

LEO HIGH SCHOOL

CAREER MAJORS ACADEMY



Principal's Desk

I recently read results of the 49th annual Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools (2017). PDK is a professional association for educators. I would like to highlight some of the findings of the 49th Annual Phi Delta Kappa Poll.



- (1) The “percentage of Americans rating K-12 education quality at both the national and local levels – at an ‘A’ or ‘B’ is the highest it’s been since the 1980’s.” In grading public schools, 62% of parents gave public schools in the community an A or B, while 71% of parents gave their child’s school an A or B.
- (2) 76 percent of respondents indicated that “advanced academic classes are highly important.”
- (3) 80 percent of those polled “believe school should offer career skills and industry certificates or licensing courses in school.”
- (4) When asked the biggest problems facing public schools, lack of funding was the most common answer.
- (5) Respondents thought it was very important that schools offered classes in technology and engineering (82%), art and music (71%), and extracurricular activities (70%).

Academically, the 2016-2017 school year was an excellent year for Leo Junior/Senior High School. We experienced overall academic school success at all levels.

We saw a significant improvement on standardized test scores. Overall, the junior high school improved ISTEP+ scores at least 5 percentage points on math and language arts; and the 8th grade class achieved an 11% improvement on math scores. Even more impressive, our 7th grade language arts students had the highest ISTEP+ scores among public school students in Allen County and our 8th grade language arts students had the second highest scores. ISTEP+ scores at the high school level increased 2.5 percentage points in math and language arts. The high school also showed improvement on the 2016-2017 ACT in the areas of math, reading, science, and English. Leo High School ACT scores were above the national average.

Leo High School had three students qualify as Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Congratulations to Eric Fowerbaugh, Deborah Mitchell, James Swim and their families.

Indiana Department of Education should release school report cards soon. We eagerly await! We anticipate our third “A” letter grade in four years.

Academically, the 2016-2017 school year was truly an outstanding school year for Leo Junior/Senior High School!

Sincerely,

Dr. Neal Brown III

Spotlight on Academics



LANGUAGE ARTS

The Leo English department is excited about the new school year, and the faculty and students are already hard at work. This year our school is focused on the NWEA assessment in all classes in both junior high and high school. The NWEA provides a baseline assessment of each student's reading level, including categories of vocabulary development, fiction, and non-fiction comprehension. It's a useful tool to enhance differentiation in the classroom and meet students where they are educationally. Each student will take the NWEA three times, in the fall, in January, and toward the end of the school year, and faculty spends a substantial amount of time monitoring students' progress. Our goal is to modify instruction as needed in order to optimize each student's reading ability.

At the high school level, dual enrollment English classes are way up. The program, which is through Trine University, has gone from 25 students two years ago to 75 last year and nearly 120 this year. This program is rigorous, but offers students the opportunity to finish their junior year with six college credit hours. Leo currently has a higher percentage of students taking dual enrollment English courses than any high school in the area.

At the junior high level, Accelerated Reader (AR) is a significant part of the language arts curriculum. Students are expected to read multiple books each nine weeks and to complete AR tests and projects based on these books. Our goal is to build a strong reading fluency so that students can read independently and comprehend difficult texts at the high school level.

We also would like to welcome Mrs. Jenean Stuckey to the Leo language arts department. Mrs. Stuckey is teaching grades 7 and 9. She previously taught at New Haven High School. Mrs. Stuckey enjoys spending time with her four kids and her husband, and she stays busy with all of the sporting events in which they both attend and participate.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Special Education Department at Leo Junior/Senior High School is building upon its success from last year. Increased staffing has allowed for more services that will benefit all of our students in the subjects and content of Language Arts, Mathematics, and Life Skills. Character Development continues to be a central goal at the junior high level. We have chosen 10 character qualities (Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Compassion, Commitment, Integrity, Perseverance, Citizenship, Tolerance, and Accomplishment) that are taught, discussed, and reinforced throughout the year. Hopefully, these qualities will continue to shine once they are in high school.

Mark Your Calendar:

October 11 - PSAT

October 13 – 16 Fall Break

October 16 – FAFSA 6:00

**October 19 – Parent Teacher Conferences
3:30 – 8:00**

November 2-4 Fall Play 7:00

Guidance Department



Christi Smeltzley, Guidance Director – grades 11 & 12
Gary Rogers, Guidance Counselor – grades 9 & 10
Cary Cogdell, Guidance Counselor – grades 7 & 8



- PSAT testing for grades 10 and 11 will be on Wednesday, October 11. The test is free to all 10th and 11th graders (courtesy of the State of Indiana). Please direct any questions to Mrs. Smeltzley.
- The November 1st deadline for scholarship consideration is quickly approaching for seniors. If you have not completed your top four college applications, please do so as soon as possible. Remember, your procrastination does not constitute an emergency on anyone else's part to make sure things are done last minute... Please be responsible.
- ALL TRANSCRIPTS must be requested through Parchment.com. All seniors met with Mrs. Smeltzley to complete their Parchment registration. Paper transcripts will no longer be sent. If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Smeltzley.
- Jostens order day is Thursday, October 5th during the lunch mods. Any 9th grader wanting to order a class ring and all 12th graders ordering a cap/gown and/or graduation items will place orders in the auditoria. Please be prepared with your order information.
- FAFSA Meeting is on Monday, October 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the LHS Auditoria for any parents wanting assistance with completing the FAFSA. A college financial aid representative will discuss the FAFSA as well as federal and state aid.
- Family Summit 2017 – a day of speakers and support for families will be held at The Summit on the west side of Ft. Wayne near Foster Park on Saturday, October 14th from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Further information can be found by emailing info@thesummitfw.com

KEEP CALM AND LIVE YOUR DREAMS!!

Student Services

Absences / Appointments / College Visits / Vacation

- All absences must be called in to the attendance office. The number is 446-0186.
- Please make every effort to schedule appointments outside the school day. If a student must miss school for an appointment please provide documentation to the attendance office for the appointment upon the student's return.
- Juniors and seniors are allowed 2 college visit days. Parents should notify the attendance office on the day of the absence. Students must provide signed documentation from a university representative to verify the absence.
- We strongly discourage parents from taking students out of school for vacation, if a student must miss school for a family vacation please contact the attendance office for a vacation form. **Forms should be completed and submitted two weeks prior to the absence.**

Clinic

- If your student must take medication during school hours, the medicine must be checked in the clinic so the nurse can administer dosages. **STUDENTS WHO ARE ILL AND WISH TO GO HOME DURING THE DAY MUST BE SEEN BY THE SCHOOL NURSE IN THE CLINIC. STUDENTS WHO CONTACT THEIR PARENTS DIRECTLY AND ASKED TO BE PICKED UP FROM SCHOOL WILL BE COUNTED AS UNEXECUSED.**

Requesting Homework

- In the case of student absence that lasts at least three consecutive days, homework may be requested by calling the attendance office at 446-0180 ext. 7114. Parents are also encouraged to check a teacher's web page, assignments will be posted there. Homework may be picked up in the attendance office 24-hours after a request has been made.

Deliveries

- It is the policy of Leo Jr./Sr. that we will not deliver items to students unless the items are needed for class. Likewise, unless it is an emergency, we cannot deliver messages to students throughout the day.

Look What's Happening in the Library!



There has been a lot going on in the library! This year there are three new staff members in the library! Mr. Volkert is the new teacher/librarian. Mrs. Livingston is the new library assistant. Mrs. Anderson will be assisting in the library for several periods during the day. The entire library staff would like to welcome all parents, students, and staff to the library!