



Mrs. Houston's Monday Memo

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The Five C's...

#AUHSDPUTSKIDSFIRST



by **Amber Houston** on September 11, 2017

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We teach and foster more than academics here at Lexington Junior High School. There is something we call the five C's: Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking, and Character. We deliver the curriculum and standards through these activities, strategies and methods producing well rounded young people that can take what they learn and apply it the anything in the real world. We want our students to think for themselves, form meanings of the things around them and help create cool new things for this world! The days of bubbling in scantrons and teaching to the test is over---now is the era of project based learning, engagement and relevancy! Although SBAC scores and other standardized tests are important, they are one way to measure proficiency. Our district offers so many opportunities for kids to shine. Here are Lexington our vision is: Communication, Ownership and Relevancy. Our lessons and efforts are put into ensuring your student walks away excelling in these areas. We want to grow students that give back and help the world they live in. At Back to School Night you saw a video on the Anaheim Educational Pledge- our district assures opportunities for all our students. So get involved, stay tuned for more details on this later this month!

THIS WEEK'S TOP STORIES

Learning Walks

Something very cool that we do here in AUHSD are Learning Walks. We started off doing them with teachers as a way for them to see what others are doing in their classrooms on campus, and reflect on their own craft. We have extended it out to parents too! We had very successful walks last year and are extending that invitation out to parents again! It is from 9-12pm, and you will get a behind the scenes presentation on our learning objectives at Lexington and also visit over 10 classrooms to see your students and teachers in action. If you are interested in this opportunity-please contact Mrs. Bernhard our Lesson Design Coach and Math teacher. Bernhard_a@auhsd.us.

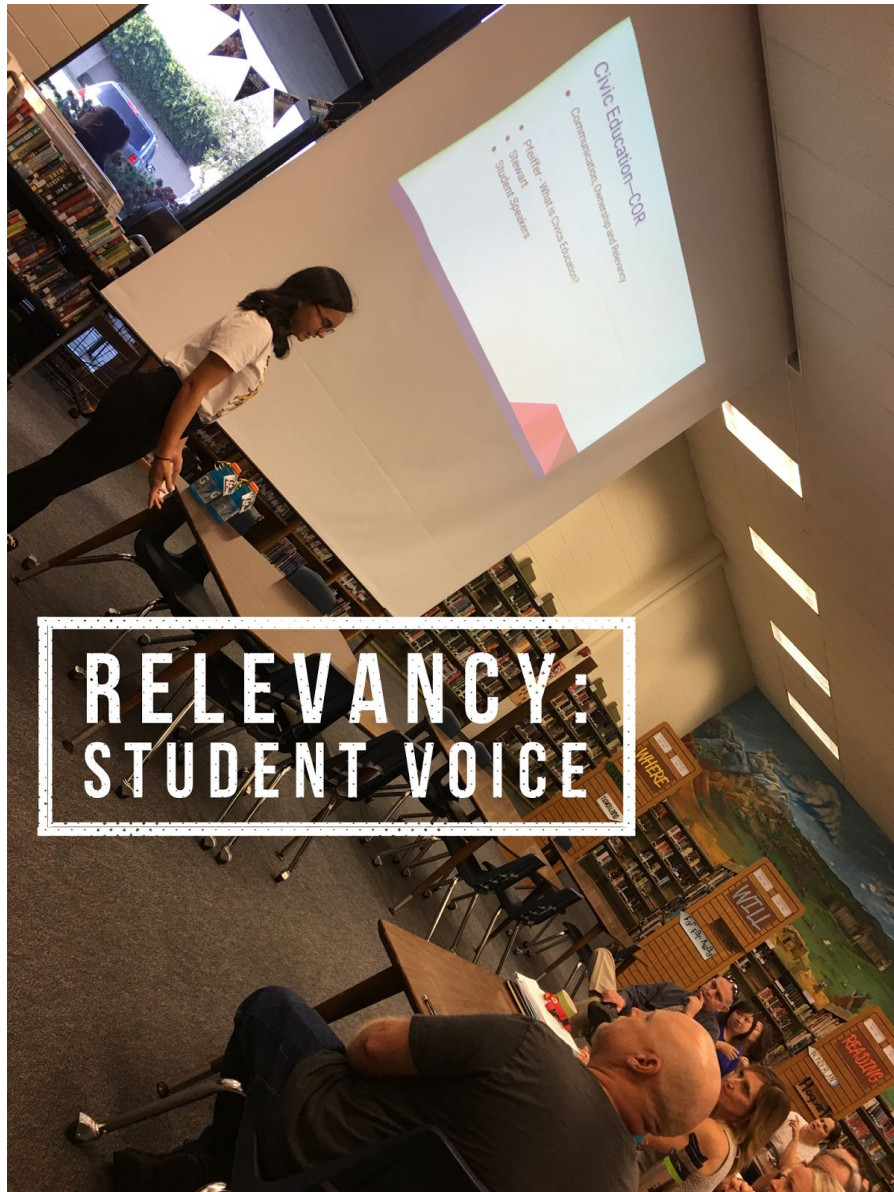
Arabic Learning Walk is scheduled for Sept. 12, 2017 sign up today!

Late Start Tuesdays

When students are sleeping in on Tuesdays---our teachers are hard at work. This past Tuesday our teachers participated in a professional development focusing on

knowing our students, civic education and communication tools. We actually had a couple students present to our teachers on a cross curricular project and it's meaning to them! What better way to reflect on a lesson then have student voice! It is our belief that we are always reflecting on our craft and performance to always grow as educators and people. This coming Tuesday, teachers will be in their department PLC's (Professional Learning Communities) looking at student work, reflecting on lessons and designing units.





RELEVANCY: STUDENT VOICE

COFFEE CHAT: COMMUNICATION

Our new FaCES (Family and Community Engagement Specialist). Jonathan Barba presented to our parents on the importance of communication and staying connected with the school. He highlighted Aeries, Aeries loop, Remind, Grade Pop and more! He assisted parents one-on-one to get connected! If you are to ever to need assistance with this, please do not hesitate to contact him at barba_j@auhsd.us. He is at Lexington Wednesday and Fridays (alternate Mondays) as we share him with Cypress High School.



SPEECH AND DEBATE

Did you know that Lexington has a Speech and Debate Club? This club meets all year and competes in actual tournaments in spring. Mrs. Heck is the 7th grade Speech teacher in our elective wheel, but she also hosts the Speech and Debate Club that meets Tuesdays, 2:30-4:00pm. Cypress High School debate team comes over to teach and mentor our junior high students going over different types of debate including: impromptu, dramatic and duo interpretations, parliamentary debate, Lincoln Douglas debate, public forum. They also do fun speech games and activities to help with public speaking.



PE/ATHLETICS

FITNESSGRAM IS HERE!

The Lexington 7th grade PE students are just finishing up their PFT Pre-Testing called FITNESSGRAM. The main goal of the test is to help students in starting life-long habits of regular physical activity. The pre-tests are used to find the starting point for each of our students and are not graded. Once the tests are complete, students will use an online site called WELNET to create goals among other things, using the scores they received on their initial tests.

The test has six parts which include Aerobic Capacity, Abdominal Strength and Endurance, Upper Body Strength and Endurance, Body Composition and Flexibility. A combination of tests are used to measure each of these areas which include the PACER, One-Mile Run, Curl-up, Push-Up, Height, Weight, Trunk Lift, Back-Saver Sit and Reach, and Shoulder Stretch.

FITNESSGRAM PRE-TESTING



THE arts

Band

We have had great parent communication, with over 150 parents in attendance at our annual band parent orientation meeting, and we will have our first Band Booster meeting tonight.

We continue to encourage student ownership of their program through student leadership - Advanced Band recently elected their student officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian) who take care of much of the functional work of operating class daily, and these officers are currently collecting applications from other students who want to be "section leaders" - leaders of each independent group of instruments within the band. Together, this leadership team helps set the tone for daily rehearsals, and provides an effective chain of command for student-led problem solving in our class.

Something new we're instituting this year is our weekly "Lion Pride" recognition. Students may submit the name of any band member who has exhibited qualities showing they take pride in their work and our program (we have a box to collect the names by the door). The student with the most entries each week (or one selected from many single entries) gets to use our only "Lexington Blue" Lion Pride music stand that week.

Our band program continues to be leading the way for other programs. The book that our Advanced band uses daily for technique development, "Great Beginnings", is now being used by over 50 band programs nationally, and was written by me as one of my final masters projects. Our beginning band text, "Notes, Drills, and Tunes" is almost complete in its third revision, and is being trialed by several other programs in California and other states. Our unofficial march, "The Lion Tamer", is going to be one of the selections featured by the Jr. High All-District Band at this year's AUHSD Band & Pageantry Spectacular.

Upcoming performances include our football game night with CHS on October 21, the AUHSD Band & Pageantry Spectacular on November 1, and our Fall concert on November 16.



Drama

Drama 2 is now in rehearsals for the winter show "Hoodie" a comedy about life at school and Stagecraft is designing the set. Stay tuned for show dates!
Drama 1 is starting reader's theatre.



Choir

Our program is already underway warming up for their first concert! I cannot wait to hear those awesome voices! Stay tuned for show dates!



Dance

Here is a quick snapshot of students learning different moves and technique. Who needs a dance studio when you have Ms. Stewart! Did you know that we are the only junior high school with a dance program! Yep! #Lexisbest@everything




Visual Arts

Mr. Coombs was schooling your kids on some classic art films this past week---The Matrix was his favorite. It was awesome to hear how you can connect the creativity, the vision and the art to real life things. I love it! I cannot wait to see the final products!



ATTENDANCE awareness month

We will be starting Saturday Academies in September. **September 16th** will be our first opportunity. Anyone can attend, and it makes up for one excused absence. There is a sample ticket that will be available and sent home with your student the week before we will have one. There will also be blank tickets in the Attendance office for pick up! This is a great way to gain back an absence or attend for academic enrichment! We have certified teachers leading these enrichment days from 8-12 noon. Stay tuned!



Learning With Purpose
ANDREW
LINCOLN
HIGH
SCHOOL
DISTRICT
College and Career Ready

Pay Attention to Attendance: Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

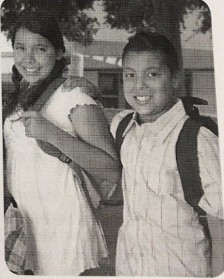
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

Help your teen stay engaged


- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.



www.attendanceworks.org
Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence



We are BRINGING COLOR TO THE RUN **#Funrun2017**

FunRun has been changed to Friday, October 13th this year because it will be a COLOR run! We would like to thank you for all the donations we received at registration! But, we still have a long way to go! At Lexington, we do one annual fundraiser for the entire year that is so much fun and raises funds that go directly back to our students and classrooms! We welcome any donations, time and volunteerism for this fun and out of this world event!

Stay tuned there will be tons of information coming very soon!



Upcoming Student Activities & Reminders

ATHLETICS

- 1st quarter sports: Boys, Flag Football, Tennis. Girls, Volleyball. Practices have started after school until 4:00pm.

VAPA

- NA

MISC.

- Make-up ID/School pictures: 9/12 in PE classes.
- College shirts every MONDAY and Lexington spirit gear every FRIDAY.

Upcoming Parent Information & Events

- **Late Start-EVERY Tuesday.**
- **DRESS CODE:** Friendly reminder and clarification. No leggings (only if a shirt, dress, tunic or shorts are worn over them-length must be as long as the bottom of your students' finger tips if arms at side), no ripped/torn jeans, no shoulder exposure or tank tops.
- Homework club after school daily!
- ASI (After School Intervention) is in full force!
- PTSA Spiritwear: has arrived! Make sure your student picks it up!
- **The Boys and Girls Club of Cypress** has an after school program with transportation to/from Lexington. Check it out! 714-527-2697
- Parents-don't be alarmed if you see "dropped gradebook" it is all okay.

Dropped Gradebooks														
Details	Math 1 Honors	Fall Semester	2	Mc Iver, S.	0.00	F		2	-	-	-	-	Aug 23	Dropped 08/18/2017
Details	PE-7	Fall Semester	5	Elliott, D.	100.00	A+		0	-	-	-	-	Aug 14	Dropped 08/18/2017
Details	Wrlld Hist/Geo H	Fall Semester	7	Rice, G.	96.00	A		0	-	-	-	-	Aug 23	Dropped 08/18/2017



Lunch With A Lion

On Wednesday, Sept. 13th, we will have our annual lunch with a lion. At the event, you get to bring your child lunch and enjoy a great meal with them on the back field.

Our ASB department will be playing music, selling snacks and having fun raffle games.

If you are interested in coming, please fill out this form and return it to the main office by Sept. 11th. Each family member coming on campus will receive a bracelet for the event. If a person

Event: Lunch with a Lion
(your student)

Date and Time: Sept. 13th at
11:35 to 12:25

Items to Bring: Lunch for you and your
child, something to sit on and shade if needed.

Child's Name _____

Child's 5th Period Teacher _____

Parent's Name _____

Number of family members besides
student _____

**RETURN TO THE MAIN OFFICE BY Sept. 11th,
2017**

parking

on Field

Lexington Junior High School PTSA
4351 Orange Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630



Attention Lexington Students:

**It's time to enter this year's PTA Reflections Art Program!
Categories include: Dance Choreography, Film Production,
Photography, Literature, Music, and Visual Arts.**

Attached please find 1) the 'Official Rules' including specific requirements for all categories and 2) the 'Entry Form.'

★ The rules have been simplified on the "Official Rules" pages so there are no longer specific category rule pages nor is there a participation consent form this year.

Follow all rules, complete, and sign an entry form for each entry. Yes, you may submit as many entries in as many categories as you want!

All entries must be turned into the Lexington Main Office between Monday, September 11, and Friday, September 15. No entries will be accepted after September 15!

All participants will receive a certificate of recognition and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons will be awarded. All 1st place entries will move onto the Anaheim Secondary Council competition. A Reflections Art Gallery and Reception to showcase all entries will be held on Thursday, October 19, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Cypress High School Media Center. Please attend!

Contact me if you have questions.

Be creative and have fun!

Judy Kraemer, PTSA Reflections Chairperson

Jkraemer99@icloud.com (714) 606-8704

Homework Club

When: Monday-Thursday 2:30-3:30

Where: Library

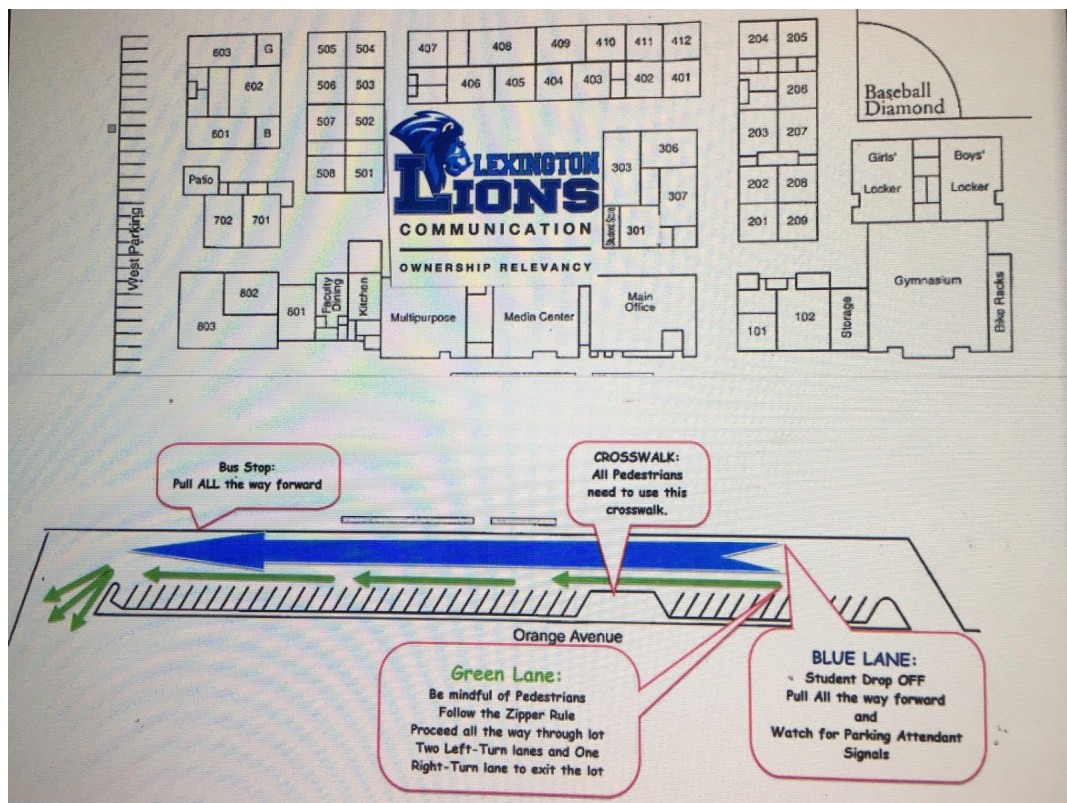


- Need a quiet place to study?
- Do you need some help with a homework assignment or class project?
- Homework Club is available (for FREE!!!) to all students.
- A teacher is available to help each day.
- Students do not need to stay for the entire hour but will need to check in and out.

**** College and Career Ready--See you there Lions! ****



- There are two lanes that enter our parking lot from two directions on Orange Avenue.
- You may NOT drop your student from the left lane. This is very dangerous to your student's safety of moving cars in the right lane.
- Please do not walk around campus or sit in front of school while waiting for your student.
- You cannot park/stop on Orange to pick up or drop off your student.
- Pull all the way down to pick up your student.



Community Announcements:

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF CYPRESS

Join us for fun & affordable

Monday-Friday 2:00-6:30pm

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Our Club programs offer:

- Health & Life Skills
- Daily Homework Help
- Sports, Fitness & Recreation
- STEAM Enrichment
- Character Development

(714) 527-2697 | 10161 Moody Street, CA 90630

www.bgccypress.org

Follow Us on:

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF CYPRESS

10161 Moody Street
Cypress, CA 90630
Tel: 714-527-2697
Fax: 714-527-2693
mari.gomez@bgccypress.org
www.bgccypress.org

Mari Gomez
Teen Director

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

the CLUB FOR TEENS

Join our teen program for the 2016-17 School Year!

- Career Development
- Homework Help
- STEAM Clubs and Classes
- Leadership Opportunities
- Community Excursions
- Club & Community Service

For more information, call 714-527-2697 or email membership@bgccypress.org

Scholarships available for military and qualifying families

Transportation available from Lexington Jr. High for \$140/month (monthly program fee is waived if taking Club transportation)

Located at 10161 Moody St. in Cypress

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF CYPRESS

FREE Online Tutoring & Homework Help

HelpNow! is an online resource that provides:

- Live tutoring from an expert tutor
- Expert writing assistance
- Skills building with lessons, videos, tests, and more
- Help with foreign languages
- Flashcards, tests, and games for studying

Live tutors are available Monday-Sunday 1:00 PM-10:00 PM
<http://main.buenapark.ca.brainfuse.com/authenticate.asp?>

Buena Park Library Resources
http://buenapark.lib.ca.us/online_databases.php

Includes:

- Public libraries for articles, essays, and documents
- Social Studies Fact Cards for Grades 4-8
- NovelList Plus for finding books to read
- Tuition Funding Sources to help students find scholarships and college and career information
- Points of View to help students develop their analytical thinking

Khan Academy
<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Includes:

- Free online classes for Math, Science & Engineering, Computing, Arts & Humanities, and Economics & Finance
- 6 full SAT tests with test taking tips for FREE
- College admission help

Crash Course
<https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse>

These are YouTube videos that make learning fun and easy! They help students learn concepts by using visuals and examples.

- Anatomy & Physiology, Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Ecology, Economics, Government & Politics, Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, Intellectual Property, Literature, US History, World History, Big History, and Games



Ms. Ana is our day custodian. She has been keeping our campus looking sharp! On behalf of the Lexington staff, thank you Ana for always working hard, and always being so helpful! Without you, we would literally be a mess!

Communication Ownership Relevancy

[Check out more information on our website!](#)



Lexington Junior High School

4351 Orange Ave., Cypress, CA 90630