

POINTS OF PRIDE

LMS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 11, 2022

From the Principal's Desk

I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing holiday. It is so good to have everyone back for the new year; however, COVID is still present in our community. We are doing our best to slow or stop the spread of disease by encouraging masks, social distancing, and sanitizing throughout the day and after school. It is very important for you all to stay in touch with the school in the event that you have a close contact, a household contact, or if anyone in your home is showing symptoms and/or being tested.

Prior to Christmas break, the ELA department hosted our Spelling Bee. Our students did an outstanding job, and I am pleased to announce our school winner was Price Rouse (8th grade). Mr. Rouse will join other school winners at Francis Marion University where he will compete in the regional spelling bee. I know he will represent us well.

One final thing that I would like to bring your attention to is **social media**. As many of you know, social media causes many problems for those who do not use it appropriately. Many of the issues that arise at LMS tend to stem from some sort of "drama" that occurred via social media outside of school. I know that I cannot control who has social media accounts and who does not, but I say this as a reminder to parents/guardians to remain vigilant when allowing your middle school age child to have access to cell phones/devices that have internet and social media. Many of our students are too immature to have this type of access, and because of this, it continues to cause problems in and out of school. Our faculty spends time talking with students about their social media use when it requires that of us, but we need your help in educating your child about appropriate use of technology. School is a place of learning, and we will continue to try our best to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for all of our students. I encourage you to put restrictions on your child's phone that restricts access to things that are not age appropriate, and occasionally browse your child's phone. Limiting the amount of screen time and setting a curfew for usage might be something you want to consider as well.

Please feel free to contact me via email (Stephanie.ard@lattavikings.com) or by phone (843-752-7117) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Stephanie J. Ard, Principal

Calendar of Events

Jan. 10-14.....iReady Diagnostic Test
Jan. 11.....Report Cards
Jan. 17.....Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Feb. 15.....Progress Reports
Feb. 18.....Teacher Workday-No School for Students
Mar. 16.....135th Day
Mar. 17.....Parent Conferences (4:00-6:00)
Mar. 18.....Teacher Workday-No School for Students
Mar. 22.....Report Cards

(See all Sports schedules on our website

<http://www.dillon3.k12.sc.us/athletics.php>)

Keep Our School Safe

We need your help to slow/stop the spread of COVID-19. With COVID on the rise again, there are a few things that you need to keep in mind when questioning whether or not to send your child to school.

If anyone living in your household is getting tested for COVID-19, DO NOT send your child to school. Call Nurse Lindsey to make her aware that someone is being tested. This will be documented in PowerSchool for attendance purposes. Your child will continue to complete his/her school work via Google Classroom.

If someone in your house tests positive for COVID-19, DO NOT send your child to school. Call Nurse Lindsey to make her aware, and she will be in contact with you and DHEC to let you know how to proceed. We will also have school personnel aid you and your child with streaming classes and accessing their school work via Google Classroom.

If you choose to share whether or not your child is vaccinated, Nurse Lindsey will tell you the options with that as well.

If you have any further questions about whether or not to send your child to school due to sickness or symptoms, please call our office to get some guidance before sending your child to school. It's very important that we are all responsible in keeping our students and staff safe. We encourage everyone to wear a mask, but it is not mandatory.

Office Reminders

- Please make sure that you have a working phone number on file with the school, and if it changes, please let us know as soon as possible.

Safe School Alert

Your teachers and staff in Latta Schools want to make sure that you are safe while in school. If something happens to you or you are made aware of a possible unsafe situation in school, you need to let us know as soon as possible so that we can protect you and everyone else in school. It is your duty to help us protect everyone both emotionally and physically at all times in our school family. The quickest way to get some help is to let an adult at your school know as soon as possible. However, if you feel uncomfortable doing so in person, you can report it online and without leaving your name. But if you leave your name, we can respond directly back to you with the corrective actions being taken. Go to: <https://www.dillon3.k12.sc.us/> and click on **Safe School Alert** to make a report.

Yearbooks on Sale

January 28, 2022 is the last day to order a yearbook with personalization. Any orders after that date cannot include icons or the student's name.

Spelling Bee

Latta Middle School recently hosted a Spelling Bee. Congratulations to the following students for winning their grade-level Spelling Bee: (left to right) Price Rouse, Dezmond Bethea, Daniel Jones, and Luke Huggins. These students competed against others in their grade level for multiple rounds to become the grade-level winners. Then, these four competed against each other to see who would become the Latta Middle School Spelling Bee winner. Congratulations to Price Rouse for not only competing in each phase of the bee, but also for becoming our new 2021-2022 LMS Spelling Bee winner. Each participant did well, and we are proud of all who studied and worked hard. Price will represent LMS at the Regional Spelling Bee at Francis Marion in February 2022.

Reading Tip

While we know that much reading is now digitized, the value of actually holding a book in hand cannot be matched by a device. Visit the library together and try to make it an event where you share some one-on-one time together where you both choose a couple of books. Quality time with your child cannot be matched!

Playing Sports

If any 7th or 8th grader is interested in trying out for a spring sport this year, you must have a physical on file and have passed your classes first semester. Any student in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade interested in playing sports in the fall of 2022 must have a passing average of 60 or higher at the end of this school year in order to participate. This is a high school league rule that we, at Latta Middle and Latta High School, must follow.

You must also have a physical on file in order to tryout or participate in any type of sport/workouts.

Positive Office Referrals

Shiv Parmar-Being Responsible
Jaelin Fore-Being His Best
Will Smith-Being His Best
Leah Herring-Being Her Best
Kaden Hyatt-Being His Best
Buvley Ibrahim-Being His Best
Miley Grainger-Being Her Best
Jayden Alford-Being His Best
Heath Mew-Being His Best
Adrian McDonald-Being His Best
Henry Miller-Being His Best
Josey Berry-Being Her Best
Ava Daniels-Being Her Best
Ace Schoettle-Being His Best
CJ Berry (6th)-Being His Best
Elijah Elliott-Being Respectful
Kei'Na Fore-Being His Best
Me'Lia Thompson-Being Respectful
Isis Bethea-Being Respectful
Savannah Powers-Being Respectful
Harley Seals-Being His Best
Camdyn Taylor-Being Responsible
Kamarie Cooper-Being Responsible
Dama'Jae Deberry-Being Responsible
Braidon Meza-Being Responsible
Josiah Durant-Being Respectful
Ally Weatherford-Being Her Best
Kylie Manning-Being Her Best
Ally Weatherford-Being Her Best
Crishawn Kollock-Being His Best
Rylan Hunt-Being Respectful



**Great job ladies and gentlemen!
Thank you for going above and
beyond what is expected!**