



La Cañada High School

A National Blue Ribbon School

Dear Spartan Parents, Care Givers, and Families,

Welcome to La Canada High School! For some of you, this is the beginning of an exciting journey for your student as they embark on a four-year education full of promise and opportunities. For others, this is the next step in that journey that will bring new adventures. For our seniors, that journey is coming to its conclusion and will yield the next step in the great adventure of life. In all these cases, the LCHS staff is excited to be a part of this experience. It is our intent to provide the highest quality instruction through a community built on student curiosity, growth and integrity.

LCHS faculty and staff will continue to promote student wellness and balance in partnership with Challenge Success. LCHS stakeholders will convene a schedule review committee to study alternate bell schedules with the aim of adopting an improved method by which to organize our days so that students are able to explore classes, participate in the rich co and extracurricular offerings of the high school, and actively practice the healthy habits of getting enough daily sleep, eating well, and exercising regularly. LCHS will also open a Wellness Center. The Wellness Center will provide expanded mental health support services for students, as well as offer programs that address important topics our students deal with as they mature. Examples of these include how to deal with stress, how to promote healthy relationships, and how to promote healthy habits regarding cell phone use. LCHS administration will continue to promote the Family Learning Series, monthly parent and student-oriented talks that explore various facets of the school experience, from college and career information sessions to how to help students establish habits of self-regulation with respect to technology use. All of these are part of our intentional efforts to promote thriving behaviors in our students, so that they work toward building a strong foundation of academic effectiveness, in addition to strong, interpersonal and social-emotional skills. We want your student's high school success to be that which propels him or her toward success across his or her entire life.

As we rush toward the end of the summer break, the school staff is being rounded out with new teachers, counselors and staff that are all committed to the idea of maximizing instruction to embed creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication into the heart of their work. Faculty and staff will also begin the work of implementing the recommendations for school-wide improvement that came for our WASC accreditation self-study. This work will focus on improvements to the professional learning communities and collaboration that our teachers routinely engage in and focus on instruction and learning. Administration will continue to promote stakeholder engagement through student, faculty, and parent-listening series, to ensure that school leaders are hearing about both school strengths and targeted areas of growth.

LCHS is a unique place to learn. An important attribute of the uniqueness of LCHS is the engagement and support that parent groups give to our students. Please continue this beautiful and caring support. I am grateful to you for your commitment and dedication to the LCHS community. I am excited about the upcoming school year and welcome all of you to our community.

Sincerely,

Jim Cartnal

LCHS Principal - The Home of the Spartans