



Laguna Creek High School

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! We have many great activities planned this year and I want to encourage every student to find a school activity and get involved. Making a connection is very important to being successful in high school, not to mention it makes the years in high school much more fun. To assist with that, teachers will be discussing the different opportunities students have to get involved at LCHS during the first two days in their Advocacy Classes. We will also be holding a Club Rush Day during both lunches in the Quad on August 23rd in order for students to shop around for a club or activity that they find interesting. Our goal is to have 100% of our students connected in at least one way to Laguna Creek High School.

New Website and SIS

Major changes have been made over the summer regarding how we electronically communicate with our students and parents. Our new website address is www.lchs.egusd.net. You will notice some slight changes but it will be very similar to what we have had over the past couple of years.

We no longer use School Loop as a grade program and to communicate with our students and parents. Our entire district has changed over to a new student information system (Synergy). The parent and student portals are called ParentVUE and StudentVUE respectively. In order to access the new system, we are required to check every parent/guardian ID in person. The office staff and administration will be available prior to school to do this as well as at Back-to-the-Nest and Back-to-School Night. This process will be somewhat cumbersome the first year but once you are approved you will never have to sign up again for any of your children. I have included some Parent FAQs. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Q: Why did EGUSD get a new student information system?

EGUSD's current in-house developed student information system (SISWeb) launched back in 2003. To meet the high expectations of EGUSD's 21st century educational mission and to comply with increasingly demanding external federal and state mandates, as well as provide users with the benefits of a state-of-the-art SIS, EGUSD needed to either upgrade SISWeb or find another commercially developed out-of-the-box solution. Through the evaluation process, EGUSD stakeholders determined that a commercially developed system would meet the mandate requirements and needs of all system users.

Q: When will the new system go live?

Synergy will go live in July 2017, and the ParentVUE component will be available in August.

Q: What is the ParentVUE Portal?

To help their children get the most out of school, parents/guardians want day-to-day insight into the academic experience. With the Synergy ParentVUE web portal, parents can access near real-time information on assignments and scores, attendance, class schedules, discipline, conferences, immunization compliance, transcripts, graduation status and more.

Q: What types of things will I be able to see in the new system?

Daily attendance, assignment grades, course grades and standardized test scores will all be available.

- **Single Sign-On:** Parents/guardians need just one login to see information for all of their children, regardless of school; Students can view all of their information in one place, even if they attend more than one physical or online campus.
- **Big-Picture Information:** See attendance and discipline records, conferences, health office visits, immunization compliance, transcripts, graduation status, and more. District settings determine what parents/guardians can see and what students can see.

- **Real-Time Grades & Assessment Scores:** Know right away if students are on track academically or need extra help.
 - **Class Website Access:** Stay up to date with what's happening in your children's classrooms.
 - **Assignments:** Find out right away when new assignments are posted.
 - **Customizable Alerts:** Parents/guardians can get email notifications about school events, attendance, and discipline incidents, or when a student performs below a specified grade. StudentVUE shows the same information without email alerts.
 - **Stay Connected:** Communicate easily with teachers.
 - **Course Scheduling:** Submit course requests and have prerequisites automatically verified (future feature).
 - **Online Learning Resources:** Discover online resources recommended by your children's teachers.
 - **Web Portal and Mobile App (iPhone/iPod Touch/Android):** It works wherever you are - at work, after-school activities, or weekend events.
- Q: Is there a way to contact the teacher or counselor if I have a questions about what I see on the screen?**
Easy access to communication tools throughout the various ParentVUE screens promotes the contact between home and school that is necessary for student success. Parents/guardians can elect to receive customized email alert notifications regarding timely issues, such as school events, attendance, or discipline incidents.
- Q: Is my children's school information available to anyone on the Internet?**
No. While the web portals are accessible over the Internet, access is secured via a username and password. Parents/guardians can see information about their children only and cannot see the records of other students.
- Q: Will I need to do anything to make sure I get access to the program?**
Yes, ask your child's school for ParentVUE account creation instructions. With these instructions, you should be able to complete the process in a few minutes using a web browser.
- Q: How will this be different than the EGUSD Portal and Schoolloop?**
Synergy will replace Schoolloop. Through ParentVUE and StudentVUE there will be access to grades, assignments, communication, and teacher websites. By having everything in Synergy, there will only need to be one login for each parent. That one login allows access to all students associated with that parent across the district in any grade or any school.
- Q: Is there an app I can use?**
Yes, there is a ParentVUE app for iOS and Android. To activate your account initially, though, you must go to the ParentVUE web portal using a web browser. You cannot activate your account using the ParentVUE app. After you've activated the account through the ParentVUE web portal, you can then use the app to check your child's information.

Odd/Even Calendar

Enclosed you will find a calendar that shows the odd and even days for the whole year. The first day of school, August 10th, will be an "Odd" day and our start and end times for school will be 7:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. respectively. Students should arrive by 7:15 a.m. on the first day to pick up their official schedule if they do not pick it up at Back-to-the-Nest (see enclosed flyer).

Freshman Class of 2021 Orientation

The Class of 2021 Orientation will be held on August 4th, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, in the Main Gym. We are very excited about welcoming this year's freshmen class. All freshmen students should make it a priority to attend. The activities will be very informative and fun, while providing freshmen with an opportunity to meet other students and staff at LCHS.

Back-to-School Night

I want to encourage all parents to be present at our 2017-2018 Back-To-School Night on August 21st. A flyer with details will be sent home the first week of school. It is very important for parents to make contact with teachers at the beginning of the school year. Attending this night helps ensure the success we want each student to achieve. More details will be sent home with students in Advocacy.

MYP Authorization

Laguna Creek High School is finalizing the candidacy process with Harriet Eddy Middle School to become authorized to offer the **IB Middle Years Programme** (MYP) to students in 7th through 10th grade. We have completed the written application and IB will be sending a team to visit our campuses in November as a final step of the process. Speaking to parents is an important part of the visit. If you would like to help out in this way, please contact Jose Oseguera (MYP Coordinator) joseguer@egusd.net.

WASC

Our next full Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation visit will be in March of 2018. We have begun working on our self-study report and action plan. Our WASC Focus Groups should include parents. If you would be interested in participating, please contact Vice Principal, Rose Penrose apenrose@egusd.net. We would appreciate your input.

Disability Assistance

Laguna Creek High School welcomes those with disabilities to participate fully in the programs, services, and activities offered to students, parents, guardians, and members of the public. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in any program, service or activity offered to you, please contact Mrs. Penrose, Vice Principal, at least 48 hours before the scheduled event so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. [Government Code Section 54953.2; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 202 (42 U.S.C. Section 12132).]

School Activities

For your planning purposes, enclosed is a list of events with some important dates for you to note for the 2017-18 school year. All of our major school events are posted regularly on our school's website, <http://www.lchs.egusd.net>. Since this is the only planned all-school mailing this year, visiting the website and School Loop emails are the best way to stay up-to-date on all that is happening at Laguna Creek High School.

CaliforniaColleges.edu

This year Elk Grove Unified School District will be partnering with the California College Guidance Initiative to provide access to CaliforniaColleges.edu for all of our students and staff. The platform provides high school students the tools to match their interests and skills to post-secondary college and career opportunities. They can take career assessments and use search tools to develop college, major, and career lists, write goals and journals, track activities, and read a variety of age-appropriate content to develop and expand their knowledge of all college, career, and financial aid planning topics. Students can also launch Cal State Apply, CCCApply, and FAFSA. We are excited about this new partnership and what it will provide for our students – no matter their post-high school pathway. More information will be sent home in the coming months.

PBIS

Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) is a researched based school-wide system of support that include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors at school. PBIS provides a structure which assists the school in how we respond to meet the needs of our diverse student population. PBIS aims to reduce problem behaviors through instruction, comprehension, and regular practice. All teachers and staff members will use a consistent set of behavior expectations and rules for all students on the LCHS campus. Throughout the school year, students will be taught how to behave according to Laguna Creek's three behavior expectations: Respectful, Engaged & Dedicated. Students can be rewarded by any staff member for exhibiting appropriate behavior through the issuing of RED Cards, which are used for weekly drawings for various prizes. When a student does not follow the expected behavioral rules, the LCHS staff will view it as an opportunity for re-teaching the expectations to the student and not just an opportunity to discipline the student.

As we work to *make great things possible* for all of our students, I am looking forward to partnering with you in the 2017-2018 school year.

Yours truly,

Doug Craig, Principal
Laguna Creek High School

