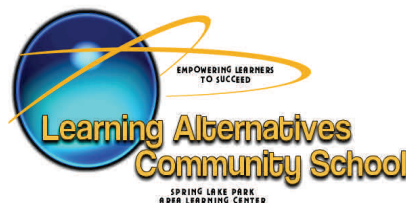


January 23, 2012

LACS

Weekly News Updates

Learning Alternatives Community School



Principal's Perspective



Greetings,

Aloha -

Learning Alternatives has completed two quarters and two mini-course weeks. Next week we will be sending a progress check to parents of seniors so you will know their graduation status. We have had nine graduates already this year.

On Thursday, January 26, we have an early release day. School will end at 12:30 pm. **On Friday, January 27, there will be no school.** Some of our classes will assign projects to the students to complete for their course requirements.

On the horizon is the annual Valentine's Day dance. The dance will be held on Friday, February 10, from 7:00—10:00 pm. Three years ago a group of Learning Alternatives School students initiated this school-wide dance. We thank the student leaders who have planned and produced the dance.

The third term is underway and will finish just after Spring Break. We have had an easy winter so far, and hopefully this will make the winter shorter than last year.

Finally, student-parent conferences are scheduled next week. Please plan to attend—Thursday, February 2, from 4:00—7:00 pm and Friday, February 3, from 7:45 am—3:00 pm.

Mahalo

William Sommers
Principal

Important Phone Numbers:

Main Office

763-785-5531

Fax

763-795-5105

Attendance

763-785-5531

Interim Dean

Hank Taxis

763-795-5124

htaxis@district16.org

Principal

Bill Sommers

763-785-5569

wsomme@district16.org

Parent Portal

- Online access to secure and timely information about your child's class schedule, attendance, report card, and transcript.
- Up-to-date contact information and email addresses will ensure that you receive alerts as well as news updates and newsletters.
- For more information, or to sign up for an account, visit "Parent Portal" on our website.
- If you need technical assistance: Call 763-795-5901 or email portal@district16.org

A Note About Conferences:

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Students and staff of Learning Alternatives Community School invite you to our Winter Conferences. These conferences will provide an opportunity for your student to reflect upon his/her successes so far. **Students will be leading their own conference.** The teachers will be attending as observers, coaching the students as they run the conference meeting.

The students will be calling you from school to schedule their conferences for the **evening of February 2, 2012, or daytime on February 3, 2012**, at the school. We view this as an extremely positive opportunity for students to emphasize their strengths and discuss their challenges. It is also important for students to share their plan for their next term (and graduation) with you.

Please make every effort to be part of this conference. This is an opportunity to open up or improve lines of communication with your teen about their education. It is also a component of the student's advisory credit. We strongly encourage you to be a positive part of this conferencing process.

Your teen will be calling home this week from school to schedule their conference. Conferences will be scheduled in 30 minute slots.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your student's advisor by calling the school at 763-785-5531.

Thank you so much, we look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Sincerely,

The Staff and Students of Learning Alternatives Community School

Upcoming Dates & Events

- **Jan 23** - Term 3 Begins
- **Jan 26** - Early Release Day (Students out at 12:30pm)
- **Jan 27** - No School (extended learning opportunity)
- **Feb 2** - Scheduled Evening Conferences
- **Feb 3** - No School/Scheduled Day Conferences
- **Feb 10** - Valentine's Dance 7pm—10pm
- **Feb 16** - No School/Staff Professional Development
- **Feb 17** - No School/Staff Professional Development
- **Feb 20** - No School/President's Day
- **Feb 21** - LA Classes in Session
- **March 9** - No School/Staff Inservice
- **March 12-16** - No School (Spring Break)
- **March 23** - Term 3 Ends
- **March 26** - No School/Staff Inservice



Thoughts on the Go:

- Congratulations to our current graduates of 2011-12:



Marnie Kuhn

Jeffrey Zuniga

Rialda Prutina

Sarah Subias

Juan Saldivar-Diaz

Lauren Engel

Angie Milbrath

Cody Soukup

Kayla Bartkowitz

Attendance Policy

January 13, 2012

Dear Parent(s)/Guardians of LA Students:

We at Learning Alternatives are extremely proud of our students and appreciate all the support provided by family and friends. As we strive to provide a better education for students, we are looking at ways to increase attendance in classes. We have four programs that will acknowledge good attendance and academics:

- #1 If students are on time to class and stay the complete hour, their name will be put in a lottery and we will draw names on Thursday or Friday for snacks/treats.
- #2 Every two weeks students who are not tardy or absent from classes and have put effort into the classwork, will have a special lunch on Fridays. LA will provide pizza for all these students and if students bring their own money, we will have takeout orders available for that lunch.
- #3 At mid-term (every four weeks), students who have perfect attendance and good grades, will have a choice day, in which they can decide what they want to do.
- #4 At the end of the term, we will give awards to students for earned credits, good attendance and special services to LA.

In addition to the positive acknowledgments, we are tightening up on students who are skipping out of class early, showing up late or if they leave the building without staff permission. We will give students 3 unexcused tardies/absences during a two-week period. If there are more than 3, they will be suspended for 1 day.

We are hoping to provide a positive learning environment for students. To do this, we need students to be in classes and put forth effort in their academics. We hope these acknowledgments and consequences will promote more learning in the classrooms.

Sincerely,

William Sommers, LA Director
Hank Taxis, LA Interim Dean