

# LMC Middle-High Back to School News

September 2011



**Executive Director/Principal: John Berlin**  
**Assistant-Principal/AD : Gerald Heath**

## Principal's News

### Contents

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Principal's News    | 1 |
| Mass Schedule       | 1 |
| Upcoming Events     | 1 |
| PLC's               | 2 |
| Technology Upgrades | 2 |
| ACT Scores          | 2 |
| Athletic Notes      | 3 |
| MS Five Pines Trip  | 4 |
| New Students        | 4 |

Welcome back everyone, it was great to see you at the recent back to school nights. The beginning of the school year is a busy time for everyone. With that in mind I put some additional information together for you to reflect on as you have time. I will publish this newsletter from time to time to help keep you abreast of happenings at the Middle High School. The Laker News and Notes will still be a system publication and the Navigator an Elementary School newsletter.

We are off and running on my 7<sup>th</sup> year as your Executive Director and MS/HS Principal. While our enrollment count is not where we want it, we are very optimistic for the future. The support and commitment of our Pastors and Parishioners is comforting. Coupled with the continued positive influence of our Bishop and Vicar we are poised for a bright future.

The opening of the school has gone very smoothly. We held numerous drills on the first day to ensure your child's safety in the event of an emergency. The students were extremely cooperative during the drills and they were a success. Our opening meetings with the classes went well and both Mr. Heath and I have a good feeling that this is going to be a strong year for our school.

The absolute best part of working at Lake Michigan Catholic is witnessing the growth and development of your children each year and knowing that our faculty plays such an important role in this process. We are looking forward to an excellent year and as always if you have any questions or concerns please contact me at: [jberlin@lmclakers.org](mailto:jberlin@lmclakers.org)

## Changes in Mass Schedule

As you know by now we have made a change in the Mass schedule for all our schools. At the Middle-High School we will be attending Mass weekly on Wednesdays. An additional Mass for the High School will be held on the first Monday of the month and for the Middle School on the first Friday of the month.

The Mass is the pinnacle of our faith life and this change in no way diminishes that fact. We made the change to free up the time to allow for additional Catholic devotionals for our students. As a matter of fact our first day of

Adoration was on September 14<sup>th</sup> followed by a nine day Novena to St. Michael the Archangel.

This decision was not made in isolation. In fact the Pastors were an active participant in the decision to make the change as well as the Vicar of Education. As Catholic educators we do not view this as taking something away, but as an opportunity to add more Catholic devotional opportunities for our students.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Walk For Catholic Education 10/10/11
- ◆ LMC Strategic Plan Meeting 10/11/11 @ St. B's 7:00pm
- ◆ Homecoming week October 17<sup>th</sup>

## PLC's

Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) is defined by its founders in the following excerpt:

*..educators committed to working collaboratively in ongoing processes of collective inquiry and action research in order to achieve better results for the students they serve. PLCs operate under the assumption that the key to improved learning for students is continuous, job-embedded*

*learning for educators. (DuFour, DuFour, Eaker, Many. 2006.)*

This premise is the cornerstone of our delayed start on Tuesday mornings. We appreciate your working with us on this schedule and know that this time is considered a blessing to our faculty!



*Quote from  
anonymous LMCHS  
student.*

*"For me, the best part about LMCHS is the sense of "family" and "community" that you experience while attending here. And the best part about that is that even at non-school functions, being a Laker is still noticeable, and gives me pride. I like knowing that even after I graduate, I will still be welcome, and part of the family here at LMCHS. That is something that sets this school apart from any other school I've been to. It would seem odd to say that a high schooler actually enjoys going to school, but I do. Very much. I am thankful for this school every day because I know it is not only preparing me for college, but for life. Another bonus is the high academic expectations they hold here. I like the challenges it brings."*

*Source: LMC Student Survey  
May 2011*

## Technology Upgrades

September 13<sup>th</sup> marked a significant milestone for LMCMS-HS in that we upgraded our bandwidth for the internet from 1.5 megabits to 22 megabits. The upgrade was accomplished through a new agreement with Comcast. This should help to resolve issues we have been encountering with more students opting for online coursework.

Smart Boards have also been added to

nearly all classrooms in the building as well. Additionally we have purchased student response systems for each board installation. The teachers spent a day in August being trained on the new technology and it will be interesting to see its impact on learning this school year.

Many thanks to those who donated to this effort as well as to all of you as your technology fees helped pay for this state of the art technology as well.

## ACT Scores

One of the primary objectives of our PLC teams is to increase student achievement as measured by our ACT scores. The scores for the Class of 2012 have been issued and we showed improvement in all areas compared to the previous year's graduating class.

Here are the scores for the Class of 2012:

English - 23.1  
Math - 22.2  
Reading - 23.9  
Science - 22.9  
Composite - 23

Our composite score was up by nearly a full point.

## Zachariah Zellmer



In Memory of Zachariah Zellmer, Class of 2010.

Student and friend know that you will be missed.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

## Athletic Notes

Blue Tide Athletics is sponsoring a tailgate party this coming Friday, September 23, at 5:00 p.m. in the Rose Center parking lot. Blue Tide will supply the meats and buns for the tailgate but is asking all girl athletes to bring "something" to add to this party.....a dessert, salad (pasta/potatoes/etc.), chips. The tailgate will start at 5 p.m. so all band members will be able to eat before having to dress in their uniforms and board the bus for Watervliet. Please drop your dish to pass off between 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Friday at the Rose Center. Any questions, please feel free to email me or call Chris McQuillan at 927 - 1029. Monies raised will be put into the Blue Tide funds to help supplement all athletics. Cost is \$5 per person with a maximum \$20 per family.



*Rainbow over LMC  
MS/HS 9/15/11 at  
7:30am*

## News

**Headphone Delay** - For those students taking online language programs we apologize for the delay in receiving our headphones. It was a problem with the vendor and was finally resolved with the diligent efforts of Mrs. Barden.

**Senior Exit Project** - We will not be doing a Senior Exit Project this year due to curricular changes from the Diocese. The Diocese and our Theology teachers are in the process of developing a capstone project for future senior classes that will replace the current exit project. I felt with the personnel changes that took place over the summer this was the best decision for our students and staff.

## New Students

Lake Michigan Catholic Middle-High School is pleased to welcome the following new students to our school.

Grade 6: Jamie Tidey & Emilio Quattrin

Grade 8: Adam Essig

Grade 7: Bracy Means & Nati Schueneman

Grade 9: Courtney Kangas, Mason Hojara, Daniel McEachen & Greg Rogers

Grade 11: Kelly Frazee

Thank you to the parents of these students for making LMC your school of choice!



Lake Michigan Catholic  
Middle-High School  
915 Pleasant St.  
St. Joseph, MI 49095

Phone:

(269) 983-2511

Fax:

(269) 983-0883

[WWW.LMCLAKERS.ORG](http://WWW.LMCLAKERS.ORG)

Nourishing the  
Human Spirit, Mind,  
Body & Soul  
through Jesus  
Christ.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Five Pines

The eighth grade advisors, Dan Schuchardt and Helen Koch took the eighth graders to Five Pines for a day filled with activities to develop the skills of respect, cooperation, communication, trust and to have fun! Students spent the beautiful fall day, challenging themselves to set goals and through mental and physical strength and the encouragement of teammates to achieve those goals.

Some comments from eighth grade students:

"I learned that I have to accept others ideas."

"I learned that I have to stay focused to accomplish my goals."

"God is my lifeline in life. Even though at times it may not seem like it, he is always there for me."

"I learned that I need to be more patient and understanding of others in my life."



**Go Lakers**