



October 29, 2021

Dear Lawrence Public Schools families,

It is hard to believe that November will be here Monday. Before we enter the holiday season, I am writing with some updates and reminders:

- There is no school this Tuesday, November 2 due to Election Day.
- I would like to express my gratitude to and pride in the Lawrence High School community for its collective response to the recent behavioral health, social-emotional and safety concerns on campus. We know the challenges of returning after our pandemic absence – which affect many students in many different ways – cannot be resolved easily or immediately, but parents, students and the LHS team have shown a powerful commitment to working together for the benefit of all. I especially look forward to the contributions and leadership of the new LHS Climate and Culture Task Force, which includes parents, student leaders, staff and community partners, and whose work we will continue to share as they move forward.
- As promised in my last letter, LPS is now participating in the statewide “test and stay” program. This allows close contacts of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 while at school to stay in school as long as they show no symptoms, instead of remaining home for the seven-day quarantine. Any family whose child is a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 at school will be contacted by LPS Health Services and provided the option to participate in test and stay. You may also [provide consent online here now](#) at any time, and find more information at [our website](#).
- The COVID-19 vaccine remains readily available in Lawrence, and you can go to the [City of Lawrence COVID-19 web page](#) for information on permanent vaccination sites, pop-up clinic schedules, and even receiving the vaccine at your home. It is also important to note that authorities are expected to soon approve the vaccine for children ages 5-11. Should that occur, Lawrence Public Schools will again host clinics similar to those held in our middle and high schools. We will share those details as soon as they are available.
- We recently shared an invitation from LPS’ partners at BlackPrint for a confidential equity Town Hall on Saturday, November 20 at South Lawrence East Elementary School from 3pm to 6pm. You can get [details and RSVP here](#).

Please continue to check in at [LawrencePublicSchools.org](#) frequently, for information on the many exciting and important things taking place throughout the district. You will find everything from LHS theatre’s first live show since the start of the pandemic (catch [The Addams Family](#) tonight and tomorrow, with free admission for students!) to our [LPS Flickr page](#) pictures of yesterday’s amazing Unified Champion Schools Special Olympics rolling rally (with special thanks to Lawrence Police and Fire).

Thank you,

Cynthia Paris
Superintendent of Schools