

# TIGER TIMES

## PLEASANT LEA MIDDLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 4, 2017

NO. 1

630 SW Persels Road  
816-986-1175

Lee's Summit, MO 64081  
plms.lsr7.org

**Dr. Janette Miller**, Principal [Janette.Miller@lsr7.net](mailto:Janette.Miller@lsr7.net)



@JANETTEMILLERPL



PLMS\_PRINCIPAL

**Mrs. Kimberly Alonzo**, 7th grade Assistant Principal [Kimberly.Alonzo@lsr7.net](mailto:Kimberly.Alonzo@lsr7.net)



PLMS@1971



PLMSTIGERS

**Dr. Joe Dan Vendelin**, 8th grade Assistant Principal [Joedan.Vendelin@lsr7.net](mailto:Joedan.Vendelin@lsr7.net)



@JVENDELIN

### PLMS START OF SCHOOL AND END OF SCHOOL TIMES CHANGED



NEW HOURS at Pleasant Lea Middle School

1<sup>st</sup> hour BEGINS at 7:30 a.m.

Students will be dismissed at 2:25 p.m.

The changes are designed to allow our Transportation Department to continue to offer a high level of service to families while reducing the number of school bus routes required to transport students to and from school. The Lee's Summit R-7 School District will save approximately \$120,000 in anticipated additional transportation staffing in 2017-18 while avoiding the purchase of several new school buses, estimated at \$520,000.

These transportation savings are especially important since the state continues to reduce funding for public school transportation. State reimbursement for public school transportation continues to be significantly underfunded with Lee's Summit R-7 funding 71 cents of every dollar spent on student transportation while the state contributes 29 cents toward every dollar spent. Full state transportation reimbursement would result in state funding of 75 cents of every dollar spent with Lee's Summit R-7 responsible for 25 cents of each transportation dollar. For the R-7 School District, the state underfunding of transportation results in a loss of \$3 million this school year.



## PLMS FUNDRAISER COMING SOON...

More  
information to  
come so stay  
tuned.

The changes also provide for a more consistent schedule among schools. Instead of three start/end times for elementary schools, there will be two next year. The three middle schools will start/end within 10 minutes of one another next year instead of the 20-minute span in start/end times this year. For the three high schools, the change will result in all three schools starting and ending at the same time.

The district's Before- and After-School Services (BASS) program is adjusting its schedule to fit changes at schools. The decision to make the changes to the start/end times involved district administration, principals, transportation staff and BASS employees. Staff members worked together to develop the plan, emphasizing excellent service for students as well as the necessity of being fiscally responsible.

## LS R7 BOARD APPROVES REDUCTION OF SEVERAL STUDENT FEES

The Lee's Summit R-7 Board of Education approved reductions in several student fees at a May 18 meeting. The changes will take effect during the 2017-18 school year and impact the Chromebook insurance fee, the middle- and high-school \$10 programming and activity fee and the high-school student parking permit fee.

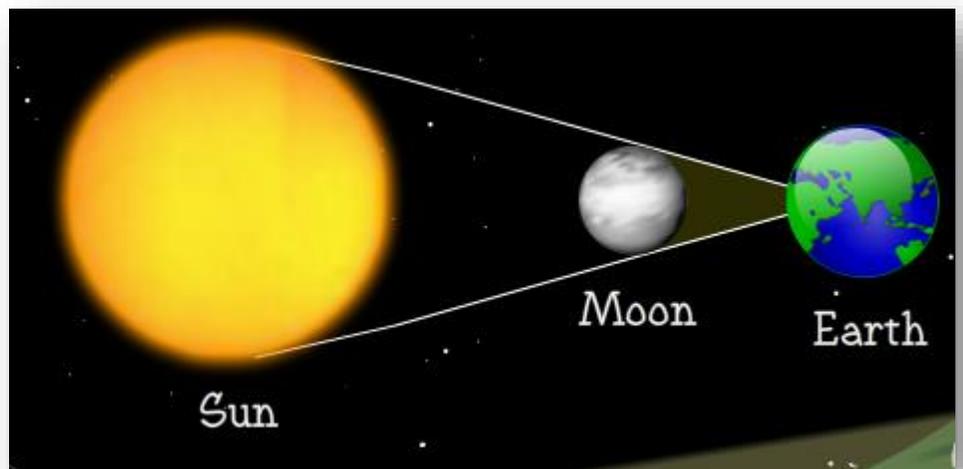
Based on the Board of Education's decision, the following changes will begin in August 2017:

- The \$10 per student activity and programming fee previously paid by families at middle and high schools is being eliminated.
- The student Chromebook replace/repair fee will drop from \$30 to \$25 per student.
- The parking fee for high-school students will be reduced from \$25 to \$10 per year.

## SOLAR ECLIPSE AUGUST 21 LSR7 EVENTS

Staff members from throughout the Lee's Summit R-7 School District are preparing for the Aug. 21 solar eclipse with an emphasis on both learning and safety. The unique experience will begin at approximately 11:41 a.m. and end at 2:36 p.m. with the maximum impact at 1:09 p.m. within the Lee's Summit area.

The school district has provided all schools with optional activities for students. In addition, the district purchased close to 21,000 solar eclipse shades from the Missouri Optometric Association, enough eye protection for the district's more than 18,000 students as well as all staff members. The shades are certified for safe viewing of the sun during an eclipse. It is important to remember that the only safe way to look at the sun, even during the height of the eclipse, is with the certified shades.



Schools and teachers will be determining the level of eclipse participation for their students. For information about your school's planned activities, please contact the school.

This is the first time in United States history that a total solar eclipse will cross the nation from coast to coast. It is noteworthy that the Lee's Summit R-7 School District is near the eclipse's path of totality, where the moon will completely block the sun for a few moments and engulf these areas in total darkness. A full or partial eclipse will be visible throughout North America with a partial eclipse also visible in parts of South America, Africa and Europe.

The next worldwide solar eclipse will be in 2019, and it will be visible in parts of South America. More information about the eclipse is available on a NASA website at <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>.

## FALL ATHLETICS INFORMATION

Any student wishing to participate in sports at PLMS must have a current physical dated February 1, 2017 or later. The MSHSAA physical form is available to print from our PLMS school website at <http://plms.lsr7.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/47/2016/08/MSHSAA-Physical-Form.pdf>.

In addition, all athletes must pay a \$25 MSHSAA activities/sports fee. You will be able to pay this fee during the online registration process. Please bring the 4 page completed/signed paper copy of the physical form with you to schedule pick-up in August (this form cannot be uploaded via the new online registration process). ALL FALL SPORTS PHYSICALS NEED TO BE TURNED IN BY MONDAY AUGUST 7.



### Fall Sports Start Dates

- Football .....Monday, August 14
- Volleyball.....Tuesday, August 15
- Cross Country..... Wednesday, August 16

## BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES PRIORITIES FOR 17-18 SCHOOL YEAR

### *Action items focus on student achievement, learning environments and communication*

The Lee's Summit R-7 Board of Education approved three district-wide priorities at the July 20 Board of Education meeting. The Board prioritized strategic action items focus on student achievement, learning environments and communication. The priorities follow.

1. Increase the learning and achievement of every child through the development of a comprehensive academic framework informed by the needs of our students, the district's strategic plan and the 2016 Academic Systems Review.
2. Ensure equitable access to 21st century learning environments by engaging stakeholders in a process to update the district's Comprehensive Facility Master Plan to meet the instructional and programming needs of all pre-K-12 students.
3. Strengthen public trust in the district's governance leadership team by systemically enhancing communication, involvement and collaboration to ensure constructive engagement within the school district community.

Board members will receive progress reports on the goals throughout the 2017-18 school year. Lee's Summit R-7 administrators are assigned to oversee the goals and are creating action plans for each priority.

The priorities were developed after extensive discussion at the Board of Education's two-day work session, held June 7 and 8. At these same work sessions, Board members created a one-page document listing norms of operation for the Board of Education and superintendent. The norms are available at this [link](#) (item 10.01 within the July 20 regular meeting). They include items such as preparation for Board meetings, confidentiality, Board of Education committee participation, communication, school visits and respect.

"The Board of Education listened to the community and put a lot of effort into self-examination to develop both the priorities and the norms of operation," said Bob White, Board of Education president. "With these priorities and the norms, I believe we are being responsive to our stakeholders as we keep moving forward."

With the emphasis on the priorities and the norms, the Board of Education will also be operating more efficiently, Mr. White added.

"The Board and administration have worked diligently over the last several weeks to establish clear priorities for the upcoming school year. These priorities will ensure our organization's focus on enhancing student learning, operational efficiency and constructive community engagement as a means of furthering the tradition of excellence we all expect," said Dr. Dennis L. Carpenter, superintendent. "Our goal is to keep these priorities in the forefront and keep our community informed about this important work as we make progress throughout the year."

## LSR7 2015 NO-TAX INCREASE BOND PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION

### *School facility improvements, new Missouri Innovation Campus are on time and within budget*

Thanks to voter approval of a 2015 no-tax-increase bond issue, schools throughout Lee's Summit R-7 are receiving facility improvements. The \$40 million bond issue, approved by close to 80 percent of voters, is also funding the district's new Missouri Innovation Campus, home of Summit Technology Academy. All school improvement projects as well as the Missouri Innovation Campus are on time and within budget.

#### **Missouri Innovation Campus nearing completion**

The new Missouri Innovation Campus, located near Ward and Tudor Road, is scheduled to open in August 2017. Construction on the new school began in March 2016 following a groundbreaking celebration. A community grand opening is scheduled for 4 p.m. Sept. 5 at the new school.



Thanks to a unique partnership with the University of Central Missouri (UCM), the school district and university are constructing and operating this cost-saving shared facility. Under the plan, Lee's Summit R-7 is paying approximately 40 percent of the new school with UCM paying the remaining 60 percent. Based on an agreement between the two organizations, Lee's Summit R-7 will be the sole owner of the facility which will house Summit Technology Academy and Missouri Innovation Campus (MIC) programs as well as UCM programs currently located in the UCM-Lee's Summit facility. UCM is paying its portion through a lease agreement.

The shared facility will reduce operating expenses for the R-7 School District, allowing the district to move both the Summit Technology

Academy and MIC programs from leased space into a building owned by the school district. It is anticipated that due to increased rental costs resulting from the expiration of a long-running tax abatement, Lee's Summit R-7 will save approximately \$9 million over the next 20 years by construction of the new facility.

#### **School renovation and maintenance projects continue on schedule**

Approximately half of the \$40 million bond issue is funding numerous school improvements in the areas of classroom instruction, safety and security, health and wellness, ADA access renovations and special education. Also included are maintenance projects designed to protect the district's investment in its schools as well as playground safety upgrades for all elementary schools' soft play areas and replacement of deteriorated play equipment. Numerous

improvement projects were completed during summer 2015 and summer 2016. The majority of the remaining projects will be finished by the start of school in August with just a few projects wrapping up during fall 2017.

The school improvements, maintenance projects and playground upgrades are positively impacting all 28 Lee's Summit R-7 schools. A few examples of the many school improvements are classroom renovations at Lee's Summit High School, entry security improvements at Lee's Summit North High School, a concession/restroom building at the Lee's Summit West High School softball/baseball complex, a gym addition and classroom renovations at Mason Elementary, classroom and art classroom renovations at Lee's Summit Elementary and a kitchen and cafeteria renovation at Hazel Grove Elementary.

Examples of school maintenance funded by the bond are flooring, carpet, ceilings, painting, roofing, paving, mechanical, doors, windows, door FOBS, backflows, water sanitizing and masonry.

Visit [www.lsr7.org](http://www.lsr7.org) for more information.

## SCHOOL SUPPORTERS INVITED TO SUBSCRIBE TO ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER FOCUSING ON LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

The 'R-7 Advocacy' electronic newsletter provides interested individuals with relevant and timely information about legislative activities. Through this electronic communication, we will also occasionally ask subscribers to consider contacting their elected officials about specific proposed legislation that would impact Lee's Summit R-7 students.

If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please visit <http://tiny.cc/epjg3x> or e-mail Janice Phelan at [janice.phelan@lsr7.net](mailto:janice.phelan@lsr7.net) and ask to be added to the list. The R-7 Legislative Platform is available at <http://tiny.cc/5vjg3x>. This website also includes a list of area elected officials and a Toolkit for Advocacy, developed with the assistance of the Missouri School Boards Association.

## FAMILIES ENCOURAGED TO VISIT WEBSITE FEATURING STUDENT RELATED FLYERS

Lee's Summit R-7 families are encouraged to frequently visit the district's informational flyers web page to learn about a wide variety of family and children's activities and events. The website includes student-related informational flyers from the R-7 School District as well as Missouri not-for-profit organizations and is located at <http://ow.ly/UR3k>.

## WILL YOU TELL US YOUR STORY ABOUT STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH R-7 STORY PROJECT?



Do you have a story about your child that you'd like to share focusing on his or her success in school? As part of "The Story Project," Lee's Summit R-7 is featuring personal stories about our students and their accomplishments in school. We are looking for stories about a specific incident or an individual school staff member making a positive difference for your child.

The stories may be about children from birth through high school and may be submitted by parents and guardians of both past and present students. Stories should be 200 words or less and should go to [janice.phelan@lsr7.net](mailto:janice.phelan@lsr7.net). You may also contact Janice Phelan to provide general information, and she will draft your story for your review.

For more information about The Story Project, visit the [website](#).