

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear LMS Parents and Guardians,

I hope the holiday season is off to a great start for you and your family. We've got a four week window between the Thanksgiving Break and Winter Break and our goal is to pack in as much teaching and learning as we can while also continuing to build strong community relationships. Last week our boys and girls basketball teams as well as the wrestling team began their winter sports seasons. You can find the weekly practice and game schedule on the LMS website under the 'students' tab. Please note that students are not permitted to stay after school to watch athletic contests without a parent present. We will be hosting some 'fan days' throughout the season where we will provide proper supervision in order to show school spirit and support for our sports teams in a safe manner.

On December 1st we held our first 'X-block'. Modeled after the X-block period held at Lyman Memorial HS, the schedule for the day was modified to allow the students to select from a vast array of activities. A few examples included the gardening club, Taylor Swift fan club, baking club, mindfulness meditation club, and even a pickle making club. Another club made care packages for the military members stationed overseas.

Thank you to all the community members who donated goods for that particular activity. We plan on offering 'X-Block' a couple more times in the Spring.

This is a busy time of year for our band and chorus students. After several months of rehearsal, both in instrumental lessons as well as a full ensemble, they are completing final preparations for the main event. The annual winter concert will be held on Friday, December 15th at 6:00pm. The PTO will be on hand to conduct their annual thematic homeroom basket raffle and bake sale. Tickets will be sold at the door and baskets will be on display. You do not need to be present to win. Thank you to all the families who donated items for the baskets as well as at the PTO for all their hard work with this event along with all the others they have assisted with and hosted this year.

I hope to see you here at LMS as our winter activities get underway. Feel free to stop me to say hello. I am always learning and greatly appreciate your feedback.

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Happy Holidays,
Chad Johnson

Attendance, Buses and Drop off/Pick up



Student attendance in schools remains a concern across the state. Chronic absenteeism in Connecticut more than doubled from 10.4 percent in 2018-19 to 23.7 percent in 2021-22, before rebounding slightly last year to 20%. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more of the total number of days enrolled during the school year. As of this writing, we have had 62 days of school. This means that if your student has been absent more than 6 times this year, they are currently considered chronically absent. Being chronically absent impacts students' ability to read at grade level, perform well academically, and graduate on time.

Last year 12.0% of females and 15.4% of males at LMS were chronically absent from school. So far this year 19% of LMS students are chronically absent. On the flip side, for the month of November, 71 students had perfect attendance.

Please make every effort to ensure your student has an opportunity to feel like they belong as a member of our learning community by ensuring they are in school and on time.

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Students are not allowed in the building until 7:25am. They are considered Tardy after 7:40am.

Drop off - If you are dropping your middle school student off at school in the mornings, please stop at the flagpole, drop them off at the sidewalk and pull around the flagpole circle. The larger circle is for buses only. Please do not drive around the buses.

Pick up - When picking up your child at 2:10pm, please be sure to wait in the first lot. Vehicles should wait in line or in parking spots. Pick up kids are released before the buses.



FIRE LANES

Please take notice of the fire lanes (yellow striped lines) located in front of the building and around the center island.

No parking is allowed in any of these areas at any time. This is a fire code violation.

BUS NOTES

Please include the following:

The full name of your student, the address of the residence that your child is going to OR name of person your child is travelling with the bus number (if you know it).

E-mail bus notes are easiest
(and don't get lost)
imsattendance@lebanonct.org

If your child is absent
from school please call
(860)642-5626
or email

imsattendance
@lebanonct.org

*Leaving a specific reason
for the absence is helpful
for the school nurse to
better track illnesses
in the school.*

If you wish to notify the teachers of your child being absent,
please remember to call or email the office directly as well!

LMS December Events

MONDAY, December 11th

Day 2

Boys Basketball- home vs. Windham MS 4:00pm
Girls Basketball- away vs. Windham MS 3:45pm
Wrestling- practice 2:30 - 4:15pm

TUESDAY, December 12th

Day 1

Boys Basketball- practice 2:30 - 4:15pm
Girls Basketball- practice 4:15 - 6:00pm
Wrestling- practice 2:30 - 4:15pm
Board of Ed at Lyman 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, December 13th

Day 2

Boys Basketball- away Horace Porter 3:45pm
Girls Basketball- home vs. Horace Porter 4pm
Wrestling- practice 2:30 - 4:15pm

THURSDAY, December 14th

Day 1

Boys Basketball- practice 2:30 - 4:15pm
Girls Basketball- practice 4:15 - 6:00pm
Wrestling- practice 2:30 - 4:15pm

FRIDAY, December 15th

Day 2

Boys Basketball- game rescheduled for 1/8
Girls Basketball- game rescheduled for 1/8
Wrestling- away vs. Ledyard MS 4pm
Winter Band/Chorus Concert at 6pm **Students should plan to arrive at LMS at 5pm and dress in dressy black attire.

MONDAY, December 18th

Day 1

Boys Basketball- Practice 4:00-5:30
Girls Basketball- Practice 2:30-4:00
Wrestling- practice 2:30 - 4:15pm

TUESDAY, December 19th

Day 2

Boys Basketball- home vs. Mansfield MS 4pm
Girls Basketball - away vs. Mansfield MS 3:45pm
Wrestling- practice 2:30 - 4:15pm
PTO Meeting in LMS Library 7pm
(starting 8th grade Celebration Committee)

WEDNESDAY, December 20th

Day 1

Boys Basketball- practice 2:30 - 4:15pm
Girls Basketball- practice 4:15 - 6:00pm
Wrestling- home vs. Clark Lane MS 4pm

THURSDAY, December 21st

Day 2

Boys Basketball- away vs. Vernon MS 4pm
Girls Basketball- home vs. Vernon MS 4pm
Wrestling- practice 2:30 - 4:15pm

FRIDAY, December 22nd

Day 1

Early Release 12:10pm

NO SCHOOL Dec. 25th – Jan. 1st

TUESDAY, January 2nd

Day 2

Boys Basketball- practice 2:30 - 4:15pm
Girls Basketball- practice 4:15 - 6:00pm
Wrestling- practice 2:30 - 4:15pm

Please remember that events can change and these days and times may change.

December School Lunch Menu

4 American Classics • Seasoned Waffle Fries • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic American Cheeseburger • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella	5 American Classics • Cheese Stuffed Breadsticks • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic American Cheeseburger • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella	6 American Classics • Italian Meatball Sub • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic American Cheeseburger • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella	7 American Classics • Blueberry Parfait with Granola • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic American Cheeseburger • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella	8 American Classics • English Muffin with Egg & Cheese • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic American Cheeseburger • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich • Crispy Fish Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella
11 American Classics • Chicken Tenders • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic American Cheeseburger • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella	12 American Classics • Toasty Three Cheese Sandwich • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic American Cheeseburger • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella	13 American Classics • Italian Chicken Parm Sandwich • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic American Cheeseburger • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella	14 American Classics • Soft Chicken Tacos • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic American Cheeseburger • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella	15 American Classics • WG Cinnamon Glazed French Toast Sticks • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic American Cheeseburger • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich • Crispy Fish Sticks On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella
18 American Classics • Chicken Nuggets • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic Pepperoni Pizza • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella	19 American Classics • Beef Nachos • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic American Cheeseburger • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella	20 American Classics • Classic American Cheeseburger • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Beef Hot Dog on Whole Wheat • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella	21 American Classics • Mini Turkey Corn Dogs • Rotini Tossed in Italian Meat Sauce 2Mato • Classic Cheese Pizza • Classic Pepperoni Pizza Grill • Classic American Cheeseburger • Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich • Spicy Chicken Sandwich On the Go • Garden Salad with Mozzarella	22 American Classics • Turkey & Cheese Sandwich • Ham & American Cheese Sandwich All breakfast and lunch meals are now FREE for all students



5TH GRADE NEWS AND UPDATES

Ms. Yaun - In the past month, we closed out our Personal Narrative Writing Unit with one last gathering around the campfire. This time, students were the master storytellers. After a long journey of strategy-collecting and student growth, the students shared their final versions of their best personal narratives yet. Their stories were powerful, humorous, and full of their unique voices.

We spent time in November preparing for Veterans' Day, creating artwork of all mediums to show our gratitude to the Veterans who joined us for the school assembly. The students had deep conversations about the intention, thought, and action that should go into respectfully honoring the complexity of veterans' experiences. These reflections were clear in the pieces of art the students made and the questions students asked our veteran guests during our Q&A time. It made for a very moving day.



In December, we have been focusing on the history of the land we now call the United States of America. We are learning about the various cultures, experiences, and perspectives of people who lived (and live!) here. As we interact with these lessons, we actively reflect on how we can do this with as much authentic human connection to the lives we study as possible. Talking about how we do this work is not only about learning this specific content, but is also about building skills for whenever we learn about groups of people. We will carry this mindset with us into our upcoming unit on the War for American Independence!



Ms. Reynolds - This month, we are wrapping up our "Pizza Farm" unit. We have experimented with plants to find out what they need to grow, gain matter, and live. We focused on what energy and matter move through the farm (and every ecosystem) for our pizza ingredients to grow. This phenomena will culminate in a project where students will calculate how much space and resources their farm will require. We will build our farms keeping in mind how they will impact the natural environment. We will discuss human impact on the natural world and explore ways we can refine our farms to lessen the impact on our planet.

Mr. McLean - Our fifth grade readers have continued to hone their intensive reading skills and have focused on using context clues to make inferences and draw conclusions, both in their writing and in large and small group discussions. In addition, going back into the text to find specific evidence to support responses has been a point of emphasis throughout the curriculum. While we've used the Trophies anthology and historical fiction/nonfiction stories and plays in Storyworks throughout term one, we are now beginning our first novel, The Sign of the Beaver, which coincides nicely with the students' colonization focus in social studies.

Mr. Reynolds - In 5th grade math we have just finished our introduction to decimals. This included comparing the magnitude of decimals, rounding decimals, and being able to read decimal numbers in word form. Upon gaining an understanding of decimals we move toward accurately and efficiently adding and subtracting decimal numbers. We are now transitioning to similar skills with fractions. The goal is to build a strong connection between decimal numbers and fractions. A major objective for the month is to become proficient in adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers with different denominators.

6TH GRADE NEWS AND UPDATES

Mrs. Archer - 6th Grade Reading:

Students are currently working on their non-fiction unit in our Reader's Workshop program. After noting their personal interests, sixth graders met with their book club groups and chose their texts. Our main focus has been on determining central ideas in their books by tracing the roots of the author's details and learning from stories embedded with the texts. Next we'll move onto summarizing complex sections and formulating opinions based on the author's point of view.

6th grade SS: Quarter 2 has begun and students have moved onto their new civilization and new SS teacher. Those who left China are now discovering new things about ancient Egypt. Students who just finished Egypt are investigating ancient Greece and those who moved from Greece are now learning about ancient Rome. Coming full circle, after Rome students traveled to the world of the ancient Chinese. In conjunction with their new civilization that students are exploring, they will also complete a geography unit on mapping skills, latitude and longitude and the five themes of geography.

Mrs. Huntington - Our 6th grade scientists have been working hard to figure out what features of cup systems work to keep water hot or cold. So far, we have planned and completed several experiments on different features of the cup system to see how they affect the water inside. We are currently working to set up an experiment to see how light affects cups of different colors and materials.



Mrs. Wales - Math -

HOLIDAY MATH RIDDLE!

Dasher spent half as much as Prancer did on holiday presents this year and Cupid spent 3 times more than Dasher. If the total spent between the three of them was \$720, how much did they each spend on gifts?



	Periods A, D & F ↓	Period B ↓
December→	Units 2 & 3	Units 3 & 4

Unit 2: Decimals & Fractions introduces students to dividing fractions; using the standard algorithm to add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals, and using the standard algorithms to divide whole numbers.

Unit 3: Ratio Concepts & Equivalent Ratios introduces students to representing ratios using ratio language and finding equivalent ratios.

Unit 4: Unit Rates & Percent introduces students to rates and percents. A rate is a ratio that tells how many units of one quantity there are for every 1 unit of a second quantity.

Mrs. Violette: Students in 6th grade language arts are working on writing persuasive essays. In the first section of this unit, we reviewed how to use webs and outlines to organize and plan our essays before writing. We also discussed the basic structure of a five paragraph essay. In the second part of the unit we are drafting our essays. We will then learn how to revise them to make them more persuasive through writing techniques such as hooking the reader, including illustrative stories, considering order of importance, and ending with a call to action. In the third section of this unit, students will be given non-fiction articles to read on an assigned topic and then will be asked to write a persuasive essay on their topic which includes research and quotes from the articles.

Parents are reminded that writing homework is graded each day on whether or not a student has completed it on time. Writing homework is not graded on accuracy or content. These homework grades appear in the gradebook as "preparation for class" grades. Therefore assignments labeled as preparation cannot be made up for credit later in the quarter. Root word slides, which are due every Friday, are graded for accuracy. These grades can be made up later in the quarter for up to a maximum grade of 70%. If you have any questions about grading, please feel free to contact me.

6th Grade Team Emails:
megan.huntington@lebanonct.org
jennifer.wales@lebanonct.org

barbara.archer@lebanonct.org
cynthia.violette@lebanonct.org
emily.zastowsky@lebanonct.org

7TH GRADE NEWS AND UPDATES

Mr. Comeau - In December, students are doing a deep dive into Feudalism (the prominent social and governmental system of the Medieval era). Students will discover what the responsibilities of a King, Noble, Knight, and Peasant are. They will also learn what life was like during the 5th-15th century, and how scary wars and conflict can be.

Mrs. Korzoff - In December 7th graders are finishing up the Operations with Rational Numbers Unit. After learning about repeating and terminating decimals they will learn how to convert between fractions and decimals. We will end 2023 with practicing mixed operations with Rational numbers.

Accelerated Class will be working on Solving Algebraic Equations and Inequalities. We will learn how to model word problems with multi step equations and inequalities and how to interpret and/or graph the solution.



Mr. Schultheis - This month in science we are finishing our MRE flameless heater unit. Students have tested their prototypes and have made changes to their design based on their results. They then tested them again to see if their changes helped their design get closer or meet the criteria. They are currently working on transferring their information they learned from this unit and apply it to an issue happening with sea turtles. Our next unit we will start this month will explore a case study on a medical issue and look into how her medical issue affected the body system. We will investigate how body systems work together to keep us healthy.

Mr. Andrews - In Language Arts we have recently wrapped up our first Novel Unit: Dystopian Book Clubs. Many students have read two, three, or more books from their series. Great work! Keep on reading. We will start our next unit working together with our School Counselor Mrs. Clark which will take us on an exploration of career pathways. Ask your students about this research and what careers interest them.

7th Grade Team Emails:
christopher.andrews@lebanonct.org
jordan.comeau@lebanonct.org

natalia.korzhoff@lebanonct.org
andrew.schultheis@lebanonct.org
kristen.bielewicz@lebanonct.org

8TH GRADE NEWS AND UPDATES

Mrs. Gaucher - We will be focusing on the Declaration of Independence in the month of December. Students will review the Cornell Note-Taking process in preparation for note-taking this year and in high school. We'll go on to close-read the Declaration of Independence and convert the grievances into modern language. I will give students some background on Lin Manuel Miranda and we will analyze the song, "You'll Be Back!" From here we will transition into learning about different types of governments and their characteristics in preparation for our unit on the Constitution. Feel free to email me anytime with questions at erin.gaucher@lebanonct.org

Mrs. Keough - In 8th grade Spanish, students are finishing up Chapter 2 of the text. We will also look at how Christmas and New Years are celebrated around the Spanish speaking world. Midterms are coming halfway through January so beginning to study is a great idea for winter break!

Ms. Bowen - Students are finishing up the Social Issues Book Club unit and moving on to the Position Paper Unit. Students will be researching and debating different issues through essays. As a reminder, all students should be actively looking for a host for the job shadow project! The shadow itself needs to take place by the end of April Break!

Mr. Halbrooks - Pre-Algebra will be spending the month of December looking at different aspects of linear equations. We will cover solving equations with one variable, working with equations with two variables, and finally to systems of equations where we will have more than one equation to deal with. This unit covers a lot of material and will be the core of Algebra 1 next year.

Algebra 1 will move away from looking at functions in general and focus on linear functions. We will see linear relationships as equations, tables, and graphs. The unit in December will deal with the basics of these multiple representations while using slope-intercept form ($y=mx+b$). In January we will expand this to linear equations using different forms.

Mr. Ortiz - This month in science, the eighth grade students will explore how energy is stored and transferred in a system, as well as investigate how other forces like friction and air resistance affect the kinetic energy of an object before a collision. Then students will apply their understanding of materials and collision forces to a design that either answers a question or solves a problem.



The 8th Grade Team can be contacted at:

hannah.bowen@lebanonct.org erin.gaucher@lebanonct.org jf.halbrooks@lebanonct.org
roberto.ortiz@lebanonct.org ana.kyrcz@lebanonct.org kristen.bielewicz@lebanonct.org



HEALTH ROOM UPDATES



Absences: If your child is going to be absent, please be sure to call the attendance line at (860)642-5626 or the school nurse at (860)642-5630 and provide your child's name and reason for absence. This will assist with tracking illnesses within the school.

Illness Guidelines: Students should not return to school until:

- **Common Cold:** Temperature is normal for 24 hours and excessive symptoms of cough/sneezing have subsided.
- **Fever:** Normal temperature for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- **Strep Throat:** Free of fever and symptoms for one day and at least 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotic.
- **Vomiting:** No vomiting for 24 hours
- **Diarrhea:** No diarrhea for 24 hours.
- **Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye):** When discharge and inflammation have cleared, or with a doctor's approval. Bacterial conjunctivitis requires at least one dose of antibiotic. The student may return the next day.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.



Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday!



Letter from U.S. Assistant Secretary Rodriguez: Free COVID-19 Tests for School Districts

The U.S. Department of Education (ED), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is pleased to offer free, rapid, at-home COVID-19 tests to interested local educational agencies (LEAs). LEAs may request over-the-counter (OTC) rapid antigen COVID-19 self-tests free of charge for their students, families, staff, and school community. For more information on how to access the free tests, please visit <https://www.covid.gov/tests>

Jennifer Rahl, RN, BSN Lebanon Middle School Nurse

Phone: (860) 642-5630 Fax: (860) 642-3534 Email: jennifer.rahl@lebanonct.org

Computers with Mr. Klosowski



In 8th Grade Computers, we have mostly focused on the effects of technology on our jobs and lives, Internet Safety and the reliability of what we read on the Internet, and coding with code.org. Over the remaining 5 weeks, we'll begin to work on our Invention project in Canva. The project involves students creating an idea for an invention, and then using all of the marketing tools in Canva.com to create the real-world items to 'sell' their invention. Students will create logos, business cards, web pages and other presentations for their invention.

In 7th Grade, we have also worked on Internet Safety and website reliability. Our main project in grade 7 involves creating a Country Web Page Project. The project tasks students with first researching a country and then creating a web page explaining all they've learned. It is my hope that students will learn more about another country, but also see the important differences and similarities between the USA and other nations of the world.

In 6th Grade, we have worked on Internet Safety and coding, but we have also been working on typing.com to improve our keyboarding skills. If your child still types with 2 fingers, I highly recommend having them work on their typing skills at home. It is a free program that does a great job in teaching keyboarding skills. Over the remaining weeks of Quarter 2, we'll begin to work on Google Sheets. This Google application allows you to create spreadsheets, do math, sort data, and many other processes. We'll culminate our Sheets work with a spreadsheet on which students will spend a fictional million dollars.

As in the other grades, 5th Graders are learning about Internet Safety, coding, and typing. In this class we are currently beginning our work on our project in grade 5 called My Place in the World. This Google Slides project requires students to research the places where they live (Lebanon, Connecticut, The United States, and the planet Earth. They will generate a slide for each topic including maps, images, and fun facts about each place. My hope is that they will learn about their town, state and maybe better appreciate their place in the world.

Mr. K's Computer Tip

Please take a moment to take a look at your child's chromebook.
Check it for signs of misuse or abuse. Sometimes accidents happen, but many of these "breaks" (missing keys, broken screens, missing pieces) can be prevented by being careful.

Also review your child's extensions. These are sometimes useful programs, but frequently they are time wasters and games.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me john.klosowski@lebanonct.org. Also, if your child's chromebook is malfunctioning, have them bring it to me.



Band and Chorus with Mr. Smith

The LMS Winter Concert will take place on Friday, December 15th at 6pm. Band students should arrive no later than 5:45. Chorus students should arrive no later than 6:00 P.M. Students should wear concert black.

7/8 Band students are raising funds for the Great East Festival. They are selling \$1 chocolate bars. Chocolate should not be sold during school hours on campus.

The post-winter concert celebration will take place for each group on their study hall day the week before holiday break. Students with food allergies or restrictions please let Mr. Smith know so that he can plan accordingly.

Happy Holidays!

Tech Ed with Mr. Orsini



5th- Students have designed their bridges in West Point Bridge Designer and will start construction on their bridges after the designs have been printed out.

6th- Students have been working on their TinkerCAD lessons. Once every has finished their lessons, we will start drawing our ruler maps and then move onto creating their 1/8inch ruler.

7th- Students have been designing their CO2 car according to the dragster spec sheet I have posted in Classroom. Once we finish designing, we can move on to using the drill press and bandsaw to cut out their car.

8th- Students have finished the first tutorial robot in class. This includes troubleshooting their program that did not work properly. Once they fix their program, they can move onto the next tutorial sensor.

Please remind your child that CLOSED TOE shoes are required for all Tech. Ed. classes.

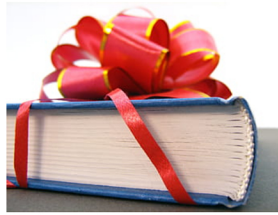
Library News and Box Tops

Library Media Exploratory Classes

6th grade students begin each class with typing exercises in typing.com to become more proficient typists, which will help them in many classes. Then, the class shifts to focus on work for the public service announcement that students are creating. So far, sixth graders have viewed sample PSAs and brainstormed important topics. Now they're starting to search for information in ScholasticGO! (<https://digital.scholastic.com/site/launch/schgo-?ucn=600126262>) and on reliable websites to learn more about their topics.

8th grade students started the quarter by selecting a research topic. They used inquiry-based activities to help guide them towards choosing a topic that is interesting to them. Most recently, eighth graders learned about search techniques (Boolean logic) and searched for information in the state library's databases (<https://researchitct.org/classicmiddle school/>) and ScholasticGO (<https://digital.scholastic.com/site/launch/schgo-?ucn=600126262>). They also learned about evaluating websites and will soon dive into taking notes from each of their sources.

Share the Gift of Reading This Holiday Season



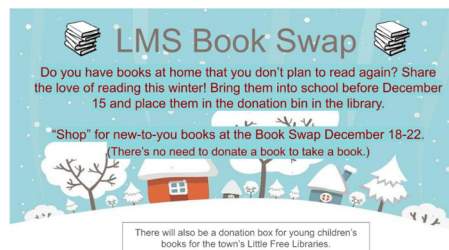
on your list!

<https://best-books.publishersweekly.com/children/2023/#book/book-1>

Four students completed the whole fall reading bingo game and received a gift copy of a newly released book this fall, *The Lost Library* by award-winning authors Rebecca Stead & Wendy Mass. Look for a new winter reading bingo later in the newsletter!



Book Swap



LMS is holding a winter book swap. Please consider donating gently used books for others to read now through December 15. Students will have the opportunity to "shop" for new-to-them books December 18-22. (There's no need to donate a book to take a book.)
*If you have any children's books you'd like to donate, we'll accept those donations for the Little Free Library bench at LES throughout the year.

The holiday season can get very busy, but Box Tops for Education makes earning funds for LMS easy! Just purchase participating items and scan your receipt in the Box Tops app and Box Tops sends the funds to LMS!

HOLIDAY TIMESAVERS THAT GIVE BACK

Stock up on Box Tops products before the holiday season starts! So many of our delicious, versatile products are perfect for helping save time in the kitchen as you prep for your seasonal celebrations. Just don't forget to scan your receipt as the holiday season gets busier and busier.

GET THE BOX TOPS APP & START EARNING FOR YOUR SCHOOL TODAY!


Kate Cofrancesco kate.cofrancesco@lebanonct.org
<https://sites.google.com/lebanonct.org/librarymediacenter/home>



Winter Break Reading Bingo Challenge



Directions: Challenge your student this winter break by completing this reading bingo. Check off one line for a small prize or complete the whole sheet for a larger prize. *Return the completed and signed sheets to Mrs. Cofrancesco or Ms. Picard by Friday, January 5, 2024.*

READ a magazine article (online is okay!)	READ for 30 minutes	READ in bed	READ a nonfiction book	READ in a homemade fort
READ with a flashlight	READ in your favorite hiding spot	READ a newspaper article (online is okay!)	READ to a relative over the phone	READ for 30 minutes
Read a new book	READ an old favorite		READ for 30 minutes	READ out loud to a friend or family member
READ a short story	READ a story that takes place in the winter	READ for 30 minutes	BE READ to by someone else	Take turns READING with a family member
READ for 30 minutes	READ an award winner	READ a graphic novel	READ in your pajamas	READ a poem

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Intervention Reading with Ms. Picard

Intervention Reading Students "Wrapped Up" in Books



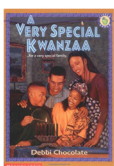
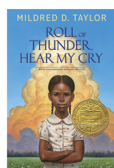
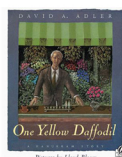
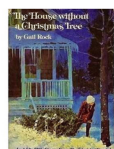
Students in Intervention Reading Classes are wrapping up their class novels.

Sixth graders have finished *The Stumptown Kid*, wrapping up with a unit on using questioning strategies to increase comprehension. They are now moving to a series of novels connected to their Social Studies topics.

Seventh graders are deep into their dystopian novels. They are working to understand text patterns and are using that reading to develop a greater understanding of the settings and conflicts for their various group novels. Eighth graders are finishing their work with Social Issues novels and have combined various non-fiction reading activities to deepen their understanding of the conflicts and hope their characters face. All students will complete an independent reading choice through the second half of the marking period, using this assignment as an opportunity to apply strategies to a genre and topic of their own choosing.



Ho - Ho - Holiday Reading



December tales talk about sugar plums dancing in the air, sleigh rides, and jolly elves. However, there is more to a holiday story than treats and funny characters. Stories and novels set during this period can show humor, growth, sadness, and irony. If you are looking for a good book to share with your child over the December break, try one of these classic stories:

The House without a Christmas Tree by Gail Rock - Set in a small town, this novella tells the story of a family torn apart by loss, but brought together by a child's desire to have a small Christmas tree to recognize the holiday.

One Yellow Daffodil by David A. Adler - This short novella talks about the Holocaust and the meaning behind Jewish holidays like Hannukah.

The Best (worst) Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson - A funny, yet poignant story, this book is part of a short series of books about an enthusiastic yet out-of-control, family of kids who show their neighbors the real spirit of Christmas.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor - Based on family stories told to the author during her childhood, this novel talks about the love and struggles shared by an African American family living in the Deep South. One particularly poignant chapter is set during the Christmas season.

A Very Special Kwanzaa by Debbi Chocolate - This novel for early middle school students helps readers understand the importance of family holiday traditions.

ATTENTION 8th GRADE FAMILIES



Norwich Tech and Windham Tech

applications are due December 15th for priority deadline.

Arts at the Capitol Theater

(ACT) applications are due January 31, 2024

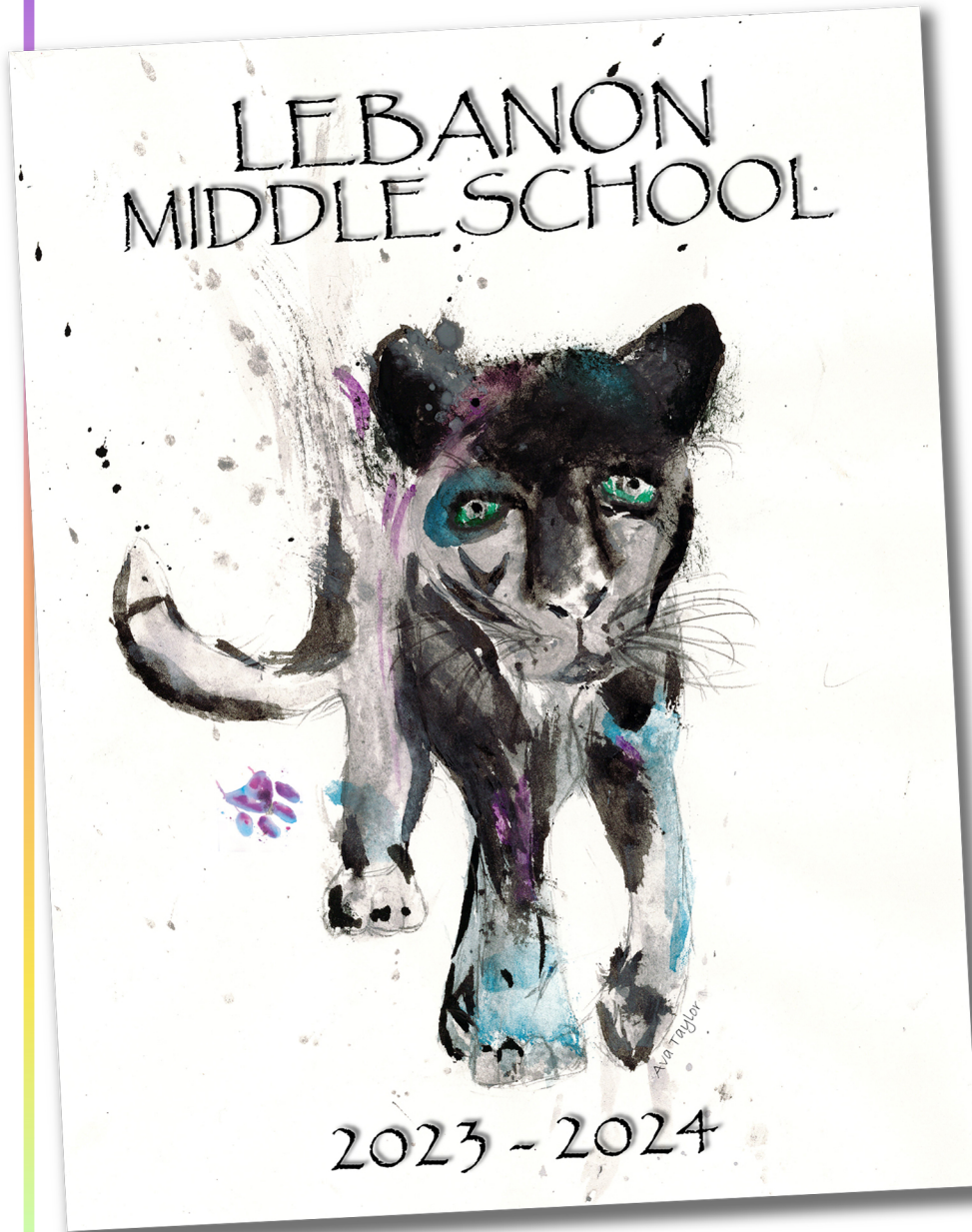
Lyman ASTE program

applications are due January 5, 2024.
Applications can be picked up in guidance.



Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns
at caitlin.clark@lebanonct.org or 860-642-5627.

ORDER YOUR 2023-2024 YEARBOOK



The cover, layout, photographs, and all content done by your LMS students.

Order with this QR code



SCAN HERE TO ORDER TODAY

Purchase online or send a check to the office
Price is \$33

www.jostens.com/apps/store/customrer/1130999/Lebanon-Middle-School/

Contact LMS Yearbook Club lms.yearbook@lebanonct.org.

FROM THE LMS PTO

Mark your calendars
Next PTO Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 21st
at 7pm
in the LMS Library

Check out Spirit Wear



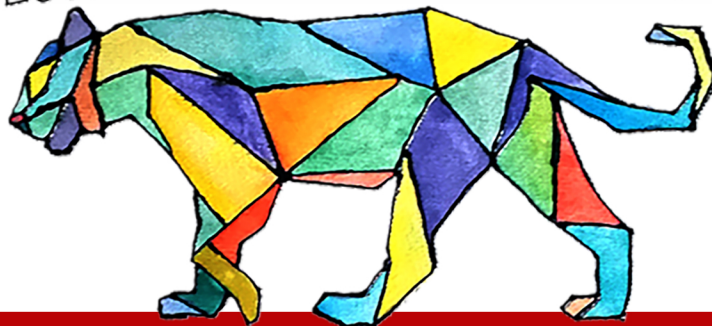
<https://1stplace.sale/18505>

At our next meeting...
We will be starting the
8th Grade Celebration
Committee
and so much more!
Come join us!

Next
Panther Den
Friday
January 26th
7 to 9pm

Would you like to help
but don't want to come
to meetings?
- Make Gift Baskets
- Bake Sale Items
- Ask stores and shops for donations
Email us if you are interested in other
ways to help!

Lebanon Middle School PTO



Board Members: President: Kerry Fonseca, Vice President: Doug Morton,
Secretary: Jennifer Landry, Treasurer: Kelly Lawer, Social Media: Jennifer Maddocks
Please contact us at lebanonmiddlepto@gmail.com

Erica Strong, Instructional Coach's Corner

We're Ready for iReady at LMS!

In our last Newsletter we sent out a Family Guide about our new program called iReady. iReady is an online program our school is using for reading and mathematics to help your student's teacher(s) determine all needs, personalize their learning, and monitor progress. We are already seeing gains in student performance as we strive to master grade-level skills and beyond!

Below is another family communication about iReady. This month's set of fridge tips are about how to continue learning with iReady at home:

Fridge Tips for Tracking Progress **What to Look for & What to Ask**

Help track and celebrate your student's progress by regularly reviewing their i-Ready My Progress page with them. Use the map and prompts below to help.

- 1 My Progress:**
Direct your student to the My Progress section to see all their lesson stats.
- 2 Time-On-Task:**
 - How much time has your student spent on lessons this week?
- 3 Lessons Passed:**
 - How many lessons has your student passed?
 - How did this number change from last week?
- 4 Lesson Streaks:**
 - What is the greatest number of lessons your student has passed in a row this school year?
 - How many lessons has your student passed in a row most recently (i.e., current streak)?

To Do: See upcoming personalized lessons for your student.

Completed Work: See how your student has done on each lesson.

For more information about me and my role, visit my site at <https://sites.google.com/view/coachstronglms>

Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds you well. We are promoting a powerful initiative that can make a significant difference in your child's academic journey – an extra 10 minutes of reading at home!

We encourage all students to dedicate an additional 10 minutes to independent reading beyond their usual routine. This small investment of time can yield remarkable benefits:

Expanded Vocabulary: The more time your child spends reading, the more words they encounter. This exposure contributes to the development of a rich and varied vocabulary.

Enhanced Comprehension Skills: Reading for an extra 10 minutes allows students to delve deeper into the plot, characters, and themes, fostering improved comprehension and critical thinking skills.

Strengthened Focus: In an era of constant distractions, this extra reading time helps cultivate focus and concentration – valuable skills that extend beyond the realm of literature.

Passion for Learning: We believe that every minute spent engrossed in a book is a minute invested in a lifelong love for learning. Let's ignite that passion in our students!

Parents, your support is integral to the success of this initiative. Create a cozy reading tech-free nook, share your favorite books, and celebrate the joy of reading together. If you need book recommendations or have any questions, your child's teachers are there to help.

Thank you for partnering with us to make these additional 10 minutes a delightful and enriching experience for your child. We would love to have you send in any photos of your child reading at home for us to share in the next newsletter.

Happy reading! Erica Strong

Instructional Coach & Culture and Climate Specialist

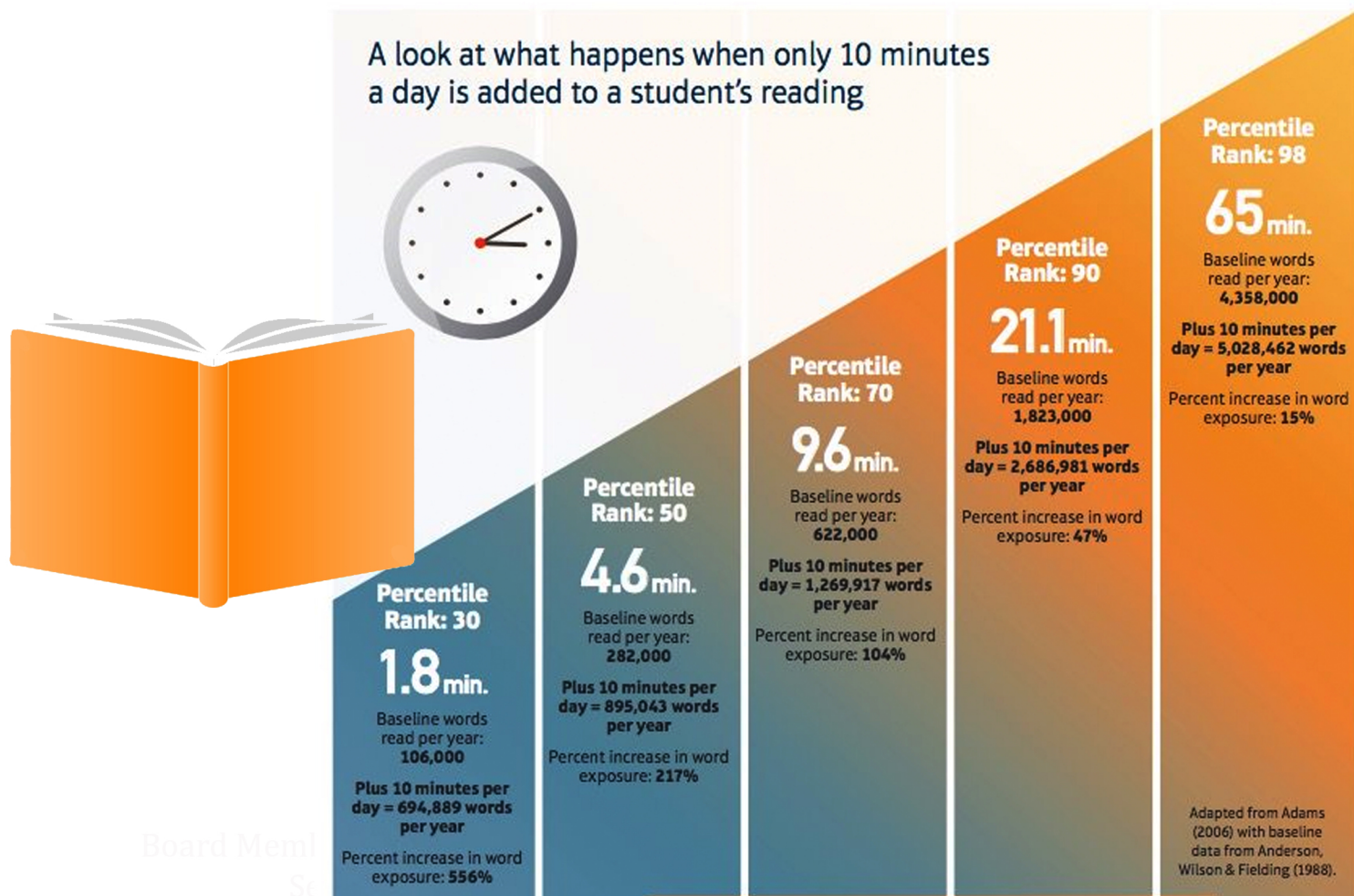


CHART I

From *Disrupting Thinking* by Beers & Probst, p. 137

Events at Jonathan Trumbull Library


Coming Soon: JTL will be getting a new website! We are working hard to improve and expand our library website to bring you all the latest library news, events, and offerings. Get ready for changes coming soon!

Seeking Artists of the Month!

Each month, we display the work of a local artist in our library.

Please email librarian@lebanonctlibrary.org if you're interested in displaying your artwork.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Chicks with Sticks Dec. 4 & 18 at 5:30 pm Library Unplugged Dec. 4 at 6:30 pm <i>Weekly on Mondays</i> Story Hour with Shaleen 11:00 am Zoom Cartooning 4:00 pm <i>Closed Dec. 25 for Christmas</i>	First Tuesday Film <i>Air</i> Dec. 5 at 2:00 pm Snow Leopards Dec. 5 at 6:30 pm Combined Book Discussion & Friends of JTL Party Dec. 12 at 5:30 pm Teen Movie Night <i>Elf</i> Dec. 12 at 6:00 pm Ballet Story Hour Dec. 19 at 6:30 pm Library Board Meeting Dec. 26 at 7:00 pm	<i>Weekly on Wednesdays</i> Read, Rock & Rhyme 11:00 am (No RRR 12/27)
Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pajama Storytime Dec. 7 at 6:30 pm Harp Concert Dec. 21 at 6:30 pm <i>Weekly on Thursdays</i> D&D Campaign 5:00 - 7:00 pm D&D: Side Quests 5:00 - 7:00 pm Tai Chi with Joe Pandolfo 5:00 pm	Homeschool Fridays Dec. 1, 8, & 15 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm Warhammer 40k Dec. 1 & 15 at 4:00 pm Magic: The Gathering Dec. 8 at 4:00 pm  <i>Scan to see the full calendar at lebanonctlibrary.org/calendar/events.</i>	Chair Yoga Dec. 16, & 30 at 11:00 am Occ-u-Playgroup Dec. 9 at 11:00 am Movie <i>The Muppet Christmas Carol</i> Dec. 9 at 12:00 pm <i>Weekly on Saturdays</i> Yoga with Tina 10:00 am

Lebanon's Library on the Green
860-642-7763

580 Exeter Road, Lebanon, CT
lebanonctlibrary.org

When is sick too sick for school?

→ School is better with you, even if you're a little under the weather!

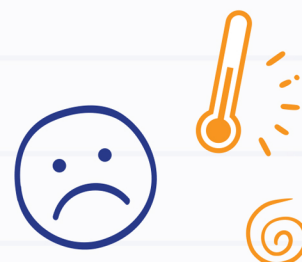


Send me to school if:

- I have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.
- I haven't taken any fever reducing medicine for 24 hours, and I haven't had a fever during that time.
- I haven't thrown up or had any diarrhea for 24 hours.

Keep me at home if:

- I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine; keep me home until I am fever-free for 24 hours without medicine.
- I'm throwing up or have diarrhea.
- My eyes are pink and crusty.



Call the doctor if:

- I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees for more than two days.
- I've been throwing up or have diarrhea for more than two days.
- I've had the sniffles for more than a week, and I'm not getting better.
- I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine (and call 911 if I'm having trouble breathing after using an inhaler).

REMINDER!

If you think your child may have COVID-19, please test them prior to sending them to school.

Is your child missing school due to anxiety?



Definition of anxiety: feeling of fear and uneasiness about everyday situations.

If your child is suffering from anxiety, you are not alone. The good news is that in most situations, anxiety is normal and temporary. Anxiety becomes a concern if it persists — it can affect relationships with family, peers and teachers, contribute to academic challenges, and lead to school avoidance/refusal. Addressing anxiety is important for a child's overall well-being, not just attendance.

In addition, if your child starts to complain of symptoms like a headache or stomachache, it is important to **quickly determine** whether this is related to anxiety or a physical illness that might require missing school. If the challenge is anxiety, staying home may worsen the situation.



What are the symptoms of anxiety?

Persistent anxiety can present in many ways, making it difficult to recognize.

Symptoms may vary depending on the age of the child, and some children may keep worries to themselves or have difficulty explaining their feelings making it hard to identify symptoms. Anxiety symptoms can include, but aren't limited to, the following:

- Feeling tired, irritable or easily tearful
- Having trouble separating from parents
- Experiencing difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Having trouble getting out of bed or dressed for school
- Lacking appetite
- Having trouble concentrating, which may lead to difficulty starting tasks, problems with homework and falling behind in school
- Experiencing physical symptoms, including stomachaches and headaches
- Avoiding activities they previously enjoyed
- Having negative or continuous thoughts that something bad is going to happen

What can families do?

Here are some tips that you can use to help your child get through these challenges, by intervening as quickly as possible, and return to school:

- Do not punish your child for refusing to go to school, as this can worsen things.
- If possible, avoid letting your child stay home. Though staying home from school may provide short-term relief for your child, continued absence from school will lead to the feeling of being disconnected from classmates and teachers, cause your child to fall behind academically and only make it harder to return.
- Speak with your child. Try to understand what's bothering them and why they are avoiding school. If you are feeling a similar anxiety, it may help to share this with your child and to explain what you are doing to get through it.
- Make it clear that you are there to help your child and that you believe they can face their fears and get through this problem.



Take advantage of school resources.

Working through your child's anxiety issues can be difficult and scary, and you shouldn't have to do it alone. Take advantage of the resources at your child's school:

- Talk with the school nurse, counselor, social worker and/or psychologist to discuss the student's challenges, identify what can help your child and develop a return-to-school plan.
- For some students, this may need to happen gradually (one or two classes initially and eventually a full day).
- In certain situations, a 504 plan or Individualized Education Program may be needed to ensure your child receives appropriate support and resources.

If symptoms persist or are very severe, your child's anxiety may be due to an underlying behavioral health disorder (i.e., anxiety disorder, panic disorder), an undiagnosed learning disability or the result of a physical or chronic health condition and should be evaluated by your child's medical provider.

Finally, remember to take care of your own physical and emotional well-being!

Resources where you can find more information on anxiety and school avoidance

[Separation Anxiety in Babies, Toddlers and School-Aged Children: Causes, Signs and What to Do](#)
[Anxiety and Depression CDC](#)
[Understanding Anxiety in Children](#)

[School Avoidance Alliance: School Avoidance 101](#)
[School Refusal: When a Child Won't Go to School](#)
[Parent Anxiety Handout – EPIC](#)
[The Ultimate Guide to Working With Your School](#)



With today's advanced technology always changing it is vital that parents are aware of potential dangers their families can face. In this presentation parents will be informed about:

- Popular apps, programs and online trends
- Cyberbullying, sexting and other dangers
- Social networking and their family's digital tattoo

While learning about the dangers, parents will also be provided information and strategies to help them empower their children to make the best online choices.

Lyman Memorial High School

**January 9, 2024
6:30 PM**



***This presentation
is for adults only***



INTERNET SAFETY CONCEPTS
Empowering Smart Online Choices

www.internetsafetyconcepts.com



Lyman Memorial High School & CommunitySpeaks Out

The Opioid Crisis: A Discussion & Forum on Understanding the Opioid Crisis and Strengthening our Families & Community

December 13, 2023

6:30pm to 8pm

LMHS Auditorium, 917 Exeter Rd, Lebanon

DID YOU KNOW? *The misuse of prescription medication and opioid based drugs increases every year. In Connecticut, residents are more likely to die from unintentional drug overdose than a motor vehicle accident. The majority of these deaths are linked to overdose of prescription opioid painkillers and illicit opioids.*

Panel Speakers

Joe de la Cruz: CSO Co-founder and Moderator

Marco Fabretti: Inspirational Speaker & Person in Recovery

Deanna Delaney: Recovery Coach at Reliance Health & works with First Responders

Chris Milton: Mother who lost son to opioids & teacher and Norwich BOE member

Dr. Jay Benson: CT Addiction Medicine and Trending Substance

Kevin Slonski: Lebanon School District School Resource Officer

Resources available: Drug Tests to take home & Narcan available upon request

This presentation is for any parent or member of the surrounding communities. Please join us in an important informational night.

CSO advocates provide education, support and medical and mental healthcare access to our communities and schools, regarding the disease of addiction, treatment and the realities of recovery. communityspeaksout.org