

LMS Eagle News

April 12

From the Desk of Ryan Colburn

How does one measure culture? I've heard it said multiple times that when you walk into Leawood Middle, it just feels different. I don't know how anyone would know that, but I agree, there is just a certain "feel" to our school and it is felt when you walk inside, talk to our students, come to an event or interact with our staff. It is, indeed, a special place. But how can this be measured? Recently, I witnessed what I believe to be a great way to do just that.

If you have been reading the Eagle News, you know we have started a new "Born to Soar" staff award where parents can nominate staff members who they feel exemplify Leawood Middle School. The nomination form is in this very newsletter and you can nominate as many staff as you would like. Most Thursdays we give an award to one staff member. We highlight it on the Eagle News after we recognize the staff member during the day. Mr. Richards and I gather a group of students together and take them to the winning teacher along with the great picture you see they get to display in their room for a week. We make a huge deal and share some of the reasons why that staff member was nominated as the "Born to Soar" winner for that week. The kids loved it, and I know the staff appreciated the recognition of the award.

Now, here is my measuring stick. Every week since we started this award, Mr. Richards and I walk that huge picture up and down the hallways. We encounter kids all along the way. And you know what they ask? Who's getting the "Born to Soar award?" Where are you going with the picture, is it my teacher? Tell us who won! The bottom line here is this: Our kids love their teachers, because our teachers love our kids. The kids are always excited to see who won the "Born to Soar award" and want it to be their teacher so they can celebrate with him/her. **That's culture.** This is an amazing feeling and always puts a smile on everyone's faces. And, these are the things that make Leawood Middle a special place, and these are the things that just make it feel different.

Sincerely,

Ryan Colburn

Student Checkout Process

Need to check out your student for an appointment, leaving town, or for personal reasons? Please be sure to follow our best practice guidelines below:

- Please send a note with your student to be turned into the front office first thing in the morning. It can be as simple as a handwritten note on a scratch piece of paper. The office will in turn write a pass for ten minutes prior to your stated arrival time to ensure they are in the office, signed out, and ready to go for dismissal.
- Forgot to write a note or scheduled a last minute or unknown pickup? No worries. Just show your ID at the door upon arrival, and the office will call the classroom to dismiss your student. They will need to come to the office to sign out first and then can be dismissed to you.
- Lastly, when checking out a student, please state the reason for the dismissal so the Attendance office can use the appropriate coding in the student record to prevent an absence code (AB). Some of the codes used are for appointment (MED), leaving town (VAC/OOT), personal (PEX), death/funeral (BER), injury (INJ), religious holiday (REL), visiting other school (OE), etc. This helps the student's attendance record be reflected as accurately as possible while helping to eliminate the push notifications received because of an undetermined absence.

We want to be sure to conduct productive methods in dismissing students so that we are efficient with everyone's time while minimizing calls and disruptions to our teachers in their classrooms. Thank you for your cooperation.

BVEF Champion for Students Award

With tremendous gratitude to Neal and Angela Sharma, we are excited to announce the arrival of a new award to recognize our exemplary educators. The [BVEF Champion for Students Award](#) celebrates educators who foster a transformative impact on their students' lives. In the words of the late educator Rita Pearson, "Every child deserves a champion." The Blue Valley Education Foundation's Champion for Students Award recognizes those educators who embrace this sentiment and embody it in their daily practice. Any member of the Blue Valley Community is welcome to nominate a deserving Blue Valley Schools staff member for this recognition. To learn more, click [HERE](#). The application window opened on April 5th and closes on April 26th. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Wessel.

Ability Showcase

CALLING ALL PERFORMERS AND ARTISTS!!! THE BLUE VALLEY ABILITY SHOWCASE IS BACK!!!

Who? Any BVSD Special Education Student or Student with a Disability (Preschool - 21)

What? 6:30 PM Art Exhibition / 7:00 PM Stage Show

When? Friday, April 26, 2024

Where? Blue Valley West High School Performing Arts Center

Why? To showcase the talents of our wonderful students and to provide an entertaining evening for all!!!

If interested in participating, please complete and submit the application below. Due to limited time and space, it's possible that we may not be able to accommodate all applicants. If this happens, preference will be given to new participants, the date the application is received, and the

variety of the act. This event is sponsored by the Blue Valley Special Education Advisory Council (BVSEAC). Please email bvabilityshowcase@gmail.com with any questions. Deadline to apply is April 12, 2024.



Registration

[Middle school registration](#) for the 2024-25 school year is open and [online now](#) for current students and families. Registration is required annually and is the time to update your child's information (phone, email, emergency contacts, health information, etc.). At this time, you have access to pay all required fees except for course fees. Course fees will be assigned in September.

Completing registration now confirms that your child will attend school in August and helps the district appropriately staff classrooms. Thank you for providing important information as part of the registration process. For more registration information, visit www.bluevalleyk12.org/registration.

Born to Soar!!

Parents shared that she has a passion for science that spreads to the students. She even made learning about fossils fun! Above all, they shared that she is patient, kind, and "chill". Thank you Mrs. Main! You are Born To Soar!! Please nominate a deserving teacher by clicking the link: <https://forms.gle/ywuA1aCfFq8RD8WPA>



PTO

The LMS PTO Board is excited to share with you the approved slate for next year's PTO. Please see below. Thank you so very much to everyone who gave their time and energy to serve on this year's PTO and to those who have committed to being on the PTO next year!



Leawood Middle School PTO 2024-25 Slate

LMS PTO BOARD	SERVING IN 2024-25	COMMENTS
President	Jen Berndt	Oversees all parts of LMS PTO. Serving 2 nd year from 2021-2022 President-Elect position
President-Elect	Anne Dresie	Becomes PTO President in 2023-24.
Past Treasurer	Renee Rohe	Serving 2 nd Year. Supports LMS Treasurer
Treasurer	Sarah Boeke	Serving 1 st Year. Administers LMS PTO Funds
Secretary	Roseann Morgan	Records minutes of PTO business meetings.
VP – Communications	Dana Compagnone	Oversees committees below and assists with all publicity / PR for LMS PTO events.
VP – School & Community	Lana Corcoran	Oversees committees below.
VP – Ways & Means	Sarah Olson	Oversees committees below.

LMS PTO COMMITTEES	SERVING IN 2024-25	COMMENTS
Committees under VP–Communications		
First Day Festivities	Lauren Johnson Lauren McMonagle	Coordinates First Day Welcome for Students
Family Ambassador	Rebekah Heitshusen Jennie Lentz	Disseminates Information to New Families
EagleFest	Emma Benzette (CHAIR) Dana Compagnone Jill DeRoy Hilary England Lisa Montgomery Julie Wolf	Coordinates fall PTO parts of EagleFest, annual celebration at home football/volleyball game.

8th Grade Farewell	Melisa Van Buskirk Halley Goldstein Jamie Gordon Georgia Jones Jenni Miller Shawna Ohde	Organizes the 2023 8th Gr Farewell activities.
Committees under VP – School & Comm		
Building & Grounds	Rene Barton	Plants/manages pots at entrance-of-school flowers for fall, winter, spring.
Grants	Jennifer Bronson	Coordinates Teacher Grant Process in Fall
Nominations	Jennifer Eckert Erica Hass	Coordinates Nominations in Spring of 2023 for LMS PTO Slate for school year 2023-2024
Staff Appreciation	Jenny Thompson (CHAIR) Christie Anderson Julie Haag Georgia Jones Erin Lambert Jenny Pintel Chrissy Wichman Megan Wombolt	Organizes staff meals, gifts, signups, budget, etc.
Website Coordinator	Cori Nelson	Manages and maintains LMS PTO website / Membership Toolkit account.
Committees under VP – Ways & Means		
Parent Social Fundraiser	Michelle Beesley (CHAIR) Cassandra Goodpasture	Coordinates Parent Social/Fundraiser
Restaurant Nights	Austyn Walter Melanie Vinduska	Plans all-school restaurant fundraisers
School Supplies	Kelly Powell	Coordinates online sales in spring
Student Socials (Eagle Night Out)	Esme Matzke (CHAIR) Keiko Edgar Hope Gregg Tracy Roushka Alana Schnitz Heather Spaldingr	Coordinates one Friday-night all-school social each semester.

Science Olympiad

Out of 26 teams total LMS placed 8th and out of the small schools, LMS placed 4th. Thank you to Sarah Rastogi, Madelyn Hall and Sandy Hall for coaching our kids to be successful.

BVN Summer Camp

BLUE VALLEY NORTH

2024 YOUTH SUMMER SOFTBALL CAMP

WHEN
June 3rd-5th
9:00 - 10:30 Grades 3-5
11:30 - 1:30 Grades 6-9
*Player's grade for 2024-2025 school year

WHERE?
BVN Home Turf Field
Blue Valley North
12200 Lamar Ave
Overland Park, KS 66208

COSTS
\$75 (includes t-shirt)
(must register by May 20 to guarantee desired size)

Payment can be check or pay online through GoFAN
Check made out to Blue Valley North



<https://gofan.co/event/1491823?schoolid=KS18097>

Mail Checks to:
Blue Valley North High School
Attn: Stevie Gibson
12200 Lamar Ave.
Overland Park, KS 66062

REGISTER NOW!
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/3AMHFUUF](https://tinyurl.com/3AMHFUUF)

[@BVNSoftball](https://www.instagram.com/BVNSoftball)
[BVN_Softball](https://twitter.com/BVN_Softball)
[Blue Valley North Softball](https://www.facebook.com/BlueValleyNorthSoftball)

linktr.ee/bvnsoftball



Patti Christian

Patti is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters