

A Message from Jay Hoffmann:

Welcome to the 2007-08 School Year! This year is going to be filled with all kinds of exciting challenges and changes beginning on August 24th, the first official day of school for our 447 Freshmen and continuing on August 27th when we kick off the school year for the entire student body. We'll be starting the year with a new Assistant Principal. Please congratulate Jim Thiel on his recent promotion. He's been an integral part of our high school for years in the Special Ed department and the Dean's office and will continue to serve students in his new role

Construction began with a vengeance inside and outside the building the day after graduation and the feverish pace has continued throughout the summer. You'll begin to notice changes as soon as you pull into the horseshoe drive. All drop-offs and pick-ups will take place in the front and all traffic will enter and exit from McKinley except for seniors with senior parking permits who will use the Willow Street gate and park on the tennis courts. The Noble Street gate will be closed as construction continues on the 2 stair towers at the south end of the building at the Auditorium. As you enter off McKinley, both lanes will be in use. There is no parking on the entrance drive. The front drive and guest parking have been reconfigured which should help alleviate some of the traditional gridlock and congestion in the morning and afternoon. Please be cautious and patient as everyone learns the new traffic patterns. Our parking lot staff will be on hand to help guide you. The construction staging area in the back has expanded and now encompasses the former staff parking area and the turn around lane for drops offs so that area is closed to all traffic. All staff will park in the south lot and in the new north lot in front of the pool.

The exterior walls of the new Music Wing in the back of the building are finished and work continues on finishing the interior spaces which will be magnificent. Once completed, these spaces will help us keep our eyes on the prize and our priorities in order. They will serve as our constant reminder of how amazing our building will be when that last construction truck pulls out of the parking lot.

Literally every inch of the inside of the building has been in major turmoil and virtually crawling with tradesmen pulling wires, demolishing old walls and putting up new ones. All fire exit routes have been rerouted around construction areas. A new PA system and emergency alert system has been installed to replace the outdated and unreliable PA system. New wiring from the system has been run to every room in the building. While 3rd period announcements will still be an interruption in the school day it will no longer sound as if they are being transmitted from the Greyhound Bus Terminal. There will be no more dead spots in areas of the building so all students will hear announcements no matter where they are during announcements. The system is a definite upgrade from the system we've been using since the day Tom Edison installed it.

CONSTRUCTION AREAS:

- At the Academic South End, the two stair towers near the auditorium will still be under construction when students return. The construction area will be blocked off.
- The music wing is nearing the finishing stages, but not complete. All efforts are concentrated on opening the wing for student use during the 3rd week of September. In the meantime all Band, Chorus and Orchestra classes will meet in the David Miller Theater and the Auditorium.
- The Link that will connect the Academic South End and Athletic North End and will eventually house the new Student Commons is still under construction. It's the big empty space between the pool and the cafeteria. Until the link is restored, this interruption in internal traffic flow will force Wellness students and teachers to travel outside of the building from the outside doors leading to the cafeteria lobby to reach the locker rooms, gymnasiums, pool and the newly installed and functioning mobile classrooms located in the green space to the north of the fieldhouse. A paved walkway will be installed.
- The Athletic North End is currently without full power and utilities, but complete reactivation is anticipated when we return from Labor Day weekend.

SO WHERE IS?

- The **SMOKESTACK?** Gone.
- The **STAFF DINING ROOM?** Gone. Staff will use the old Choral Room as an interim dining room.
- The **DRIVER ED AND OUTDOOR ED CLASSROOMS?** Gone. Driver Ed and Outdoor Ed classes will be held in the Mobile Classrooms.
- The **WEIGHT ROOM?** Gone. It has been moved to the west 1/3 of the fieldhouse.
- The **FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT?** 4 classrooms will be on the lower level in the former Band area.

- The **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT?** 4 rooms have been relocated on the 2nd floor in the Senior Hallway
- The **AUTO SHOP?** Gone.
- The **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT?** Construction this year only impacted the English Office.
- The **MATH DEPARTMENT, SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, ART, AND BUSINESS DEPARTMENTS?** No changes
- The **BOOKSTORE?** The bookstore has moved to West Campus in Room 150.
- The **STUDY HALL?** Gone. Study Hall and Athletic Study Hall have been moved to the lower level.
- The **SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE AND MAIN OFFICE, DEAN'S OFFICE, STUDENT SERVICES, COUNSELORS, NURSE, TRANSCRIPTS, COLLEGE RESOURCE CENTER, AND SPECIAL ED?** All of these first floor offices will remain where they are.
- The **PERSONNEL OFFICE and BUSINESS OFFICE?** Gone. All Business office personnel including the fee specialist, provide shared administrative services to District 115 and District 67 and have moved to temporary offices at District 67's Administrative Center at Deer Path Middle School until the new shared service Administration Center Offices at West Campus are completed early in 2008.
- **ATHLETICS?** The staff moved to West Campus for the summer and will return to East once utilities have been restored to their area after Labor Day. West Campus numbers: Tim Burkhalter (582-1662), Michelene Tomek (582-1665), Jill Murphy (582-1663), Susan Frew (582-1664) and Sharon Popiel (582-1665).

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

- **FAREWELL TO LINDENMEYER FIELD:** What better way to kick off our successful football season than for one last game on September 1st at East Campus complete with a festive farewell and heartfelt thanks to Lindenmeyer Field. It's served us well for many years and holds great memories for countless grads as well as the community. It will continue to be home field to our Wellness classes.
- **THE NEW WEST CAMPUS VARSITY FIELD** will be completed in time to hold its official opening at Homecoming on Saturday, September 15th. The turf field is finished, and will feature impressive new metal stands and a much-improved announcing booth and PA system. Construction of the new concession stand and bathrooms has not started yet.

Oh, and I almost forgot, we've also got almost 1800 enthusiastic, challenging, curious, creative and talented kids coming who are ready to experience all that this amazing school has to offer. The building may be in a state of flux, but the basics are still the same. We remain dedicated to providing a rigorous and challenging curriculum and diverse opportunities for our students to succeed not just academically or in sports and clubs, but as people. It won't be business as usual and we're all going to have to stay flexible because it won't be easy, but we owe it to our students and we owe it to each other to keep our perspective, remember what's really important and hang in there together. It may be a construction site, but this is still Lake Forest High School staffed by the same dedicated, professional educators who arrive each day ready to teach, mentor, coach and advise their students. We're ready to accept the challenge and provide the very best learning environment as possible.

I've shared a lot of information. If there's anything you take away from this letter, I hope it's the realization that this is going to be a challenging year. That's a given. How we meet those challenges is going to involve and ultimately affect all of us and it's up to each of us to set a positive tone. Meeting space will be extremely limited as we've lost spaces that were available in the past to construction activities. Every space including the Publick Room will be dedicated to student use. The APT has scheduled all of their monthly meetings at Gorton this year, and other groups are meeting offsite. We appreciate your patience and understanding if we can't accommodate your meetings as we have in the past. I think you'll agree that students should be our top priority. This will only work if we're in it together because that's the way we do things around here. It's an exciting time for all of us as we have a front row seat to witness the gradual transformation and revitalization of LFHS. Check out our newly redesigned website at LFHS.ORG and keep your eye on the prize!

This place is only a building until our students and teachers arrive each Fall and turn it back into a school.

Let's get started!

Jay Hoffmann