

LAKEVIEW-FORT OGLETHORPE HIGH SCHOOL

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Parents:

To provide collaboration time for teachers, the class schedule for Wednesdays will be modified for the 2018-19 school year. Student drivers/car riders will be dismissed at 2:20 pm every Wednesday beginning August 15, 2018. Since buses will run on the normal schedule, students who elect to ride buses will remain at school in a teacher guided study hall until 3:15 pm. These study halls will provide students the opportunity to complete their homework assignments and receive additional support before leaving school with the assistance of LFO staff members.

Also during this time, some career and co-curricular clubs will meet, the jazz band will practice, drama will rehearse, and there will be a Wednesday detention which students may be assigned for disciplinary purposes. A "Test Center" will also be provided for students who need to re-take or make-up a test. Students will need to make arrangements with their classroom teacher to schedule retakes in the Test Center.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding Professional Learning Communities (PLC) and early dismissal:

Why is LFO High School going to a 55 minute "early release" schedule for Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) this year?

LFO High School is striving to improve student learning for all students. In order for teachers to develop assessments and instructional strategies to reach all learners, the school district designated time to allow for teachers at all high school grade levels and schools to collaborate. To implement this time, the schools will have a 55 minute early release on Wednesdays throughout the 2018-2019 school year, where students will be released from school 55 minutes early.

Is the high school released early on the same days as the other high schools?

Yes. A survey of our administrators showed that having all schools release early on the same day will be the most convenient scenario for our families.

Will the buses still take my child home?

At LFO, Students will be encouraged, challenged, equipped, and motivated to succeed.

Yes. School buses will drop off students, at their regular bus stops.

What will teachers be doing during the one hour PLC early release?

National research supports that teachers working in collaboration with one another to improve student learning results in more learning for all students. Teachers will be working in grade level or content teams by subject area to identify common agreements on what all students should know and be able to do as a result of a class or course; develop common assessments to measure student progress on those standards; identify students that need additional time and support; and identify options for students that have already met the standards. Teaching is generally an isolated profession throughout the nation and LFO High School is working to improve student learning by developing a more collaborative culture.

What will students who remain at school be doing during the one hour PLC early release?

Students who remain at school will participate in a teacher guided study hall until 3:15 pm. These study halls will provide students the opportunity to complete their homework assignments and receive additional support before leaving school with the assistance of LFO staff members. Also, some career and co-curricular clubs will meet. A "Test Center" will also be provided for students who need to re-take or make-up a test.

Who do I call if I have specific questions about what my student's school is doing?

Please feel free to call me here at the school.

Where can parents and other interested parties review the goals, objectives, and measurements of effectiveness regarding this program?

Professional Learning Communities (PLC) are a research-based model for collaboration. Our school's improvement plan identifies specific goals and objectives for measuring progress on improving student learning. Additional information on professional learning communities can be found at www.allthingsplac.info.

When do the one hour PLC early releases begin?

One hour PLC early releases will begin at LFO High School on Wednesday, August 15th 2018, and continue the remainder of the school year.

Are there any other schedule changes for LFO High School in the 2018-19 school year?

Yes. LFO High School will offer a unified FLEX Lunch this year. FLEX is a 59 minute lunch period which allows students the opportunity to participate in clubs, tutoring, co-curricular activities, meet with mentors, etc. FLEX is a privilege that can be earned, lost, and re-earned to ensure all students have additional time to learn and build healthy relationships. Please see the LFO website for more details!

What are the essential standards and what do they mean for my student?

Essential standards are defined as the state standards that are critical for student success. Through the identification of Essential standards, teachers teach the most critical standards in the order of priority. Essential standards identify the guaranteed curriculum and standards that will be taught for each student, regardless of which classroom they are in.

Can I come and see what the teachers are doing during their PLC time?

Yes. Beginning in October, you may contact your student's principal to set up a visitation.

Is there any additional costs to the district for this program and from which budget is it being paid?

The Professional Learning Community (PLC) early release is cost neutral.

Who monitors the programs to ensure that 100% of the meeting time is used for this program and not used for unrelated business?

Principals at each school maintain the agendas and minutes from each of the PLC teams within their schools.

Where can parents review information that demonstrates such programs have had an impact on student learning when used in other districts?

Two frequently updated websites include: www.allthingsplac.info and www.plc.washington.org identify school districts that have used the PLC model to improve student learning.

How will the school make up this time to students to comply with state requirements for instructional hours and days?

LFO High School meets the requirements for instructional hours and days as established by the Georgia Department of Education.

Just like you, I want your child to be successful. This adjustment in our Wednesday schedule helps us to ensure that your child will receive the highest quality instruction from the best prepared teachers in the nation, every day, without exception! I will be talking more about this at our Open House on Monday, August 6th at 6:00 PM. I hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please call me. Feathers up!

Charles Nix
Principal