



Lafayette Academy

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Brian Zager, Principal



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are making some important adjustments at Lafayette Academy as we fine-tune our remote learning experience for students this year. Please see below:

Updates for Blended Learning

In order to provide more opportunities for peer engagement and socialization in the school building, students who choose blending learning at Lafayette Academy will be redistributed and reassigned to pod groups. These pods will be slightly larger in size (no more than 8 students per classroom) and will hopefully create and increase a sense of classroom / community culture. Students will have the opportunity to meet new students across homerooms and/or grade levels and provide more chances for peer interaction and socialization. As a result of this consolidation, the pod teachers assigned for each group will be changing as well. If you have opted into blended learning, your updated pod assignments will be sent to you individually within the coming week.

For students attending in person classes, the new arrival time window is 8:30am - 8:40am. Dismissal from in person classes is now at 1:45pm.

Format for Online Classes

As a reminder for parents, each class is 55 minutes long. EVERY STUDENT MUST COMPLETE THE POSTED LESSON IN THE 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE LIVE SESSION. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT JOIN THE LIVE SESSION IF THEY DID NOT DO THE POSTED LESSON PRIOR TO.

New Live Class Participation Requirements

Participation in live classes is now mandatory moving forward for the rest of the year; it will account for 10% of the students' classwork grades. Teachers will monitor student participation and attendance during live sessions either through being seen on camera, participation in the chat, participation vocally, and/or responding when called upon.

Reminder About Late Work Penalties

As stated in the grading policy that was mailed out to parents at the beginning of the year, work will only be collected one week late. If a student would like to hand in work later than one week, they must fill out the "Extenuating Circumstance" form [on our website](#). That form should ALSO be used if a student couldn't log on to the live session of class.

Schedule Changes for All Students: Study Hall and Electives

We are creating a NEW "Study Hall/Elective" period. This new period will take place in the mornings between 8:40 and 9:10am.

On Monday - Thursday, this new period will be devoted to Study Hall - teachers will be available for office hour opportunities with small groups and/or one-on-one live instruction to give students more access to individualized help.

On Fridays, this new period will be devoted to Electives. Electives will be student-interest based classes led by staff members. Students will have the opportunity to engage in a fun, social club experience once per week. More information will be coming over the next few weeks. A summary of all changes can be found below: These electives will be graded as pass/fail courses based on attendance and participation..

Summary of Changes:

1. In person learning pods will be consolidated, in light of new students opting into blended learning.
2. In person learning pods may have a new pair of pod teachers.
3. Participation is now mandatory and will be 10% of the student classwork grade. Students must be present and actively engaged to earn these points.
4. New Study Hall/Elective period from 8:40am - 9:10am daily
5. Study Hall (Mon - Thurs) is a time when students can meet with teachers for extra help, direct instruction, and small group work. More specifics will be forthcoming. (Some students are already enrolled in special education services during this time; this will not change)
6. Electives (Friday only) will be mandatory pass/fail courses based on student interest. Elective periods will begin sometime in December; more specifics will be forthcoming.