



Lowell Joint SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Home of Scholars and Champions”



Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter

August 5, 2022

Dear Lowell Joint Family,

We are beyond excited to welcome you home to the 2022/23 school year. Yes, we realize that it is still a couple of weeks away; none-the-less we are so excited as we prepare for you to return August 17, 2022. Please keep in mind that 7th graders come back one day early (August 16, 2022). We are also excited to let you know that our transfer from LA County to Orange County is now complete; thanks to our Lowell Joint citizens, we are now 100% an Orange County District. The transition of our system and protocols has been a challenge, but we are blessed to be a full member of Orange County and the Orange County Department of Education. This means that we will now function fully as an Orange County school district.

There are wide ranges of enhancements and/or new opportunities for our students, families and staff as we launch into the new school year. Each program will be sending out more extensive information as we get closer to school starting, but here are a few of the programs and a brief teaser ☺:

- **PowerSource** - *“Where innovation, creativity, and rigor today illuminate the dreams of tomorrow – Get Plugged In”*

There have been some before and after school programs, but nothing systematic across all campuses. PowerSource will bring a comprehensive system of enrichment and support activities/programs to all elementary campuses. The program will begin semi-slowly and then grow throughout the year to be even more extensive.

- **Horizons** - *“Where Academic Potential and Grit Soar”*

This is the launch of our GATE/High Achievers program for those students who have qualified through multiple measures such as: GATE testing, teacher recommendation, CAASPP scores, iReady Scores, etc. These opportunities for growth, enrichment, and stretching will be provided after school and during Saturday workshops. The activities include, but not limited to: Lowell Joint Youth Theater, Pre- Advanced Art, Pre- Environmental Science, honors elementary choir, advance engineering and robotics, E-Sports, drumline, jazz band, advanced elementary band, advanced dance, and more. You will also recall that all Lowell Joint teachers are now trained and GATE certified by the Orange County Department of Education. This helps support their already outstanding work to differentiate instruction for all students within their school day.

- Expansion of **The Living Classroom**, which is the “Sustainable-Science-Literacy Gardens” at schools.
- Expansion of **ARTS FOR ALL** - *“Unlocking Student Passion and Potential Through The Arts*, which includes:

- Expanding instrumental music so that 5th & 6th graders can both choose to participate in band.
- Addition of recording instruction for all 3rd and 4th graders at each elementary school
- Return of formal art instruction within all TK-6th grades classes, which will be provided by the Muckenthaler in Fullerton.
- Launch of the Lowell Joint Youth Theater Program. Each elementary school will produce a musical each year, which will include their 4th–6th graders.
- Addition of Advance Dance after school.
- And others to come.

- Launch of the Lowell Joint Child Development Program, which includes:

- Pre-School: You should have already been receiving Pre-School information via email over the summer. The first two classes will be on the Jordan and Olita campuses.
- The Studio - after-school childcare, which should launch Spring 2023.
- Continued expansion of Learning Links, which is for parents and their younger children.

“Planting Trees by the Riverbank”

“Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.”
Abraham Lincoln



- We just finish Summer School 2022 and Boot Camp 2022 and are already looking ahead to Summer School 2023 (June 5-June 30, 2023) and Boot Camp 2023 (July 24-August 4, 2023).
- And more to come....

As we head into the 2022/23 school year, as an Orange County School District, we will be following the Orange County guidelines and rules for reopening campuses as we continue to handle the pandemic. The latest State, CPHD and CAL/Osha order links are:

([K-12 Schools Guidance](#)) ([California Department of Public Health Education Health Order](#)) ([CDPH Order](#))

As we look forward to August 17th and our return to school, we want to keep a few things in mind:

Respecting Personal Choice

- As the state provides personal choice for masking in schools, the Lowell Joint Family will respect individual choices. We will follow the Golden Rule: “treat others as we want to be treated”.
- One should not make assumptions regarding someone’s beliefs or health status based upon their choice to wear or not wear a mask, nor should they comment on them.
- If your student(s) expresses any anxiety, feel free to reach out to your school principal for additional support as needed.
- We will continue to provide free masks for anyone who wishes to use them.

Responsibility

- Please Do Your Part to Help Keep Schools Healthy and Safe:
We know by working together we can limit the spread of any illness including COVID-19, and it is going to take a combined effort to continue to keep our schools safe. Here is how you can support our mission to keep students in school:
 - Continue daily home screenings so that you are informed.
 - Keep students home if they are sick, have COVID-19 symptoms, or if they or a member of their household has tested positive or are awaiting COVID-19 test results.
- Guest and volunteers are welcome on campuses, yet please know that you will need to be symptom free and must complete a Health Survey before coming onto campus.
- In accordance with Orange County Public Health requirements, all staff who are not fully vaccinated will be required to continue to test weekly. Those guidelines are being redrafted by OC Public Health and will be published prior to school starting.
- We will continue to provide free take-home COVID test kits for anyone who needs them. You can pick them up from your school’s front office.

Additional resources for COVID-19 information include:

- [California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Resource Page](#)
- [Orange County Health Care Agency COVID-19 Resource Page](#)
- [Lowell Joint Resource Page \(includes most current COVID dashboard report\)](#)

Student – Staff – Community Safety continues to be a major focus as we look to the 2022/23 school year. I do want to remind our entire LJSD family that we continue to take significant proactive measures to maintain and improve our safe school environment. This includes our District and school safety planning that is continuously reviewed and improved in close partnership with our local law enforcement and ASCIP. We are proud and honored to maintain close partnerships with the La Habra and Whittier Police Departments and LA County Sheriff Department. These annual protocols and facilities reviews have resulted in some of the following upgrades over the past 5 years:

- On even years - ASCIP sends off-duty officers to stress test our campus safety & security protocols. They also walk the entire campus to review for any areas or systems that need improvement.
- On odd years - We have our local law enforcement partners (La Habra PD, Whittier PD, and Sheriff) to walk each campus to review our facilities.
- Based on these reviews we launched the “Raptor” system almost 4 years ago. This is system where we scan all guest/visitor/parent driver license prior to coming onto campuses.
- We have also added security cameras to all campuses as part of the Measure LL projects. Thank you to our citizens for their support of Measure LL four years ago.
- We also launched our Catapult Emergency Alert System four years ago, which coordinates each school with the entire district and local law enforcement.

- We also launched “Bark” which is a computer software that monitors all student and staff electronic communication and alerts us of safety concerns where students/staff could be a harm to themselves or others. If an alert occurs, site and district administrators are immediately alerted so that we can follow-up.
- We have also enhanced our gates, locks, and campus monitoring protocols.
- We have also coordinated with our local law enforcement partners (La Habra PD, Sheriff, and Whittier PD) for stepped-up patrol presence. Thank you to our local law enforcement partners.
- We continue to review and enhance what we do to make our schools safe and secure, while we keeping our hometown feel and care.
- There was a time when had an AWESOME SRO for Rancho. Unfortunately, staffing changes at the Norwalk Sheriff office caused that position to go away, but they have new leadership and we are now exploring how we could bring the Rancho SRO back.

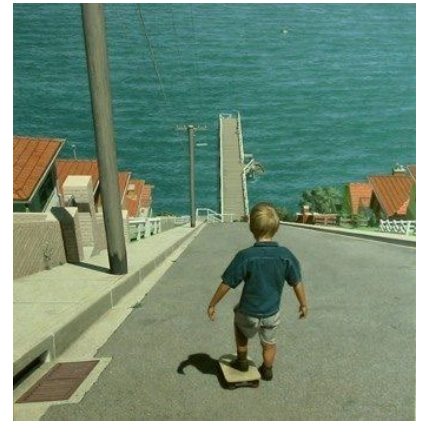
We also want to continue to remind our LJSD family that one proven key component is - **see something, hear something, say something** - it is the best deterrent to potentially harmful situations. We cannot thank our families and all of our teachers, staff, school counselors, psychologists, and student support staff for the outstanding care and heart they continue to share with our students and school community. It really is the positive-caring adults that help our students walk through these trying challenges.

We continue to stand in faith as we are LOWELL JOINT **STRONG** and we will stand strong against the storms that come our way; you are the beacon/lighthouse of educational excellence; **THANK YOU!**

LOWELL JOINT STRONG TOGETHER!!

LAUGHTER HELPS BRING JOY AND JOY HELPS BRINGS PEACE

We are looking forward to an incredible year of excitement, creativity, and joy. Not quite as much as this Coombs' boy has in mind, but close ☺...|



This is one of the reasons the Coombs family always looks forward to the start of school; apparently, Stephanie left me in charge of the Coombs' boys on this day ☺....

