



"Home of Scholars and Champions"

Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter - Families

Lowell Joint STRONG

September 24, 2021

"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



It continues to be an amazing, challenging, exciting, and at times overwhelming fall season. We continue to see a significant slowdown of COVID cases over the past couple of weeks, but please know that there is no intent to minimalize the seriousness; in fact we have had a couple of very serious and sad situations come-up this past week for some of our families and staff. You continue to be incredible at how you are handling each situation with such grace, mercy, patience, and kindness. Please continue to stop and breathe while we take one step at a time as the Lowell Joint Family walks through this ever-changing landscape. We will exceed through this challenge, because our feet are planted on solid rock; we are so proud of you!! The 4-6 day ever changing cycle continues. The State, CDPH and CAL/Osha continues to update and change their orders and the latest State, CPHD and CAL/Osha order links are: (California Department of Public Health Education Health Order) (CDPH Order). Some key aspects are:

- As a reminder..."All schools identified in this Order must verify vaccine status of all workers."
 and ... Asymptomatic unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated workers are required to
 undergo diagnostic screening testing. B. Workers may be tested with either antigen or
 molecular tests to satisfy this requirement, but unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated workers
 must be tested at least once weekly with either PCR testing or antigen testing". All staff show
 proof of their vaccination or complete a weekly COVID test.
- We have stated at least a 1000 times that everything changes every 2-4 days☺. Well here, we go again... The whole topic of weekly free COVID testing when/where has been a crazy challenge and thank God we started very early. The very short version of the story is that we will be participating as part of the City of La Habra testing at the La Habra Community Center (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. or Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.). The La Habra City testing center will provide free COVID testing for your family and your children if you wish, <u>BUT</u> that must be initiated by the parent and only with the parent present. The results are not linked back to Lowell Joint, but to whatever email/address you provide.
- Additional action and changes for LJSD even though they are not required in the Health Order:
 - o All staff continue their daily Health Survey.
 - Our COVID dashboard is not required by CDPH or County Public Health, but we will continue to update it on Friday of each week.
 - Despite the challenge of positive COVID cases and required "close contact" quarantines, LJSD continues to be very low compared to surrounding districts THANK YOU! We do not want to disrupt our current progress, while seeking to make appropriate adjustments in order to bring additional help to campuses.
 - Anyone who comes onto campus, <u>for school business only</u> will be required to complete the Health Survey. All other visitors/volunteers will need to wait until at least November 1st to come onto campus.
 - Starting October 4th, community volunteers will be allowed to volunteer in the office only to provide support, but only after they complete the daily Wellness Screening. The hope is that we will be able to expand this volunteer support within

classes a little later in the school year; we just want to be very purposeful in our approach.

O AB130 was updated via AB187 and now we are able to provide direct academic support to students on "short-term" independent study. This change occurred September 13th and LJSD was able to gear-up our Academic Support person by September 20th. Each time a student has to go on quarantine, their family is provided the contact (email and phone) information for our LJSD Academic Support who is a fully credentialed (long-term sub) who will provide academic support via phone, email and/or zoom. She serves from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day.

• General Family News:

- The Special Education Blue Ribbon Action Team has been awarded a 2021 National School Board Association MAGNA Award. Only four districts were selected in the entire USA in the small district division (under 5000 students).
- The Special Education Blue Ribbon Action Team has also been awarded a 2021 California School Board Association Golden Bell Award.
- Lowell Joint School District ranked #11 in the entire State of California for reading acquisition as measured by 3rd grade reading scores (California Reading Coalition Link).
- Lowell Joint Presentations in the State of California:
 - ➤ El Portal: QUEST Program at the CSBA Conference, December 2, 2021 (in San Diego).
 - ➤ Lowell Joint Special Education: Sped Blue Ribbon Action Team at the ACSA Conference, November 4-6, 2021 (in San Francisco).
 - ➤ LJSD CREW Internship: Counseling and Psychologist Internship Program at the ACSA Every Student Counts Conference, January 12-14 (in Palm Springs).
 - ➤ We are all aware that there is a TikTok video challenge that encourages students to destroy school bathrooms, which is so sad. I do want to share that any student that is found to have participated in this type of activity will be 100% responsible for the cost of all damages, repairs, and labor costs. The Lowell Joint family takes care of our home. Unfortunately, we have already had two students who made this very poor choice. Please help impress upon our students that these are our schools and we have to care enough to value them...THANK YOU!

Keep taking a deep breath, make a little time for yourself, find a favorite song and play it really loud in your car \odot , keep finding joy, and remember LJSD will continue to stand in faith as we continue to walk one-step at a time. The past 20 months have been a serious challenge as will the months ahead, BUT the great news is that Lowell Joint will continue to be STRONG and we will exceed. You are truly a blessing. Please stay connected with your principal if you have questions, concerns, needs; truly. You are GREATLY APPRECIATED, GREATLY VALUED AND GREATLY LOVED!

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!!

Here is what our four sons hear when we speak....©



Someone should have reminded the guy that the dirt goes in the whole, not the excavator

