



LOSTANT COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 425

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www.lostantcomets.org

First Quarter Midterm Updates

September 26, 2022

Dear parents and guardians,

It is amazing how quickly the first four and a half weeks of school have gone by. Thus far, we have conducted fire drills and evacuation drills; as we prepare for our annual Life-Safety walk through with the ROE in October. Student safety and security is one of our highest priorities and an area we are always looking to improve. I would like to take a moment to review and update a few school policies as we enter the second half of the first quarter.

Backpacks:

In consultation with staff, administration, and our Student Resource Officer (SRO), we will adopt new procedures for taking bookbags and materials to classes. Beginning September 26, 2022, students will keep all materials in his/her locker. Supplies (folders, pencil pouches, notebooks, etc) will be accessible in classrooms and determined by teachers when and where each grade will store additional items that are not kept inside lockers. **Students are expected to be prepared for each class by keeping chromebooks with them and stopping at lockers for books and supplies needed during the passing period only.** Backpacks will no longer be permitted in the classrooms or left in the hallways. Again, this is a safety and security consideration. Loose backpacks on the floor or in the hallways pose a hazard to the safe egress from the classroom or the hallways, and impede exit routes in the case of a fire or tornado evacuation. Furthermore, keeping backpacks in lockers will also deter students from using personal electronic devices in the classroom. Devices are to remain turned off and in lockers at all times. This is in accordance with our Student/Parent handbook on page 33. If a student should need to make a phone call during the school day, they are able to do so using the school office telephone.

Water bottles:

In addition to backpacks, students are no longer allowed to bring water bottles or other beverage containers into class. Teachers will give specific directions on where to keep the water bottles (example: in lockers, on a back counter in the classroom, etc.) **Water is the only beverage allowed in reusable bottles.** There is to be no gatorade, water flavoring packets, soda, or tea/coffee in refillable bottles or original containers within the classroom or cafeteria. Exceptions are made for sporting events, field trips, and with teacher and/or administration approval. Refillable drinking stations are available for students to use during passing periods or when allowed by teachers. Additionally, it is preferred that students bring shatter proof water bottles that are **filled before arriving at school** with tightly sealed lids. This is to prevent spills and slips within classrooms and hallways. Making sure children stay hydrated is more than just a good idea, particularly during warm school days, but we also need to consider how water bottles are used without being a hazard, distraction, and misused.

Cafeteria:

Please remind your student that they are only able to consume packaged condiments and items off the sharing tray **IF** they purchase hot lunch. Students should never get additional items for friends who do not purchase hot lunch. Furthermore, additional items from the hot lunch line are to be consumed **IN** the

...where all students are given the opportunity to reach their highest potential.

cafeteria and should not be found in lockers, classrooms, or in pockets or backpacks. This poses many risks to students with food allergies and sensitivities. It is also not allowed. If your student(s) is found getting additional food items, they will be charged accordingly. If they are found with such additional food items outside of the cafeteria, disciplinary actions may be taken.

Lost and found:

As our seasons change, some of our clothing items get lost or left behind. There is a lost and found box located near the office. From time to time we know which item belongs to which student but oftentimes the lost and found items are duplicates. For younger students, please mark items with your student(s) name and remind them to check the box if they are missing something.

Covid Guidelines and Homework:

Updated by ISBE on August 16, 2022. Here is a summary of key revisions to the guidance to continue to keep students, staff, and families safe:

- Removes the recommendation to quarantine for close contacts. Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 should wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days after exposure and should get tested on day 6.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are to remain isolated for 5 days from the time of positive test. If the individual is fever-free and symptom free after 5 days of isolation, they may return to school but should wear a well-fitted mask for 5 full days.
- No longer recommends routine screening testing in K-12 schools (focus testing on high-risk activities during high COVID-19 Community Level or in response to an outbreak)
- Removes the recommendation for separating students into cohorts (eases social distancing guidelines, which Illinois has already been following)
- Eliminates the recommendation to Test to Stay after potential exposure.

COVID-19 antigen tests are available at school in the event you should need one. These tests are provided for free through ISBE's Covid programming. In the event of an absence from school, Covid related or not, students can retrieve homework from his/her teacher's Google Classroom. Daily assignments will be posted in a timely manner.

District correspondence:

A monthly school-wide newsletter will be posted on the district website each month. In addition to keeping all parents and guardians informed of upcoming events and news, please be sure to regularly check the district website www.lostantcomets.org, our [Lostant Grade School](#) FaceBook page, and the district app that is tied to our website. Correspondence will also be emailed through TeacherEase. If you need directions on downloading the app or would like to update/add an email address, please notify the office by email at perryk@lostantcomets.org.

With all of your continued support of our students, staff, and the learning environment, these policies will continue to keep our school community safe and secure. Please communicate these policies with your student(s) and if you have any questions, contact me at 815.368.3392 or klobucherc@lostantcomets.org.

Sincerely,

Courtney Klobucher
Principal

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