

The Charger Wire

April 1, 2026

Notes from Administration



Dear Lemman Families,
Sunshine, green grass, warm air, and the start of springtime activities for our students- things are looking brighter and busier in April! For our graduating eighth graders and our incoming sixth graders, the next two months will be full of events to celebrate our students. Please keep a close eye on messages sent from LMS. They will contain important information about the dates and times of a variety of activities. If you are looking for specific information about an event, you can also reference the calendar on our LMS

website.

Times of transition like this can bring on all sorts of emotions from our children. Excitement, anxiety, stress, anticipation, joy... all of these feelings are normal. However, if you feel that your child is experiencing emotions that make it hard for them to participate in their normal activities, we have a variety of resources available to support their needs. Please contact your student's counselor, social worker, or dean if your child needs help navigating their feelings. As always, we are here to help!

Sincerely,
Maggie Lay
Principal

Important Dates

Upcoming Important Dates

4/6: Return to School

4/7 + 4/8: 8th Grade Illinois Science Assessment

4/15: Spring Sports Photos

4/17: Spring Musical 6-8pm

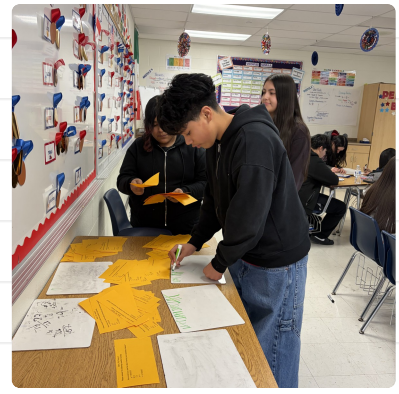
4/18: Spring Musical 2-4pm/6-8pm

4/20: Trimester 3 Midterm

4/25: ILMEA Mariachi Festival

4/28: D33 STEM Fair 5:30-7:30pm

5/4: NJHS Induction



Wear It Wednesday - April

Each week, our students and staff dress up for Wear It Wednesday.

Here are our themes for this month:

4/8 Autism Awareness Day- Wear blue

4/15: Culture Day- Wear your culture with pride!

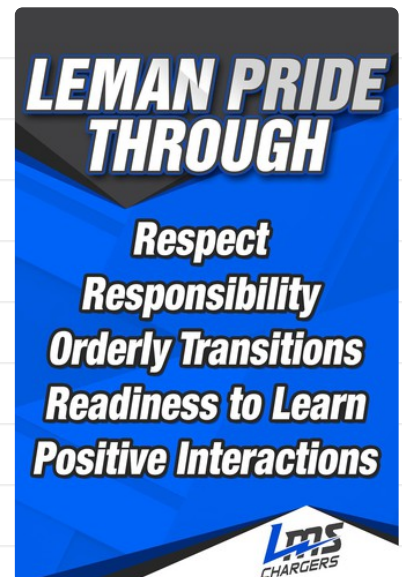
4/22: Earth Day- Wear blue or green

4/29: Music Day- Wear your favorite band or artist





The Lemman Values

Feeling safe, supported, and included at school is essential to student success. To help maintain our positive school culture, please remind your child to show positive interactions toward others every day. This includes keeping hands to themselves, and using appropriate language in the cafeteria, hallways, and classrooms.

Please encourage your child to practice the Lemman Values and talk with them about what those values look like in everyday situations. Thank you for partnering with us to keep our school welcoming for all students.



Leman School Values

	Looks Like... 	Sounds Like... 	Feels Like... 
Respect for Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking positively about ourselves and others • Accepting directions and instructions by taking ownership and assuming good intentions • Caring for our school building • Being mindful of others' physical space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using polite words • Speaking with positive intention and tone • Using appropriate CHAMPS voice level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Valued • Accepted • Belonging
Readiness to Learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being on time • Maximizing time • Being prepared with materials • Being focused and engaged • PIES (Equal Participation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using appropriate CHAMPS voice level • Engaged discussion • PIES (Simultaneous Interaction) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accomplishment • Safe • Hungry to learn
Orderly Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing and respecting physical space • Walking on the right side of the hallway • Being in your expected area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate CHAMPS voice level • School appropriate conversations • Friendly • Positive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calm • Safe • Routine • Respectful
Positive Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respecting verbal and nonverbal interactions • Complimenting others • Demonstrating patience with others • Smiling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kind words being exchanged • "Please and thank you" • Positive forms of communication • Greeting others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm and fuzzy • Appreciated • Valued • Pride and joy • Part of the team
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving and accepting feedback • Actively participating • Meeting deadlines • Being on time • Seeking help when needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I will try better next time" • "How can I improve?" • School appropriate conversations • Holding each other accountable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ownership • Self-Respect • You are listened to and heard

Exploratory Class Selection 2026-2027

Students will choose their exploratory classes at the end of April. Please take a moment to review the options that your child has for their grade level next year and make a plan for what your child will choose.

[6th graders entering 7th grade](#)

[7th graders entering 8th grade](#)

7th Grade Exploratory Course Selection

Each student has two Exploratory periods on their schedule. Students select their Exploratory classes in April during their Health/PE class. Students who are in Band/Orchestra/Choir, Mariachi, or Advanced Spanish will be enrolled in the next class in the sequence. Other classes like LIA or AVID may also be added to a child's schedule if they are accepted into those programs. Below are descriptions of the classes that students may select:

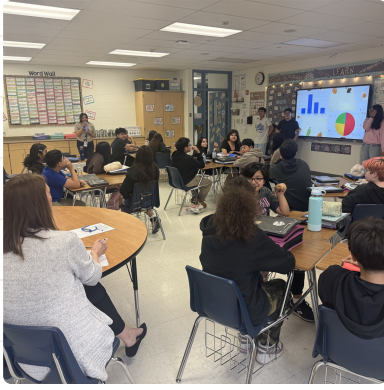
Trimester Pathway - Each course in this pathway is one trimester. Students take all three courses, one at a time, over a school year.		
<p>Drama: You will experience a variety of acting games, create improvised scenes, become new and exciting characters, and produce a play for a live audience. In Drama, we work together, imagine, create, and express ourselves in a safe and friendly environment. Your self-confidence will increase, and you will develop a new appreciation for the wonderful world of theater!</p>	<p>7th Grade Art: Picasso, Monet & Kahlo celebrated creative choice. Such choice abounds in 7th Grade Art! Students will plan and design 2-D and 3-D works of art using such materials as paint, pencils, charcoal, etc. Students will apply the elements and principles of art in designing both abstract and realistic works of art. Projects will culminate in critiques. There is a fee for this class.</p>	<p>STEM Foundations: Blend the words of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in a hands-on class that covers topics that prepare students for jobs in the real world! Explore topics like robotics, coding, bridge-building, and more!</p>
<p>Spanish 1A: This course is designed for students with no prior experience with the Spanish language. Spanish 1A is the first half of the high school's Spanish 1 course and teaches the fundamental skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish. Student-centered instruction promotes the development of oral language skills.</p>		
<p>National Civics: This is a year-long course that incorporates real-world problem-solving and leadership development at the national level. Students learn what it means to be an engaged citizen and will work with their classmates to identify needs in the United States, then design strategies to address those needs.</p>		
<p>Choir: Students will study vocal performance and a variety of music styles, proper technique, and music reading skills. Students may participate in one other ensemble during the same class period (band or orchestra). All music ensembles will have 2-4 required evening performances each year, and an additional fee is associated with this class.</p>		
<p>AVID: AVID Stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination and is a course placement that students must be recommended for by their teachers. The college- and career-readiness class teaches writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading strategies that help students achieve in their other classes, as well as organizational strategies and notetaking skills that will make them successful in high school and college.</p>		
<p>Latinos in Action: Latinos in Action is a course placement that students must be recommended for by their teachers. This is a leadership skills course that focuses on goal-setting and skill-building in school leadership. It offers the opportunity for students to tutor elementary-aged students, as well as to put on school events.</p>		

8th Grade Exploratory Course Selection

Each student has two Exploratory periods on their schedule. Students select their Exploratory classes in April during their Health/PE class. Students who are in Band/Orchestra/Choir, Mariachi, AVID, LIA, Advanced Spanish, and Spanish 1 will be enrolled in the next class in the sequence. Other classes like LIA or AVID may also be added to a child's schedule if they are accepted into those programs. Below are descriptions of the classes that students may select:

Trimester Pathway: Each course in this pathway is one trimester in length. Students take all three courses, one at a time, over a school year.		
<p>Media Production: Do you have a story you would like to tell? Do you like creating video, sounds, and music? Media Production will help you tell your story to a larger audience. You will explore interview techniques, remote recording and digital audio recording, editing of sound, mixing, and final production for broadcast. You will also learn the basics of video production: pre-production, production, and post-production.</p>	<p>8th Grade Art: Have you ever wanted to explore the expansive world of sculpture, or to use clay to create a piece of artwork? In this course, the artist will utilize a variety of 2-D and 3-D techniques and mediums. The artist will gain skills in quality craftsmanship relative to the three-dimensional process and view works from contemporary artists from many different walks of life.</p>	<p>Tecnología Creativa: ¿Te gustan los videojuegos? ¿Qué tal el diseño gráfico? ¡Esta clase trata sobre cómo utilizar tu creatividad con la tecnología! Utilizarás GameMaker 2 —un software de nivel profesional— para programar tus propios videojuegos. Aprenderás a pensar como un diseñador de juegos y a crear el tipo de videojuegos que tú elijas. También crearás sitios web sobre temas que te apasionen. Emplearás diversas herramientas de creación de sitios web, además de utilizar HTML y CSS para programar.</p>
<p>Choir: Students will study vocal performance and a variety of music styles, proper technique, and music reading skills. Students may participate in one other ensemble during the same class period (band or orchestra). All music ensembles will have 2-4 required evening performances each year, and an additional fee is associated with this class.</p>		
<p>International Civics: This is a year-long course that incorporates real-world problem-solving and leadership development at the global level. Students will work with their classmates and teacher to identify needs in the world, then design and implement strategies to address those needs.</p>		
<p>Spanish 1B: This course is designed for students with no prior experience with the Spanish language. Spanish 1B is the second half of the high school's Spanish 1 course and teaches the fundamental skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish. Student-centered instruction promotes the development of oral language skills. Students must take Spanish 1A in 7th grade in order to place into Spanish 1B.</p>		
<p>AVID: AVID Stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination and is a course placement that students must be recommended for by their teachers. The college- and career-readiness class teaches writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading strategies that help students achieve in their other classes, as well as organizational strategies and notetaking skills that will make them successful in high school and college.</p>		
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Curriculum Highlight: Voice of the School



Seventh-grade math students researched and developed proposals for changes they would like to see at Leman. Each student group calculated costs, planned logistics, and identified who would be responsible for implementation. They created a survey to measure teacher and student support, analyzed the responses, and used the results to refine their proposals. Finally, students presented their pitches to teachers.

A few groups will meet with Mrs. Lay to advocate for implementing some of these ideas next year. We are proud of our students' practical use of math, research, and communication skills!

WICOR

At LMS, we have been successfully implementing WICOR strategies across all content areas for the past two years. WICOR stands for:

- **Writing**
- **Inquiry**
- **Collaboration**
- **Organization**
- **Reading**

Each area of WICOR is supported by a building-wide strategy. We will go over a different strategy each month to share and demonstrate how these strategies are being utilized at LMS.



Organization: This year, each student was provided with a binder with dividers to help them keep papers organized by class, as well as a student planner. They are encouraged to write down assignments, due dates, and other important information each week. We are supporting students as they build organization habits that will serve them in high school and beyond.

Congratulations, Leman Leaders!

In March, our Leman Leaders award was presented to students who showed the Leman Value of Respect. Congratulations to Jatziry, Jayden, and Sebastian!



Instructional Coach Corner

Science and Social Studies Community Connections

Science and Social Studies are all around us, and our community provides a variety of options to support families in exploring these topics through museums, parks, and activities. As the weather gets nicer and you are looking for some fun and free or inexpensive ways to spend time as a family, there are many opportunities in surrounding areas that families can enjoy.

Check out the document below for just a few resources that families can explore if you are looking for ways to help your student spark their curiosity with science and develop their understanding of history and our place in the world.



Science and Social Studies Community Connections.pdf

Download
1.2 MB



Leman Middle School

www.wego33.org