized test widely used for college admissions in the United States. ACT is another standardized test used for college admissions. More info at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) or [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

- *PSAT (Practice SAT)* – given free to all sophomores during their Fall semester.
- *NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)*- the official route of entry to the National Merit® Scholarship Program. Juniors have the options to take this exam the same day the sophomores take the PSAT (fee applies)
- 504/IEP students should apply for accommodations early if needed – see school counselor

LWHS PTSA offers practice ACT/SAT testing opportunities for all students throughout the year  
Free prep tutorials on Xello (high school and beyond program on student laptops).



## 5. Graduation Requirements



- ▶ **Graduation Requirement – Credits:** students need 24 credits in specific subject areas to graduate. Students have an opportunity to earn 28 credits during High School (7 classes per year x 4 years).
  - Seven (7) of the 24 credits are flexible credits; these include 4 elective credits and 3 Personalized Pathway Requirements that are chosen by students based on their interest and their High School and Beyond Plans.
  - Counselors work with student to make sure they are taking the classes they need for graduation. Sitting down with a school counselor is helpful if a student or parent has questions.
  - There are alternate ways to earn these credits, including Running Start, WANIC, outside credit, credit retrieval
  - Students can test out of some requirements (foreign language) or be excused from others if conditions met (PE)
- ▶ **Other Graduation Requirements:**
  - Pass state tests or approved alternatives to the tests
  - High School and Beyond Plan (Xello) – Students begin their plan in eighth grade and revise it each year as they progress through middle and high school. Students will explore their interests, discover potential future careers, and research post-secondary education options. The plan may guide some of the courses they choose to take in high school.

There are also **alternative high school pathways** – see [www.lwsd.org/schools/high-school/high-school-guide](http://www.lwsd.org/schools/high-school/high-school-guide)

## 6. Counseling Office Services

- ▶ Counselors are assigned alphabetically by students' last names. Encourage your student to meet with their counselor.
- ▶ Web: [lwhs.lwsd.org/counseling](http://lwhs.lwsd.org/counseling); Instagram: [lwhscounseling](#)
- ▶ Services include:
  - Course registration, scheduling, change requests
  - Monitoring of student academic credits and on time graduation plans
  - Academic, personal/social and career advising
  - Requests for financial support with school fees, etc.
  - Referrals for community resources
  - Guidance for post-secondary planning and application requirements

## 6. College & Career Center services

The CCC is open to all students/parents. Provides resources for students' post graduation paths.

[lwhs.lwsd.org/counseling/career-center](http://lwhs.lwsd.org/counseling/career-center)

College & Career Specialist: **Nichole Swanger**

[nswanger@lwsd.org](mailto:nswanger@lwsd.org) Rm 180, on the first floor, next to the Commons

- ▶ Career exploration
- ▶ WANIC info
- ▶ Running Start
- ▶ College planning
- ▶ Scholarships
- ▶ College visits
- ▶ **Volunteer**/community service/employment opportunities for students





## 7. Extra-Curricular and social activities

### ► ASB Clubs

- Clubs must have an advisor (generally a teacher or staff member) and oversight is provided by Leadership teacher
- Some are included as part of specific classes (i.e., DECA: Distributive Education Clubs of America)
- Some clubs require students to meet specific requirements or have an application process (National Honor Society, Link Crew).
- Students can form new clubs! See Club webpage for details. **[lwhs.lwsd.org/activities/clubs](http://lwhs.lwsd.org/activities/clubs)**
- Some require fees, including for outside competitions (i.e., Robotics). Scholarships are available.

### ► PTSA-led activities for students

- SAT/ACT Practice Tests
- College Application Workshops
- Parent Education presentations
- Sustainability Programming
- Senior Events – Senior Salute and Senior Party
- Reflections – National PTA Arts Competition
- Grants for existing clubs



## 7. Extra-Curricular Activities (cont.)

- ▶ School Dances – Homecoming (Fall), TOLO (Spring), Senior Prom (June)
- ▶ Theater Productions and Musical Concerts – Check school calendar
- ▶ Other Student-Run Events (Leadership)\*\* – Details coming soon!
- ▶ Leadership – ASB & Student Council: Student officers (elected by the student body) who run the student government, manage finances, plan events. Interested students should email Leadership Teacher Zach Grundl ([zgrundl@lwsd.org](mailto:zgrundl@lwsd.org))

**\*\*Students – Follow the ASB and Class-Specific Instagram Accounts, in-school announcements, Kang News for the most up-to-date information.**

### **Official ASB accounts:**

@lwhs.asb, @lwhs.22, @lw.2023, @kangnewslive, @kangsports, @lw kangfootball, @lw kangvolleyball, @lakewasbsu, @lwhs.nhs @lwstheatreclub, @kangkornelwstudentstore



## 8. Sports and Booster Clubs

- ▶ Fall Sports – register in August (teams may start practice during the summer)
- ▶ Winter Sports – register in November
- ▶ Spring Sports – register in February
  - Must have medical clearance to participate.
  - Register through Final Forms – link on school athletics page.
  - Some sports require tryouts. Each season offers no-cut sports.
  - Fees apply. Payment via online LWSD payment system or via cashier at the school. Scholarships available
- ▶ Booster clubs - help support most athletic teams (and some non-athletic clubs)
  - Hold their own fundraising events
  - Offer additional off-season activities and training
  - LWHS Booster Club website or Facebook page has more info or contact individual coaches or advisors







# LAKE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB

We pursue the support & development of student athletic teams and other interscholastic activities

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- VOLUNTEER – [18 CLUBS](#) (ATHLETICS & THE ARTS!)
- DONATE – [PAYPAL](#) OR CHECK. AND [AMAZON SMILE](#)
- FOLLOW US [@LWHSBOOSTERCLUB](#)
- MORE INFO: [WWW.LWHSBOOSTERS.ORG](#)

## 9. Parent Volunteering



**All volunteers must be pre-approved by the district. Apply or renew via district website (LWSD.org)**

- ▶ In-School Opportunities: **limited in 2021-2022; masks and proof of vaccination required.**
- ▶ PTSA Opportunities: Short and longer-term opportunities available! See our website for possibilities.
- ▶ Booster Clubs: Support student athletics, music, theater and a few other clubs

**Can't help in person?** Lend your support via donations (financial or supplies for Staff Appreciation).

- ▶ Calls for volunteers:
  - Direct emails from teachers
  - PTSA Website – see volunteer section on [lwhsptsa.org](http://lwhsptsa.org)
  - Athletic or Activity Parent Meetings – held at the beginning of each season

## 10. LWHS PTSA serves...

### ► Parents:

- Kang Crier newsletter, Kang Cards
- Directory and Parent Pledge
- Website, Instagram, Facebook
- Membership meetings & parent education
- Coffees with Christine

### ► Teachers/staff:

- Staff Appreciation lunches/snacks/treats
- Kang Crier newsletter
- Grant opportunities (enrichment & ASB)
- Teacher classroom grants
- Golden Kang award

### ► Students:

- Reflections (arts contest)/Game design contest
- SAT/ACT practice tests
- College Application workshops (CAW)
- Social Emotional Support grants
- School supplies (Kleenex!)
- Senior Salute and Senior Party
- Grant opportunities (enrichment & ASB)

### ► All of the LWHS community:

- Emergency Prep supplies/organization
- School Beautification – plantings, clean-up
- Volunteer recruitment and organization
- Advocacy at the local, state, and national level
- Funding for students in need

# Please help LWHS PTSA help you!

- ▶ **PTSA General Membership Meeting: Wednesday, 9/29, 7 PM**  
**Guest speaker: Christine Bell (and maybe counselors?)**
- ▶ Join us or donate to Pass the Pouch! Be a part of making a difference at your student's school. <https://lwhsptsa.org>
- ▶ Still have questions? Contact us! [info@lwhsptsa.org](mailto:info@lwhsptsa.org)



# District-Wide Information Resources

## **Lake Washington PTSA Council (LWPTSA) – [www.lwptsa.net](http://www.lwptsa.net)**

Welcome New Families PTSA Council/LWSD event – Wednesday, Sept. 29, 6-8 PM, virtual

Parent Education Events (partnership of LWPTSA Council and LWSD):  
speakers, documentary screenings, “Lunch and Learns”

LWPTSA Special Education Group – meetings & support, lending library

## **Lake Washington School District (LWSD) – [www.lwsd.org](http://www.lwsd.org)**

Have a question? Go to <https://www.lwsd.org/help/lets-talk>

## **Lake Washington Schools Foundation (LWSF) – [www.lwsf.org](http://www.lwsf.org)**

Balance in Mind, Find your Fit College Help, Pantry Packs

# Glossary of Common Terms

- ▶ **ASB -Associated Student Body (ASB)** - made up of both elected and appointed positions who run the student government. Students in this group manage the student body finances, plan all events such as prom and Homecoming, and work on building a positive school culture. ASB also refers to a student's school ID card.
- ▶ **ASB Card** – All students are issued an ID card. An ASB Fee is required to participate in sports and other activities such as orchestra, band & clubs. ASB funds go to support cultural, athletic, recreational and social activities. Also provides free access to home sporting events. Fee is generally \$50 at the high school.
- ▶ **AP –Advanced Placement** - nationwide program that is designed to prepare students for higher education. AP classes provide rigorous, college-level curriculum in various subjects and the opportunity to earn college credits or advanced college standing.
- ▶ **AVID** – Advancement via Individual Determination – A school-based program offering additional supports to select students in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- ▶ **Booster Clubs** – These non-profit organizations are parent-run which support and raise money for sports, music, and various other clubs in the school.
- ▶ **Capstone** – An AP Diploma Program offered at LWHS. Includes any combination of 4 AP classes plus AP Seminar and AP Research
- ▶ **CTE Dual Credit Courses** – Career & Technical Education. Through a partnership with community and technical colleges in the state, certain CTE courses provide students with the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit for the course.

# Glossary of Common Terms (cont.)

- ▶ **ELL – English Language Learners**– ELL classes are offered at LWHS which empower new English-speaking students to both participate in classroom curriculum and attain English proficiency
- ▶ **PTA/PTSA – parent-teacher association (PTA) or parent-teacher-student association (PTSA)** - a formal organization composed of parents, teachers and staff that supports students and teachers, provides information to parents, is a community resource etc.
- ▶ **PSAT/SAT/NMSQT/ACT** – Various versions of standardized tests widely used for college admissions in the United States. Administered by outside organization. See [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) OR [act.org](http://act.org).
- ▶ **SEL** – Social Emotional Learning – the district, school and counseling department facilitate curriculum provided by the district to support student mental health and social skills development
- ▶ **Running Start** – Running Start is a program in which juniors and seniors who qualify may enroll in college level courses at Bellevue College, CWU Sammamish, Cascadia College, or Lake Washington Institute of Technology and earn high school and college credit concurrently. All classes are taken at the college campus.
- ▶ **WANIC – Washington Network for Innovative Careers** - A skill center program - Courses offered through WANIC often introduce students to specific career paths. Students can also earn industry certifications. Some classes include culinary, nursing, EMT fields, mechanics, coding. Students sign up via the Counseling center and take courses as part of their regular school day and/or before or after school
- ▶ **504/IEP – Individual Education Plans** – plans put in place for special education students or students with special needs to support them in the classroom
- ▶ **Xello** – High School and Beyond Plan. A program all students complete in order to meet graduation requirements. Counselors help administer.

Thank you to our  
partners for  
making this  
resource  
possible!

