



715-424-6750

# BI-MONTHLY UPDATE

## SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Rod Watson, Principal

Jack Smalley, Ashley Tessmer, Kelly Zywicki, Associate Principals

Hello Parents and Guardians of Lincoln High School students! I hope you're all back in the swing of things in your homes as our school year enters the third week. My family is still getting into a routine as dance, soccer, Girl Scouts, band, and homework have replaced laying on the couch all day! I have a few important notes for you now that the dust has settled on the start of the year.

### Code Yellow on September 18, 2024

We had a stressful day at Lincoln. Students reported a threat on social media that ended up being about a different school and was already being investigated by the FBI. While we figured things out, we had to go to a Code Yellow, which is how we keep the hallways clear when we need to. Students were kept in class and those on lunch break were moved into the gym. Police cleared the building out of an abundance of caution. We called 'all clear' at about 11:25 a.m. The hold lasted for nearly 40 minutes, which was a long time for everyone. It was also scary. In one room staff members turned the lights off in an attempt to calm everyone down, which is not normally done in a Code Yellow. What made the fear worse for everyone was a spread of misinformation on social media, which students in study hall and lunch saw, stating that there was a real threat in the building. Thank goodness there was not. We will also be proactive and aggressive about threats to the safety of our students. If you ever want to speak to me about this incident or safety in general, please reach out!

### Attendance

Our attendance recording this year is a work in progress. We tried to use a program called SchoolTrak to have each student check into a class. It has worked in the past in different capacities, but it did not work well with the new Skyward. We have put it on hold for now and will go back to doing attendance as usual for the time being. If you have any questions or concerns about attendance records for the first two weeks of school, please let us know. We're aware that there are some errors and we're working hard to get them fixed.

### Administrative Changes

We welcomed Mr. Jack Smalley to our administrative team last week. He filled the vacancy left by Mr. Nic Sydorowicz's move to WRAMS. Mr. Smalley is well prepared for the role, having studied under Mr. Rasmussen. He has already achieved at a high level as a coach, teacher, and leader of the Lincoln Launch program. Now he assumes a position as a discipline officer, staff evaluator, program administrator, and "jack" of all trades at LHS. With three of the four of us in administration being new to our roles this year, there will be a lot to learn. We will stay focused on serving staff and students as we grow into our roles. If you have any feedback for us on this journey, we welcome it. Please note the following assignments for discipline officers on the Associate Principal team:

- ⇒ Mr. Smalley - Freshmen
- ⇒ Ms. Tessmer- Sophomores
- ⇒ Ms. Zywicki- Juniors & Seniors

### Picture Retake Day

If you missed getting your picture taken at scheduled pick up day, a retake date has been set for September 26th. Students should listen to announcements for more information.

### Cell Phone Policy

We have had great success with enforcing our cell phone policy this year so far. Some students only know me as the new principal who took their phones, but that was not my goal. I just feel passionately that our students deserve a distraction-free learning environment. Our policy makes that possible and most students are accepting of it. We have had to confiscate some phones of students who are attempting to keep them on their person during class. Of course we don't want to do that. Students who fail to leave their cell phones in the holders (or their lockers) will have their phones sent to the office and will earn a detention. They can pick them up themselves the first time; their parents have to get them after that. We know this is not fun for students or parents, but it is necessary. I hope that students realize our policy is tamer than some of our peer schools who have banned phones from school altogether, and one that banned them from sporting events. I have no desire to take phones from students during passing periods or lunch; they are too useful for coordination at that time. If students comply with the rules we have, we can put this issue behind us and focus on learning! Thank you for your support with this issue.

### Class Reunion Zero Leadership

One of the best traditions I've encountered at LHS is the Class Reunion Zero event. This is a really neat way for the community to have fun with our near graduates the Friday night before graduation and to make sure our teenagers are safe. The food and awards given are quite impressive. I have heard a lot about this tradition and I'm excited to see it in action. That said, we need some volunteers and leaders for this program this year. If you have a senior graduating this year and want to help with CRZ, please email me at [rodrick.watson@wrps.net](mailto:rodrick.watson@wrps.net). Thank you in advance!

### Late Start Time

Our school day begins at 8:10 a.m. on Mondays so staff members have time to collaborate with each other to help students. We do not have supervision available until 7:30, so that is when the doors by the student parking lot will be unlocked. If students need to come in from 7:00 to 7:30, they can come in the front doors by ringing the bell. All students will stay in the commons until 8:00 a.m. when staff are available to help them. We recommend that students refrain from coming to the high school until necessary on Mondays. There is no reason to come early and Mondays are good days to sleep in a bit, anyway! (I wish we had this when I was a student!).

### Hall of Fame Inductees

Tonight we induct three individuals into the LHS Athletic Hall of Fame. Congratulations to:

- Connie (Semrow) Bohn - 1995 Graduate
- Daylyn (Hibbard) Hopp - 1991 Graduate
- Brian Fredrick - 1986 Graduate

If you would like to nominate an individual for the Hall of Fame, visit [www.wrps.org/athletics/](http://www.wrps.org/athletics/)

### Upcoming

There are exciting things coming soon for LHS. We have **No School on Friday, 9/27/2024** for teacher inservice, Homecoming in the first week of October, Parent Teacher Visits (PTVs) from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. on October 14th (instructions on how to schedule these through ParentSquare will be in the next newsletter), PreACT for Juniors on October 19th (moved from September 17th), and Career Day for all four grades on October 22nd. It's a lot to keep track of, but it is all good stuff!

### Conclusion

Thanks for reading this far in the newsletter! We intend to put a newsletter out twice a month this year. If there's anything you'd like to see highlighted, explained, or covered in this publication, please let us know. Thank you for your support and hope to see you soon!



Rod Watson, LHS Principal



# MEET OUR NEW ASSOCIATE PRINCIPALS



*Ashley Tessmer*

My name is Ashley Tessmer, and I am excited to serve as an Associate Principal at Lincoln High School this year! Over the last 17 years, I have served as a Marketing and Business Education teacher within the district. In addition to teaching Marketing and Business courses, I have also served as a DECA and Prom Advisor and supervised the school store.

As a 2002 graduate of Onalaska High School, I had the privilege of learning from great educators who encouraged me to pursue a degree in education. As a result, I attended UW-Stout as a Marketing and Business Education major. I graduated with my Bachelor's degree from UW-Stout in 2006 and started teaching at WRPS in 2007. In 2010, I earned my first Master's degree in Education, also from UW-Stout. After many years of teaching, I was encouraged by my mentors to pursue a degree in administration. In 2021, I accomplished that goal when I graduated from UW-Superior with a Master's degree in Educational Administration.

I know first-hand that LHS is home to dedicated staff who are willing to go above and beyond the call of duty to meet the needs of our students. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving our students, staff, and community in this new capacity. **Go Red Raiders!**

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*Jack Smalley*

My name is Jack Smalley, and I am honored to serve as Interim Associate Principal at Lincoln High School for the 2024-25 school year. I have taught courses as a Social Studies and At-Risk teacher at LHS for the past five years. I am entering my second year as the Head Boys Basketball coach at Lincoln and am also serving as an assistant coach for the football program.

I am a 2014 graduate of Onalaska High School. I attended UW-LaCrosse and earned my bachelor's degree in 2019, majoring in Social Studies and History Education. I began my educational career at WRPS in the fall of 2019. In the spring of 2024, I earned my master's degree from UW-Superior in Educational Administration.

I look forward to positively impacting our students and staff daily. I strive to ensure that all students achieve academic, social, and emotional excellence. I am humbled to serve the Lincoln High School and Wisconsin Rapids communities this school year and continue moving Lincoln forward. **Go Red Raiders!**

**LHS Mission**

**To develop the skills and character to achieve success!**

# **HOMECOMING ACTIVITIES**

## ***Enchanted Night***

## ***Tangled in Our Memories***

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

- ⇒ 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Class Poster Making
- ⇒ 12:00-2:00 p.m. - Corn Hole Tournament
- ⇒ 2:00 p.m. - Powder Buff
- ⇒ 3:30 p.m. - Powder Puff

Concessions Available

### **SPIRIT STICK**

The spirit stick will be awarded to one of the four classes for demonstrating exceptional school spirit throughout Homecoming week. Earn points by competing in the various events and attending Homecoming related events.

Winner of the Spirit Stick will be announced at the Friday assembly.

### **LINCOLN GIVES BACK**

#### **BREAST CANCER AWARENESS**

“Pink Ribbon” Cookie Sale—\$1.00 each

Wednesday, Oct. 2 during lunches

Donations also accepted

Class raising the most money earns spirit points

### **DRESS UP DAYS**

#### ⇒ **Monday - Class Color Days**

- Seniors - Red
- Juniors - White
- Sophomores - Gray
- Freshmen - Orange
- Staff - Black

#### ⇒ **Tuesday - Pajama or comfy attire**

#### ⇒ **Wednesday - Pink Out**

- Wear all pink gear in support of Breast Cancer Awareness

#### ⇒ **Thursday - Dress Like a Teacher, Teachers dress like students**

- Honor your favorite teacher by dressing in their style

#### ⇒ **Friday - Raiders Pride**

- Raider Pride Day

### **HOMECOMING DANCE**

Saturday, October 5 - 7:30-11:00 p.m.

Purchase tickets during lunches for \$15.00

Purchase ticket at the door for \$20.00

***CURRENT SCHOOL POLICIES WILL BE IN PLACE FOR ALL EVENTS***