

# **District Handbook**

2023-2024 School Year

# Lynden, Washington

Lynden School District No. 504

Para una versión española del Manual del Distrito, por favor visite su oficina de la escuela.

Ika pajābī la'ī -disaţrikaţa haiṇḍabuka dā sasa- karaṇa, kirapā karakē āpaṇē sakūla dē dafatara vica jā'ō

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### **Administration**

516 Main Street, Lynden, WA 98264 Phone: (360) 354-4443; Fax: (360) 354-7662

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning .......Julie van Wijk Director of Human Resources & Academic Services.......Molly Mitchell Director of Student Services ......Tim Metz Director of Special Education......Rebecca Morgan Director of Finance & Operations......Ben Thomas Technology Director ...... Mark Brossow Facilities Director ......Kevin Burke Accounts Payable ......Heather Lenssen Student Data System Specialist...... Kim Olson Administrative Assistant...... Kelly Hoekstra Payroll & Benefits Specialist ......Julie Brossow Human Resource Specialist.....Suzie Graddon 

Office Hours Monday – Friday 7:30am - 4:00pm

Website: www.lynden.wednet.edu

### **Board of Directors**

The Lynden School District Board of Directors typically meets at 7:00pm on the second and fourth Thursday of each month with a few exceptions. Agendas are posted on the website before each meeting, and the meeting location is noted on each agenda. These meetings are open to the public.

Board members are volunteers elected at large to four-year terms by the voting public.

Current board members are:

CJ Costanti, President Position No. 1; Term expires 2023	CostantiC@lynden.wednet.edu
Cindy Petersen, Director Position No. 2; Term expires 2023	PetersenC@lynden.wednet.edu
David Vis, Vice President Position No. 3; Term expires 2023	VisDa@lynden.wednet.edu
Tonya Hickman, Director Position No. 4; Term expires 2025	HickmanT@lynden.wednet.edu
•	OwsleyK@lynden.wednet.edu
Position No. 5; Term expires 2023	

### 2023-2024 School Calendar



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Aug 28 - 29	No School - Teacher Work Days
Aug 30	No School - Waiver Day
Aug 31	First Day of School for Students 1-12
Sep 4	No School - Labor Day
Sep 6	First Day of School & Early Release for K & TK
Oct 5 - 6	Early Release 6-8 - Conferences
Oct 9	No School - Waiver Day
Nov 9	No School - Professional Learning Day
Nov 10	No School - Veteran's Day
Nov 16 - 21	Early Release for K-5 - Conferences
Nov 22	Early Release P-12
Nov 23 - 24	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 18 - Ja	n 1 Winter Break
Jan 15	No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 26	No School - Professional Learning Day
Feb 19	No School - Presidents' Day
Feb 29- Ma	r 1 No School - Mid Winter Break
Mar 11	No School - Waiver Day
Apr 1 - 5	No School - Spring Break
Apr 15	Early Release for 6-8 - Conferences
May 17	No School - Waiver Day
May 27	No School - Memorial Day
Jun 7	High School Graduation
Jun 13	Early Release P-12 - Last Day of School
Jun 14-18	No School- Weather Make Up Days if needed
Jun 19	No School - Juneteenth
Jun 20-21	No School- Weather Make Up Days if needed

The calendar, as reflected here, is subject to ratification by the Lynden SD Board of Directors and the LEA membership. Current negotiations may result in changes specifically, but not conclusively, relating to where Professional Learning Day and Waiver Days are placed.

School Board Approved April 13, 2023

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September 6th, 13th,						
November 22nd,						
November 22nd,						

June 5th, and June 12th

No School- Teacher Work Day
No School- Waiver Day
First/Last Day of School
No School- Break
LHS Graduation

No School- Holiday Early Release for Grades Noted Early Release- All Grades Weather Make-Up Day

# **Bernice Vossbeck Elementary**

1301 Bridgeview Drive, Lynden WA 98264 Phone: (360) 354-0488; Fax: (360) 318-8318

'	'
Principal	Rex Fraser
Dean of Students	Tawnee Parcher
Counselor	Tanya Robinson
Secretary	Marilyn Weeks
Secretary	Kristen Brown
Secretary	Michelle McIlvoy
Librarian	TBD
Head Custodian	Mason Wauda
Evening Custodian	Mark Selcho
Head Cook	Wendy Nielson

# **Fisher Elementary**

501 N. 14th Street, Lynden, WA 98264

Phone: (360) 354-4291; Fax: (360) 354-0952

Principal	Mandy Jessee
Dean of Students	Dena Riccobene
Counselor	Tausha Caldarella
Secretary	Wendy Kuplent
Secretary	Cindy Huaracha
Secretary	Megan Vopnford
Librarian	Kesley Stauffer
Head Custodian	Keith Pine
Evening Custodian	Evilia Lopez-Villa
Head Cook	Tara Stauffer

# **Isom Elementary**

8461 Benson Road, Lynden, WA 98264 Phone: (360) 354-1992; Fax: (360) 354-5494

, ,	
Principal	Tim Doering
Dean of Students	Jennifer Vachon
Counselor	Elizabeth Grant
Secretary	Kathy Kerven
Secretary	Megan Mather
Librarian	Lori Hortegas
Head Custodian	Derrick Jones
Evening Custodian	Jim Young
Head Cook	Marge Roberts

### Daily Schedule\*

 Classes Start
 8:55am

 Late Start Wednesdays
 9:55am

 K-1 Lunch/Recess
 11:05-11:50

 2-3 Lunch/Recess
 11:35-12:15

 4-5 Lunch/Recess
 12:10-12:50

 Students Dismissed
 3:05pm

Conference & Early Dismissal 12:05pm Office Hours: 7:30am – 4:00pm

### Daily Schedule\*

Classes Start	8:55am
Late Start Wednesdays	9:55am
K-1 Lunch/Recess	11:30-12:10
2-3 Lunch/Recess	12:00-12:40
4-5 Lunch/Recess	12:30-1:10
Students Dismissed	3:05pm

Conference & Early Dismissal 12:05pm Office Hours: 7:30am – 4:00pm

### Daily Schedule\*

Classes Start	8:55am
Late Start Wednesdays	9:55am
K-1 Lunch/Recess	12:00-12:50
2-3 Lunch/Recess	11:45-12:25
4-5 Lunch/Recess	11:20-12:00
Students Dismissed	3:05pm

Conference & Early Dismissal 12:05pm Office Hours: 7:30am – 4:00pm

<sup>\*</sup>Lunch/Recess schedule may be subject to change

# **Lynden Middle School**

8750 Line Rd., Lynden, WA 98264 Phone: (360) 354-2952; Fax: (360) 354-6631

Principal	
Dean of Students	•
Counselor	
Counselor	Coral Bartlett
Secretary	Shelli Joss
Secretary	Kelli Baar
Secretary	
Librarian	
Head Custodian	Larrin Weidenaar
Evening Custodian	Edgardo Serrano
Evening Custodian	Gracie Sotelo-Herrera
Evening Custodian	Ed Peacock
Head Cook	Melissa Fritz

# **Lynden High School**

1201 Bradley Road, Lynden, WA 98264 Phone: (360) 354-4401; Fax: (360) 354-0991

Principal	Ian Froeman
Assistant Principal	
Assistant Principal	Nicolette Rinker
Athletic Director	
CTE Director	Kent Victor
Counselor	Chris Elsner
Counselor	
Counselor	
Librarian	Aimee Minckler
Secretary	Diane Marsh
Secretary	Alicia Blankers
Attendance Secretary	Esther Kimber
Athletics/ASB Secretary	Glenda Johnston
Registrar	
Head Custodian	Michael Sacks
Evening Custodian	Oskar Toften
Evening Custodian	Peter Trubnikov
Evening Custodian	
Head Cook	

### **LMS Daily Schedule**

Classes Start 7:40am Late Start Wednesdays 8:40am Students Dismissed 2:00pm

### 6th Grade Schedule:

AM Core	7:40-9:32
Elective	9:36-10:30
AM Core	10:34-11:00
Lunch	11:00-11:30
PM Core	11:34-2:00

### 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedule:

1st Period	7:40-8:34
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	8:38-9:32
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	9:36-10:30
4 <sup>th</sup> Period (7)	11:04-11:58
Lunch (7)	10:30-11:00
4 <sup>th</sup> Period (8)	10:34-11:28
Lunch (8)	11:30-12:00
5 <sup>th</sup> Period	12:04-1:00
6th Period	1:04-2:00

Conference & Early Dismissal 11:00am Office Hours: 7:00am – 3:30pm

### **LHS Daily Schedule**

Classes Start 7:50am Late Start Wednesdays 8:50am Students Dismissed 2:15pm

### Regular Schedule:

1st Lunch	10:45-11:15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch	11.45-12.15

### Wednesday Schedule:

1st Lunch	. 11:30-12:00
2nd Lunch	12.15-12.45

Early Dismissal 10:45pm Office Hours: 7:00am – 3:30pm

# **Lynden Academy**

1986 Main St., Ste. A, Lynden, WA 98264 Phone: (360) 354-6675 Fax: (360) 354-3510

Principal	Ellie Meenk
Secretary	Wendy Neff
Secretary	Heidi Telling
Secretary	Sara Roulson

### **Daily Schedule**

Classes Start 8:30am Late Start Fridays 9:30am

Conference & Early Dismissal- 12:05pm Office Hours: 8:30am - 2:30pm

The Lynden Academy program is designed to provide families of Grade K–12 students the opportunity to combine aspects of home-based learning in partnership with the Lynden public schools. Students are enrolled in the Lynden School District and are given the opportunity to enroll in a variety of classes and workshops, which support and supplement home based learning. Enrolled families meet on a predetermined, regular basis with an experienced educator/advisor. This advisor is knowledgeable in home-based instruction, setting goals, developing objectives, suggesting alternatives, recommending resources, and assessing progress. Advisors and families work together to ensure students achieve a successful and rewarding educational experience.

The Lynden Academy program is an alternative learning experience program authorized through the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 392-121-182. An Application for Non-Resident Admission form is required for each student that is not a resident of the Lynden School District. Enrolled students have access to co-curricular and other programs and services in the Lynden School District.

#### **Home Connect**

Home Connect is a stand-alone program under the purview of Lynden Academy where parents serve as the primary educator and home is the classroom. The program provides a flexible option to families and students who wish to look outside of a traditional school setting. Certificated teachers partner with families to answer questions, address problems, and go over curriculum as needed. Teachers provide support through weekly check-ins with students. The program is open to students in Kindergarten through high school. Students who graduate from the Home Connect program earn a diploma through Lynden Academy. Students enrolled in Lynden Academy are also welcome to be involved and participate in the district's extra-curricular activities. For more information on Home Connect, please contact Lynden Academy at the phone number above.

## **Programs and Services**

# **Early Learning**

### **Lynden Preschool Program**

The Lynden School District Integrated Preschool Program serves children ages three through five who meet qualifying criteria under state and federal guidelines. Non-qualifying students are integrated with qualified children as peer role models. The focus of the preschool program is to develop the knowledge and skills to be successful in the regular classroom, development of strategies and tools to help compensate for existing disabilities, and development of age-appropriate daily living skills to foster independence and self-reliance.

To make a referral, inquire about your child being a peer student, or for additional information regarding the preschool program, please contact the Preschool Office at (360) 354-4443.

### Launch Transitional Kindergarten

Launch TK is a free, full day, five days a week, transitional kindergarten program for children who will turn 4 between September 1, 2023 and August 31, 2024. The program focuses on basic academic and social skills to help qualifying students get a jump start towards success in school. Students must reside within Lynden School District boundaries and enter based on need and/or ability such as financial, academic, and social-emotional needs and cannot be currently enrolled in another early learning program. Launch programs are located in the neighborhood schools of Bernice Vossbeck Elementary, Fisher Elementary, and Isom Elementary schools. If you have questions, please call the district office at (360) 354-4443.

# **Community Transitions**

Supervising Teacher: Kristen Bock 516 Main Street, Lynden, WA 98264

Phone: (360) 354-4443

The Lynden School District Community Transitions Program, located at the Main Street Campus, serves students ages eighteen through twenty-one who meet qualifying criteria under state and federal guidelines. The goal of this program is to prepare young adults for success on the job and in the community by providing students access to community work experience, career training and on-site supervised job coaching.

### Migrant/Bilingual Program

Administrator: Tim Metz Home Visitor: Teresa Mata Records Clerk: Connie Hernandez

Office: 516 Main Street, Lynden, WA 98264 Phone:

(360) 354-4443

Throughout the school year, Lynden School District serves both bilingual and migrant students. The district provides assistance to these students through the Migrant Education Program for children of seasonal farmworkers and the State Bilingual Program for children whose home language is not English. Services involve English as second language (ESL) classes and/or tutoring as well as emphasis on maintaining academic skills and credit accrual between districts.

If you fit either of these categories or know someone who may be eligible for these services, contact the Migrant/Bilingual Office at 360-354-4443.

## **Special Education**

Administrator: Rebecca Morgan 516 Main Street, Lynden, WA 98264

Phone: (360) 354-4443; Fax: (360) 354-7662

Secretary	Trina Gardner
School Psychologist	Robin Kaufman-Latham
School Psychologist	Elizabeth Jorgensen
School Psychologist	James Scarborough
School Psychologist	Kelly Lam-Scholten

The Lynden School District Special Education Program serves students between the ages of three and twenty-one who are identified under the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The district also partners with the Whatcom County Opportunity Council to provide services to qualified children ages birth to three. Special education services include individualized, specially designed instruction in academic, self-help, communication, motor, vocational and social skill areas. Individual Education Programs (IEP) are developed at least annually and include goals and objectives written for each student based on the results of formal and informal testing and observations. The Lynden School District special education staff includes special education teachers, school psychologists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and educational assistants. As specified in federal and state law, students with disabilities are served in the least restrictive environment to the maximum extent possible.

### Child Find Recruitment & Identification

Students in need of special education services may be brought to the attention of the school district by parents, childcare providers, educational staff, community agencies, or other concerned individuals. If you suspect that your child may need special services, or would like additional information regarding our programs, please contact the Lynden School District Special Education Office at 360-354-4443.

# **Family Community Services**

Family Services Coordinator: Margaret Vailencour Family Services Coordinator: Anna Hernandez Migrant Records Clerk: Connie Hernandez 516 Main Street, Lynden, WA 98264

Phone: (360) 354-1549

The mission of the Family Community Services program is to:

- Ensure that all children are able to start the school day prepared to learn.
- Create and encourage a committed continuing partnership between schools, families, staff, and communities.
- Provide opportunities for all young people to achieve their highest learning potential through parent education and support.
- Strive for all students to live in a safe, healthy, and civil environment free of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.
- Provide opportunities for students to grow into productive community members.
- Advocate for parents and their children.

Contact the Family Services team if you need assistance with obtaining school supplies, housing, medical care, or dental care.

## **Highly Capable Program**

In order to develop the special abilities of each Highly Capable Program student, the district offers a highly capable program which provides kindergarten through 12th grade students selected for the program access to a basic education that accelerates learning and enhances instruction. Information is available on the district website under Departments /Teaching and Learning. You are welcome to contact our Teaching and Learning office with questions at (360) 354-4443 or email at hoekstrak@lynden.wednet.edu.

# **Career and Technical Education (CTE)**

Supervisor: Kent Victor

College and Career Coordinator: Lois Mehlhoff Office: 1201 Bradley Rd., Lynden, WA 98264

Phone: (360) 354-4401

Career and Technical Education supports and guides all students, whether you need or want to go straight to work following graduation, or you already know that you are headed for a two-year or four-year college.

Through CTE at Lynden High School, students can explore opportunities in Agriculture, Architecture & Construction, Multi-media and Communication, Business, Marketing and Technology, Health Sciences, Human Services, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. In addition, participation in clubs such as FBLA, FFA and others are encouraged.

The Lynden School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or age in its program or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Lynden School District offers classes in many career and technical education program areas under its open admissions policy. For more information about CTE course offerings and admissions criteria, contact CTE Program Director. Lack of English language proficiency will not be a barrier to admission and participation in career and technical education programs. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies.

The District's Compliance Coordinator is: Mr. Tim Metz, Director of Student Services The Districts Section 504 Coordinator is: Mr. Tim Metz, Director of Student Services The District's Title IX Officer is: Mr. Tim Metz, Director of Student Services, 516 Main Street, Lynden, WA 98264, (360) 354-4443.

### **Transportation**

Supervisor: Shane Stanfill Mechanic: Bill Chapin Dispatcher: Brenda Dahlgren Dispatcher: Monica Tiesinga

Office: 501 N. 14th Street, Lynden, WA 98264

Phone: (360) 354-5469

All students attending Lynden Public Schools may ride buses to and from school, with exception to students attending Lynden Academy. Bus drivers are responsible for the conduct of children to and from school and are in full charge of the bus. Students must obey the driver quickly and willingly. A complete list of Bus Conduct Rules is enclosed, and also available on our district website.

Every day, drivers ensure that every child is delivered safely to his or her designated stop. Safety is the foremost concern of drivers and supervisors.

Bus stops for elementary students will be set as close to their home as reasonably possible. Due to fuel costs, middle and high school students' stops will be consolidated, but will be within reasonable walking distance from their home.

Prior arrangements must be made with the bus driver or transportation department if your child is having more than two extra children ride his or her bus for a party, scouts, 4-H, or any other group.

Questions about bus routes and pickup times may be directed to the transportation supervisor. In the event of an emergency school closure or delayed beginning of the school day, families will be notified via ParentSquare. Parents are also encouraged to check the district Facebook page and/or the district website for information on emergency schedule changes. This information will also be sent to local media & news sources.

### **Health Services**

Head Nurse: Kathy Dodson—Isom Elementary (360) 354-1992 Assistant Head Nurse: Aimee Speer—Lynden Middle School

Assistant Nurse: Amber Spidell- Lynden High School Assistant Nurse: Katie Struiksma—Fisher Elementary

Health Room Aide: Shawna Hanson—Bernice Vossbeck Elementary To reach the school nurse, please call your child's school office.

### **Health Conditions**

Parents should notify the school nurse as soon as possible if their child has a health condition or any life-threatening illness. If the child has a life-threatening health condition, parents are required per District Policy 3413 to present a medication or treatment order addressing the condition prior to their child's attendance at school. This information should be submitted to the school nurse at their child's school. Following submission of the medication or treatment order, a health plan shall be developed for the child.

### **Immunizations**

Parents are required to provide proof of immunizations before a student may attend classes. As per state law (WAC 246-100-166), the requirements for children entering school are:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis 5 doses DTaP (last dose administered after 4th birthday).
- Hepatitis B 3 dose series required for Grades K-12. (Series takes 6 months to complete. It
  must be started prior to enrollment but may be completed during first months of school.)
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) 2 doses; first dose after 12 months of age.
- Intramuscular Polio Vaccine at least 4 doses of IPV, with last dose administered after 4th birthday.
- Varicella (chickenpox) 2 doses for all students (given on or after 1st birthday, or healthcare provider verified disease)
- Additional requirements for <u>Grade 6-12</u>: 1 dose of Tdap vaccine administered on or after 11th birthday and also provide proof of date of Varicella vaccine or the date of chicken pox disease.

State law requires a licensed health care provider to sign the Certificate of Exemption (COE) for a parent or guardian to exempt their child from school and childcare immunization requirements. The signature verifies that the provider gave the parent or guardian information about the risks and benefits of immunization. A parent or guardian can also turn in a signed letter from a health care provider stating the same information. The law applies to exemptions requested after July 22, 2011. Measles, mumps, and rubella may not be exempted for personal/philosophical reasons. Medical and religious exemptions may still be accepted but will require a health care provider's signature. To request an exemption a completed Certificate of Exemption must be submitted to the school or childcare center. A health care provider does not need to sign the form for parents or guardians who demonstrate membership in a church or religious group that does not allow a health care provider to provide medical treatment to a child. While the law allows unimmunized children to attend school, it also allows the local health officer to order the school to exclude them from school during an outbreak. Students may be excluded from school if 1) immunizations provided are not complete for requirements; 2) student does not have a completed and signed CIS form (available at school); and 3) student is not immunized and a disease exposure occurs. (WAC 246-100-166 (6) & WAC 246-101-420 (7)). More information can be found at www.doh.wa.gov/public-health-provider.

Meningococcal vaccine and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine are not required for school attendance, but families with adolescent students should have this information. Read more about each of these diseases, their causes and symptoms at <a href="https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/immunization/diseases-and-vaccines">https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/immunization/diseases-and-vaccines</a>.

### **Medications**

The following rules apply for administration of medication at school:

- Authorization forms must be filled out prior to administration of any medication. This form must be signed by <u>both</u> the physician and parent/guardian. These forms are available at any school office. <u>These</u> forms need to be updated each school year.
- Medication (both prescription and non-prescription, including Tylenol), must be furnished in the <u>original</u> <u>container</u> from the pharmacy.
- 3. Student's name, dosage, name of medication, and times to administer need to be on the original container.

### **Food Services**

Food Service Director: Narlene VanBeek

Central Kitchen: 1301 Bridgeview Dr., Lynden WA 98264

Phone: (360) 354-7579

Lynden School District participates in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs operated under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture and Washington State. Breakfast and lunch are available daily for all students in the district. A variety of entrée choices are offered daily at all schools as well as self-serve fresh fruit and vegetables.

2023-2024 Meal Prices				
K-5 6-12	Breakfast NO CHARGE \$ 1.75	NO C	inch CHARGE 3.50	
A-La-	Carte Milk/Juice	\$	.50	

The district uses a computerized system that allows parents or students to deposit money into an individual student meal account in increments of their choice. Students purchase meals using these pre-paid and a-la-carte accounts. Deposits into their account may be made with Food Service staff in the cafeteria in each building or on-line. Checks should be made payable to: Lynden School District. Students and/or parents will receive notifications when they have a "low balance". Parents can also access their child's account information online. For information regarding online services, contact the Food Service Director.

Due to the passing of House Bill 1238, Lynden Schools qualifies for "universal feeding" for elementary students during the 2023-2024 school year, meaning every student in all three elementary schools can eat lunch at school for free. This new program does not apply to students at Lynden Middle School or Lynden High School. Families are encouraged to continue to fill out and submit the Free and Reduced meal applications if they qualify, as schools must continue to meet the program's thresholds to qualify for the universal feeding program each year.

### Free or Reduced Eligibility

The federal government and the State of Washington subsidize meals for students whose family income meets federal guidelines. Depending on income, some students receive reduced-price meals and others receive free meals.

Families eligible for free or reduced meals need to complete an application form each year with the exception of those who qualify for direct certification. Forms are available at any school office or at the District Office. For quickest processing, return completed forms to the District Office at 516 Main Street, Lynden, WA 98264. Free and reduced eligibility is completely confidential.

### **Non-Sufficient Funds Notice**

The Lynden School District will charge \$12.00 for checks returned with NSF.

# **Parent & Community Involvement**

#### **Instructional Materials Committee**

If interested in serving on this committee, contact the Director of Teaching & Learning, at (360) 354-4443 ext. 3405.

### Migrant Education Parent Advisory Council (M-PAC)

All parents of migrant students qualify for the M-PAC. The M-PAC makes recommendations regarding the migrant program and meets three times during the school year. For information contact the Migrant Office at (360) 354-4443.

Parent and community involvement is vital to our success. Thank you for your interest in serving our students through your participation in these committees.

### **Superintendent Advisory Committees**

Several opportunities to serve our community and school district are available through various superintendent advisory committees such as Community Connections, Capital Facilities Planning, and Safety & Security Task Force. Please contact the district office at (360) 354-4443 or check our website for more information.

#### Superintendent Series 23/24

Superintendent VanderYacht will be hosting a Superintendent Series during the 2023/2024 school year. Community members are invited to attend town-hall discussions on different topics such as Academic Programs, School Curriculum, Levies & Bonds, School Governance, and Budgeting 101. Information on dates and times will be published once finalized.

# **ParentSquare**

The Lynden School District has partnered with ParentSquare for district wide communication to families. Information including absences, school closures, meal balances, and emergency situations will be communicated through ParentSquare. Teachers and building-level staff will also use this platform to communicate information. Families can choose their preferred language, and choose to receive email, text, and/or app notifications. Go to ParentSquare.com to create your account, or you can download the app here:





### **Opt Out Forms**

Information and opt out forms can be found on our district website. Available opt out forms include:

- Student Directory Opt Out Form
- Electronic Information Network Usage Opt Out Form
- ConnectEd Opt Out Form

More information can be found on our website under "For Parents and Students" regarding the opt out process for each of these if interested. Several other forms are available as well including attendance request forms, volunteer application forms, and flyer distribution request forms.

### **School Board Policies and Procedures**

The Lynden School District School Board Policies and Procedures are posted on the district's website: www.lynden.wednet.edu under School Board. Any questions regarding board policies and procedures should be directed to the Lynden School District Office.

### **District Officers**

Director of Student Services, Tim Metz, serves the district in the roles noted below.

- Title I Compliance Coordinator
- Title IX Officer
- Section 504 Officer
- Civil Rights Coordinator
- HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying) Compliance Officer

The next several sections will reference who to contact to report and/or discuss specific circumstances. Mr. Metz can be reached via email at <a href="mailto:metzt@lynden.wednet.edu">metzt@lynden.wednet.edu</a> or by phone at (360) 354-4443, ext. 3416.

### Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy (District Policy 3207)

The District is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, volunteers, and patrons, free from harassment, intimidation or bullying. "Harassment, intimidation or bullying" (HIB) means any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by any characteristic in RCW 9A.36.080(3), (race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability), or other distinguishing characteristics, when the intentional written, verbal, or physical act:

- Physically harms a student or damages the student's property; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; or
- Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Nothing in this section requires the affected student to actually possess a characteristic that is a basis for the harassment, intimidation, or bullying. "Other distinguishing characteristics" can include but are not limited to physical appearance, clothing or other apparel, socioeconomic status, gender identity, and marital status. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying can take many forms including slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, drawings, cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, or other written, oral or physical actions. "Intentional acts" refers to the individual's choice to engage in the act rather than the ultimate impact of the action(s).

This policy is not intended to prohibit expression of religious, philosophical, or political views, provided that the expression does not substantially disrupt the educational environment. Many behaviors that do not rise to the level of harassment, intimidation or bullying may still be prohibited by other district policies or building, classroom, or program rules.

This policy is a component of the district's responsibility to create and maintain a safe, civil, respectful and inclusive learning community and is to be implemented in conjunction with comprehensive training of staff and volunteers, including the education of students in partnership with families and the community. The policy is to be implemented in conjunction with the Comprehensive Safe Schools Plan that includes prevention, intervention, crisis response, recovery, and annual review. Employees, in particular, are expected to support the dignity and safety of all members of the school community.

Depending upon the frequency and severity of the conduct, intervention, counseling, correction, discipline and/or referral to law enforcement will be used to remediate the impact on the victim and the climate and change the behavior of the perpetrator. This includes appropriate intervention, restoration of a positive climate, and support for victims and others impacted by the violation. False reports or retaliation for harassment, intimidation or bullying also constitute violations of this policy.

All formal and informal complaints should be directed to the district's HIB Compliance Officer, who is listed previously, and is located at the District Office, 516 Main Street, Lynden, WA.

### Parent and Student Rights in Administration of Surveys (District Policy 3232)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection, and use of information for marketing purposes and certain physical exams. These include rights to:

- A. Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the US Department of Education.
  - 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
  - 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
  - 3. Sex behavior or attitudes:
  - 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  - 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  - 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  - 7. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- B. Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of
  - 1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  - Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  - 3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- C. Inspect, upon request and before administration or use
  - I. Protected information surveys of students;
  - 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  - 3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law. Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office, US Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-5901.

### Student Discipline (District Policy 3241)

All students will follow the reasonable rules of the district. Refusal to comply with written rules and regulations established for the governing of the school will constitute sufficient cause for discipline, suspension, or expulsion. Corrective action and/or punishment for misconduct must reflect good faith effort on the part of the staff.

A copy of the district's policy can be reviewed at the District Office, 516 Main Street, Lynden WA or on our district website at: https://lynden.wednet.edu/school-board/.

### **Gender Inclusive Schools (District Policy 3211)**

All students deserve an equal opportunity for learning and an educational environment that is safe and free of discrimination regardless of gender expression or gender identity.

A copy of the district's policy can be reviewed at the District Office, 516 Main Street, Lynden, WA 98264 or on our district website at https://lynden.wednet.edu/school-board/.

### <u>Video Surveillance (District Policy 6610)</u>

The board authorizes the use of video surveillance on district property for the purpose of maintaining the health, welfare, and safety of students, staff, and visitors, and to protect district equipment and facilities. The board authorizes video surveillance in common areas on district property. However, the district will not install or use cameras in restrooms and locker rooms. The district may use footage from video surveillance for student disciplinary action.

A copy of the district's policy can be reviewed at the District Office, 516 Main Street, Lynden, WA 98264 or on our district website at https://lynden.wednet.edu/school-board/.

### Title I Parent and Family Engagement (District Policy 4130)

Parents of children receiving Title I, Part A services must be involved in the development of the district parent involvement policy and must be used to conduct programs and activities to involve parents in the planning and implementation of the Title I, Part A program, including promoting family literacy and parenting skills.

A copy of the district's policy can be reviewed at the District Office, 516 Main Street, Lynden WA or on our district website at https://lynden.wednet.edu/school-board/.

#### Title 1 School Complaint Procedures

- 1. Report your Title 1 concern directly to the Principal where your child attends, After processing the concern with the Principal, you can share your concern directly with the Title 1 Compliance Coordinator.
- 2. If unsatisfied with the outcome after processing your Title 1 concern with the Title 1 Compliance Coordinator, you can share your concern directly with the Superintendent.
- 3. If unsatisfied with the outcome after processing your Title 1 concern with the Superintendent, you can share your concern with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Information on how to file a complaint can be found at: <a href="www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/grants-grant-management/closing-educational-achievement-gaps-title-i-part/citizen-complaints-federal-programs">www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/grants-grant-management/closing-educational-achievement-gaps-title-i-part/citizen-complaints-federal-programs</a>.

### Maintaining Professional Staff/Student Boundaries (District Policy 5253)

This policy is to provide all staff, students, volunteers and community members with information about their role in protecting children from inappropriate conduct by adults. This policy applies to all district staff and volunteers. For purposes of this policy and its procedure, the terms "district staff", "staff member(s)", and "staff" also includes volunteers.

A copy of the district's policy can be reviewed at the District Office, 516 Main Street, Lynden, WA or on our district website at: www.lynden.wednet.edu/school-board/.

### **Sexual Harassment Prohibited- District Policy 3205**

Students and staff are protected against sexual harassment by anyone in any school program or activity, including on the school campus, on the school bus, or off-campus during a school-sponsored activity.

#### Sexual harassment is unwelcome behavior or communication that is sexual in nature when:

A student or employee is led to believe that he or she must submit to unwelcome sexual conduct or communications in order to gain something in return, such as a grade, a promotion, a place on a sports team, or any educational or employment decision, or the conduct substantially interferes with a student's educational performance or creates an intimidating or hostile educational or employment environment.

### **Examples of Sexual Harassment:**

Pressuring a person for sexual favors
Unwelcome touching of a sexual nature
Writing graffiti of a sexual nature
Distributing sexually explicit texts, e-mails, or pictures
Making sexual jokes, rumors, or suggestive remarks
Physical violence, including rape and sexual assault

You can report sexual harassment to any school staff member or to the district's Title IX Officer, who is listed previously. You also have the right to file a complaint. For a copy of the district's sexual harassment policy and procedure, contact your school or district office, or view it online at <a href="https://www.lynden.wednet.edu/school-board/">www.lynden.wednet.edu/school-board/</a>.

### **Complaint Options: Discrimination and Sexual Harassment**

If you believe that you or your child have experienced unlawful discrimination, discriminatory harassment, or sexual harassment at school, you have the right to file a complaint.

Before filing a complaint, you can discuss your concerns with your child's principal or with the school district's Section 504 Coordinator, Title IX Officer, or Civil Rights Coordinator, who are listed previously. This is often the fastest way to resolve your concerns.

### **Complaint to the School District**

#### **Step 1.** Write Out Your Complaint

In most cases, complaints must be filed within one year from the date of the incident or conduct that is the subject of the complaint. A complaint must be in writing. Be sure to describe the conduct or incident, explain why you believe discrimination, discriminatory harassment, or sexual harassment has taken place, and describe what actions you believe the district should take to resolve the problem. Send your written complaint—by mail, fax, email, or hand delivery—to the district superintendent or civil rights compliance coordinator.

#### Step 2: School District Investigates Your Complaint

Once the district receives your written complaint, the coordinator will give you a copy of the complaint procedure and make sure a prompt and thorough investigation takes place. The superintendent or designee will respond to you in writing within 30 calendar days—unless you mutually agree on a different timeline. In the event an extension is needed, the district will notify the complainant in writing of the reason for the extension and the anticipated response date.

### Step 3: School District Responds to Your Complaint

In its written response, the district will include a summary of the results of the investigation, a determination as to whether the district failed to comply with civil rights laws, notification that you can appeal this determination, and any measures necessary to bring the district into compliance with civil rights laws. Corrective measures will be put into effect within 30 calendar days after this written response—unless you agree to a different timeline.

### **Appeal to the School District**

If you disagree with the school district's decision, you may appeal to the school district's board of directors. You must file a notice of appeal in writing to the secretary of the school board within 10 calendar days after you receive the school district's response to your complaint. The school board will schedule a hearing within 20 calendar days after they receive your appeal, unless you mutually agree on a different timeline. The school board will send you a written decision within 30 calendar days after the district receives your notice of appeal. The school board's decision will include information about how to file a complaint with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

#### **Complaint to OSPI**

If you do not agree with the school district's appeal decision, state law provides the option to file a formal complaint with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). This is a separate complaint process that can take place if one of these two conditions has occurred: (1) you have completed the district's complaint and appeal process, or (2) the district has not followed the complaint and appeal process correctly.

You have 20 calendar days to file a complaint to OSPI from the day you received the decision on your appeal. You can send your written complaint to the Equity and Civil Rights Office at OSPI:

Email: Equity@k12.wa.us | Fax: 360-664-2967

Mail or hand deliver: PO Box 47200, 600 Washington St. S.E., Olympia, WA 98504-7200

For more information, visit our website, or contact OSPI's Equity and Civil Rights Office at 360-725-6162 / TTY: (360) 664-3631 or by e-mail at equity@k12.wa.us.

### **Other Discrimination Complaint Options**

Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (206) 607-1600 | TDD: 1-800-877-8339 | OCR.Seattle@ed.gov | OCR Website

### **Annual Notifications**

### **Annual Reporting of Achievement Levels**

The Lynden School District reports annually on the results of the approved assessments used to determine student achievement. Each parent receives information on the level of their child's achievement in addition to the level of achievement of their child's school.

Washington State utilizes the following assessment tools:

- Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) for Grades 3 8 ELA and Math; Grade 10 for ELA and Math.
- Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS) Grades 5, 8 and 11 in Science.

All students are required to meet statewide graduation requirements in order to earn a diploma. The goal is that more students will be better prepared to meet 21st-century demands in their working and personal lives. Families, students, and educators can learn more about each of the Graduation Pathways, including what each requirement is designed to do and how students will be supported. To earn a high school diploma, a student must: Earn high school credit; Pass state tests or an approved Pathway alternative to those tests; Complete a High School and Beyond Plan. OSPI has several resources to help understand graduation requirements at <a href="https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation">https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation</a>.

### **Annual School Reports**

Annually, the district provides a report card on each district school. The report includes student demographics, student achievement data, assessment summaries, and teacher qualifications. You may view the report cards at: www.washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us.

### Access to and Publication of Student Directory Information

Federal law requires an annual notification to parents that the school district is permitted to release and publish student directory information without family/student consent. The Lynden School District defines this directory information as the student's name, photograph, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, diplomas and awards received, and the most recent previous school attended. Directory information is also subject to public records requests.

Federal law also requires school districts to provide military recruiters with the same access to directory information of 11th and 12th grade students as that provided to post-secondary educational institutions and prospective employers. This directory of information includes names, addresses, and telephone listings.

The district allows families who do not want directory information released to opt out by completing a Restriction of Directory Information form, which is available at every school office. This form must be submitted to the school office by October 3rd. A copy of this form is kept at the school. This Restriction of Directory Information must be renewed annually. If a form is not received by the October 3rd deadline, it will be assumed that there is no objection to the release of directory information.

### Non-Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Notice

Lynden School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The district's Civil Rights Coordinator, Title IX Officer, and Section 504 Officer are listed previously.

You can report discrimination and discriminatory harassment to any school staff member or to the district's Civil Rights Coordinator. You also have the right to file a complaint. For a copy of the district's nondiscrimination policy and procedure, contact your school or district office or on the district's website at <a href="https://www.lynden.wednet.edu/school-board/">www.lynden.wednet.edu/school-board/</a>.

### **Educational Services for Homeless Children and Youth**

The Lynden School District will provide written notice to the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth (or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth) that the District will:

- Provide contact information for the local liaison for homeless children and youths and the State Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths;
- Provide assistance to the parent or guardian of each homeless child, youth, or unaccompanied youth to exercise the right to attend the parent's, guardian's, or unaccompanied youth's choice of schools;
- Coordinate with the local school districts to provide transportation and other necessary services;
   and
- Provide a full range of education and related services, including services applicable to students with disabilities;
- Not have homeless children or youths to attend any separate school for homeless children or youths;
- Provide the same services to homeless children and youth including transportation services, educational services, and meals through the school meals programs; and
- Assure that homeless youth are not stigmatized by school personnel.

Parents or guardians of homeless youth (or any unaccompanied homeless youth) within the Lynden School District should contact:

Family Services Coordinator 516 Main St., Lynden, WA 98264 Telephone: (360) 354-1549

#### **Education Ombuds Awareness**

The Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) is an independent state agency that helps to reduce educational opportunity gaps by supporting families, students, educators, and other stakeholders in communities across Washington State in understanding the K-12 school system and resolving concerns collaboratively. OEO services are free and confidential. Anyone can contact OEO with a question or concern about school. OEO listens, shares information and referrals, and works informally with families, communities, and schools to address concerns so that every student can fully participate and thrive in our state's public schools. OEO provides support in multiple languages and has telephone interpretation available. To get help or learn more about what OEO does, please visit their website at: <a href="https://www.oeo.wa.gov/en">www.oeo.wa.gov/en</a> or call 1-800-297-2597.

### Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents and students over 18 years of age certain rights with respect to the student's educational records. These include:

- The right to inspect and review a student's records within 45 days after the district receives a
  written request from the parent and/or student over 18 years of age. The parent or eligible student
  should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect.
  The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time
  and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of information in a student's records that the parent or student over 18 years of age believes to be misleading or inaccurate. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the records as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information in a student's file, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
- The right to file a complaint concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with FERPA requirements with the Family Policy Compliance Office, US Department of Education, 400 South Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-5901.

### **School Regulations**

School regulations and expectations for students will be given to all students by each school building. It is important for parents to become familiar with these rules and procedures in order for consistency and support to take place (Board Policy 3241, Student Discipline). Lynden School District has a gun free policy (Board Policy 4210, Regulation of Dangerous Weapons on School Premises) that includes one-year mandatory expulsion for firearms, mandatory notification for student violations to parents/ guardians and law enforcement, and allows the expulsion to be modified by the chief school district officer or designee on a case by case basis.

### SpeakUp Alert—Anonymous Tip Reporting Service

The Lynden School District uses SpeakUp Alert, a tip reporting system that allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns to us in different ways, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year:

Phone/Text: (360) 505-0070 Email: speakup@lynden.wednet.edu

Easily report anonymous tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism, or any safety issue you're concerned about.

### **Internet Safety**

Public schools are eligible to receive internet service at a reduced government rate called e-rate. In order to qualify for e-rate, school districts are required to follow specific rules regarding internet usage. One of the new requirements is to implement an internet safety curriculum K-12 that teaches about appropriate online behavior, cyber bullying, social networking, and chat rooms. Lynden School District has chosen a program called Common Sense Media. The Common Sense Media curriculum is a comprehensive program that covers a wide range of internet safety issues using a unique approach that integrates the elements of current research and current best practices on instruction. Lessons are designed to be grade-level age-appropriate. Included in the curriculum is a parent information page that will be sent home with students as the lessons are presented.

### **Teacher and Paraprofessional Qualifications**

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) the Lynden School District would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) or instructional paraprofessional(s).

### The following information may be requested for teacher(s):

- 1 Whether the teacher has met Washington teacher certification requirements for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- 2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Washington qualifications or certification criteria have been waived.
- 3. The college major and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher.

  Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

### The following information may be requested for instructional paraprofessional(s):

Paraprofessionals must work under the supervision of a certified teacher. All paraeducators must be at least 18 years old and hold a high school diploma or its equivalent.

They must also meet one or more of the following requirements, per the state's Professional Educator Standards Board (effective July 23, 2023):

- They received a qualifying score of 455 or higher on the Education Testing Service ParaPro Assessment.
- They received a qualifying score of 220 on the Pearson Paraprofessional Assessment.
- They receive a qualifying score of 65% on The Master Teacher Inc. Paraeducator Online Training Project.
- They have completed an apprenticeship as a paraeducator in a program registered with the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council.

Paras are also required to participate in a fundamental course of study class, which teaches classroom management and other skills, through the district that employs them. These requirements are significantly more stringent than the requirements established by previous policies, which only required paraeducators to complete at least two years of higher education.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher(s) and/or instructional paraprofessional's qualification, please contact the Lynden School District Office at (360) 354-4443;

#### **Descriptive Guide**

The Lynden School District website is intended to provide the public with access to information on educational programs, staffing, budget, and special levy information. In accordance with RCW28A.320.090, Lynden School District is authorized to spend funds for the purpose of preparing this information for the general public.

As required by WAC 180-16–240, the public is hereby notified that Lynden School District is in compliance with all state program requirements for basic education.

Lynden School District is an equal opportunity employer and is in compliance with Title IX of the education amendments of 1972.

### **Asbestos Management**

The annual Asbestos Management Program training and inspection has been completed. Federal law requires that notification be given to patrons, students, employees, and workers about the location of asbestos, potential hazards and the procedures being used to manage asbestos. A management plan is available at the District Office and Lynden High School for unrestricted review by the Environmental Protection Agency, state officials, general public, school employees and parents of students.

#### **Pesticide Notification**

Upon request, the district will provide notification to staff and parents of the district's pesticide, methods and its posting and notification requirements. The District complies with the requirements of law regarding pesticide notification, posting and record keeping.

The District's procedures for notification will include posting of sites of pesticide applications and record keeping, including an annual summary report of pesticide usage.

Office of the Superintendent Lynden School District No. 504 516 Main Street Lynden, WA 98264 Non-Profit Org. Permit No. 62 Lynden, WA 98264

