Lehman Intermediate School

Dr. Robert W. Dilliplane   Dr. Joanne M. Bohrman
Principal   Assistant Principal

August 2018

Principal's Welcome

Dear Lehman Parents, Guardians, and Students,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Lehman Intermediate School, the home of the proud and accomplished Timberwolves. We look forward to partnering with you as we embark on a new and exciting school year to help ensure that your child enjoys a positive and rewarding educational experience at Lehman. The 18-19 school year officially begins for students on Monday, August 27, 2018.

Team Assignments and Welcome Letters

Lehman grade level teams are 6 Blue, 6 Silver, 7 Blue, 7 Silver, 8 Blue, and 8 Silver. On August 17, 2018 parents will be able to log on to Sapphire to view student schedules and determine team assignments. A welcome letter from each team will be loaded on our Lehman website under the *For Students* tab and the *Team Welcome Letters* link. An official copy of student academic schedules will be distributed to students on August 27th during team meetings.

Dress Code for Students

The revised Policy 221: Dress and Grooming, approved by our School Board in July of 2017, officially takes effect for students with the 18-19 school year. We have posted Policy 221 on the homepage of the Lehman website. The link is called *Dress Code 18-19 School Year*. Consequences for non-compliance with the new Dress Code will include the following: 1st Offense will be a Documented Verbal Warning; 2nd Offense will be a Detention; 3rd Offense will be a Detention; 4th Offense and Any Additional Offenses will be a 5-Day External Suspension. The first week of school will serve as a time for students to ask questions about the new Dress Code in order to clarify their understanding of what is expected. While students will be corrected for violations of the new Dress Code during the first week of school, consequences delineated above will not begin until September 4, 2018. Our focus is on working with and helping our students and families become better informed about the revised dress code to make this policy successful for everyone so that our focus can remain on learning.

Code of Student Conduct

As we prepare for the new school year ahead, we reiterate our desire and commitment to work in collaboration with you to help ensure that your child is aware of our school policies and procedures. Your child will receive a Code of Student Conduct during the first week of school. The Code of Student Conduct is also available electronically on the East Stroudsburg Area School District (ESASD) website under the *For Students* tab and the *Student Handbooks* link. Please take time to review the Code of Student Conduct with your child to ensure a complete understanding of expectations for students.

Sapphire Community Portal

We would like to encourage you to make daily use of Sapphire, our Student Information System software. This marvelous software makes it possible to proactively manage your child's workload by monitoring academic performance in all classes. We fully recognize that communication between home and school is a vital component of our educational programming and is directly related to the success your child experiences at school. We fervently believe that the daily use of Sapphire will help to keep you abreast of your child's academic progress as well as other important activities occurring here at Lehman.

Attendance Policy 204

Student attendance is extremely important and we ask that you do your utmost to ensure that your child attends school regularly. Please note that when your child is absent from school, you have *three (3) school days* to submit an absence excuse note explaining the reason for the absence. To avoid the inconvenience of a formal attendance letter, we ask that you check with your child's homeroom teacher via telephone or email to ensure that your absence excuse notes have been received safely and recorded in Sapphire. Upon receiving an absence excuse note from your child, homeroom teachers will distribute a blue Absence Excuse Receipt to your child to sign. This receipt indicates that an absence excuse note was received from your child.

Academic Enrichment

As you prepare your child for a new school year, you may be asking yourself what your child can do at home in order to extend the learning that occurs at school. While there are a variety of answers to that question, we recommend *Study Island* as a wonderful Internet-based software program available for grades K-12 that offers an interactive way to supplement learning at home. The program is divided into sections based on these subjects: (1) Math (PA Core); (2) Keystone Algebra I; (3) English Language Arts (PA Core); and (4) Science. Each section is organized by topics and all topics are accompanied by a lesson, which includes some brief information about the material covered. It is helpful to view the lesson before answering the questions in a topic. These instructional lessons provide a means for both review and enrichment of material that your child has seen in the classroom and could encounter on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and Keystone Algebra I Exam. The activities and lessons available on *Study Island* are aligned to our district's curriculum, as well as to state and national standards. As a result of that alignment, we strongly believe that if your child takes the time to get involved with this program it will be beneficial in the classroom as well as on future standardized assessments. Please review the instructions included at the end of this Principal's Welcome that explain how to utilize *Study Island* from home. In addition to *Study Island*, we strongly recommend **Quizlet** and **Khan Academy** as high-quality academic software platforms that can provide support and enrichment for students. Directions on how to use **Quizlet** and **Khan Academy** can be found at the end of this Principal's Welcome as well.

Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a standardized assessment administered to public schools in the state of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Department of Education produces an informative PSSA report detailing student performance for each of the assessments. This report will be distributed to students once school is back in session. This past spring, students took an English Language Arts (ELA) assessment which assessed students on a multitude of reading and writing tasks, as well as a Math assessment that was fully aligned with the new and challenging PA Core academic standards for mathematics. In addition to the ELA and Math assessments, students in 8th grade took a Science assessment.

Keystone Algebra I Exam

The Keystone Algebra I Exam is a standardized assessment administered to public school students who study Algebra I in the state of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Department of Education produces an informative Keystone Algebra I Exam report detailing student performance. This report will be distributed to students once school is back in session. This past spring, students studying Algebra I took the Keystone Algebra I Exam.

Social Media and Technology

With regards to student usage of social media and technology in general, we strongly urge parents and guardians to carefully monitor what their child is doing on the Internet and with whom their child is communicating via social media. It seems like every week a new social media venue becomes available, affording our students yet another avenue for communicating with others electronically. If these technologies were used maturely, there would be no cause for concern; regrettably, we all feel the impact of students' inappropriate technology usage on a daily basis. Inappropriate and offensive comments are sometimes posted on social media venues which create animosity and hard feelings among our students, often leading to arguments, emotional turmoil, threats, and even physical fights. ***Unfortunately, the end result is that the inappropriate usage of social media compromises the ability of our students to focus on their school work***. Parents and guardians should note that we have seen an increase in the creation of false social media accounts and the sending of sexually inappropriate photos between students via social media venues. Situations that reach this level of seriousness are handled with both school disciplinary consequences as well as by formal referrals to our School Resource Officer and the Pennsylvania State Police. While we do make extensive efforts to teach our students about appropriate technology usage, we also recognize that we cannot handle this challenge alone. To that regard, we ask that you partner with us by monitoring your child's usage of technology very carefully. We all want the very best for our children, and we believe that the most effective way to help them achieve success is by working together to ensure that their attention, energy, and efforts are focused on wholesome, school-related activities.

Communication

Lehman's staff is sincere in supporting students and their families. Communication with teachers through Sapphire, telephone, and email can be a valuable tool in assisting students with achieving their goals. Meeting with teachers for parent-teacher conferences is highly encouraged. If you have questions or concerns for administration, please assist us in ensuring our availability by ***calling ahead and scheduling an appointment***. This allows us to adjust our schedules accordingly to give your concerns the full respect and attention they deserve. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding Lehman's programs, policies, or procedures, please contact us at (570) 588-4410 or at robert-dilliplane@esasd.net.

Respectfully,

Dr. Robert W. Dilliplane

STUDY ISLAND Program Instructions

1. Open Google Chrome (for the best browsing experience), or another web browser, and go to www.esasd.net
2. Click on the Instructional Resources link on the left.
3. Click on the *CLEVER* icon found in one of the boxes, then choose either the Login with Active Directory or Login with LDAP.
4. Enter your username (student ID #) and password (either the password you used last school year or your birthdate (xx/xx/xxxx) if you are a new student to the district.
5. Click on PA Programs.
6. Click on the appropriate grade level.
7. Click on Math (PA Core), ELA (PA Core), or Science (8ᵗʰ Grade) to select the subject you wish to work on.
8. Click the "Diagnostic Test" button in order to begin the diagnostic test for the section you have selected. You must complete 10 pretest questions before moving on to a topic in the section you wish to work on.
9. Once you complete the diagnostic test, you may work through the remainder of the topics in any order you like.
10. To pass a topic, you must satisfy the topic's passing requirements which are based on a minimum number of questions answered (usually 10) and a minimum percentage correct (around 70%). A blue ribbon icon is displayed next to all passed topics.
11. Once you have passed all the topics in the section, you have to pass the "Posttest" for the section before the section is complete. *Ignore this step if the section has no posttest.
12. When you pass all topics in all sections, you have completed the program and will be better prepared to take the PSSA and/or Keystone Algebra 1 Exam.
13. For parents and guardians - after your child has logged in, select a subject from the left-hand side of the screen to access performance reports. Here, you will find a variety of reports with information such as how much time your child has spent on various subjects, how they used their time, and what questions they missed.

Quizlet

- Students sometimes experience difficulty due to not knowing the vocabulary that is used with the many subjects they study at school. **Quizlet** provides a wonderful opportunity for students to increase their academic vocabulary through exciting vocabulary-building games and activities.
- **Algebra 1 Keystone Exam Practice** http://quizlet.com/22488388/keystone-vocab-algebra-1-flash-cards/
- **Math Practice** http://quizlet.com/24771284/math-vocabulary-flash-cards/
- **Science Practice** http://quizlet.com/730788/pssa-science-vocabulary-flash-cards/
- **English/Language Arts Practice** https://quizlet.com/75370581/pssa-ela-glossary-flash-cards/

Khan Academy

- https://www.khanacademy.org/
- Parents – you can complete the registration process for **Khan Academy** for your children, which will allow them to watch a multitude of great educational videos on math and science topics. *Study Island* lessons reference **Khan Academy**, and will support learning the topic being completed on that site as well.