



A Classical Education for the Modern World

PARENT FORUM ZOOM MEETING

APRIL 22, 2020 AT 12:30 PM

- 12:18:54 From Carl Lyon : We'll start letting folks in shortly, everyone. Thanks for your patience!
- 12:20:02 From Carl Lyon : If you could make sure that your displayed name includes your first and last name, that would be helpful and facilitate letting folks in faster.
- 12:32:36 From Kate Cromwell : All, please share a name we can recognize (first, last) so we can admit you. Thanks!
- 12:37:07 From Kate Cromwell : We are trying to get to everyone but need your name! please give us something to recognize.
- 12:39:11 From Kate Cromwell : HELLO! We want to admit you - please share your names with us to be admitted!
- 12:43:29 From Carl Lyon: If you are able to change your name to one we can recognize (first and last) please do so.
- 12:45:26 I don't have a question at this point. I do want to express our family's deep thanks at the tremendous effort the school has put towards such a fast pivot to a virtual world.
- 12:46:03 Agreed. Thank you!
- 12:46:21 Completely agree! Thumbs up!
- 12:46:52 Great job!
- 12:46:55 Ditto!
- 12:46:56 From Kate Cromwell : You can still join - just tell me your user name so I can admit you!
- 12:46:57 Agree! The team is doing a phenomenal job. Thank You!
- 12:48:15 Great work Everyone! Dr. Smith you got this! You're doing an amazing job. We feel the love!
- 12:48:28 Great work Everyone! Dr. Smith you got this! You're doing an amazing job. We feel the love!
- 12:48:34 Absolutely agree — amazing job by everyone involved, I see it every day in my child's smiles and excitement when she's doing her work.

12:48:35 There are colleges, and certainly other MS and HS programs that are doing less than half of what Latin is doing. Our thanks and admiration.

12:49:18 Absolutely - thanks a million. Please keep us posted on how we can be helpful.

12:49:24 From Kate Cromwell: I need you to change your user names - cannot be just phone numbers. Thanks I'll admit you a.s.a.p.

12:49:38 Yes, my 10th grader is more engaged with her online learning than my first-year college student is, and I give Latin credit for that.

12:50:21 Our thanks to you and all the faculty for what you're doing!

12:50:31 Latin staff and faculty are doing an amazing job! We are so proud to be a part of such a stellar learning community! Your hard work, dedication, and commitment make our job easy.

12:51:03 From Kate Cromwell: In the waiting room, we need your name to identify you and let you in. You can change your user name, and I'll let you in right away!

12:52:24 Agree that some aspects of distance learning have been better. My son's grades have improved because all materials are in same place, easier to keep track of, etc. So my question for next year when in-person school resumes is: can some of these positive aspects be retained and implemented going forward?

12:52:47 I believe the positives definitely outweigh the negative.

12:53:52 Can you consider Synchronous learning not on a Monday so that students are not surprised. Just might be a better flow for them any other day of the week...?

12:53:58 I would like to make comments about special education when appropriate and thank the team.

12:54:00 Just a note of feedback. Accessing my own Unified Classroom does not work well with more than one student. When you are on the main dashboard, it feeds both of my kids together. (I get around this by logging in to each kid's Unified Classroom rather than my own.) Just an FYI about that user complication. Thanks!

12:54:01 My son loves this format of learning, he is doing much better academically, he said he can focus better at home.

12:55:27 To the degree that teachers can continue to post assignments online once we return, that would be good. A streamlined approach to the use of technology is very helpful.

12:55:45 While I am very appreciative and grateful to WLPCS, I want to be careful to say that the positives of distance learning have not outweighed the negatives. The lack of structure, extracurriculars, social interaction, and discussions are hard to replace. I believe WLPCS is doing everything reasonable, but I don't believe this is a better way to deliver education.

12:56:21 My daughter really misses being in school every day, seeing friends and teachers, and playing on the lacrosse team!

12:56:24 From Carl Lyon : All, I understand that there are issues with renaming for those in the waiting room. If you send me an email with your Zoom name and your students' name/grade, I can let you in. clyon@latinpcs.org

13:03:03 My child misses school and seeing her friends! We really appreciate all the hard work and efforts of the teachers/staff. Asante Sana:)

13:03:48 So many seniors have supported my students so I hope that younger students will be a part of the celebration in some way too. So they have a chance to show their appreciation and farewell too.

13:03:55 Echoing the HUGE thanks to all the teachers, administration and parents for being so positive and dedicated during this difficult time! We are, like many, so grateful to be apart of this Latin community! Thank you especially to the administrators and staff - you are our heroes!

13:04:25 Phenomenal job WLPCS.

13:05:13 So grateful to be at Latin.

13:05:28 Perhaps also ask the class of 2019 what they might advise about timing. By the time college starts, the class of 2020 may not want to look back.

13:05:36 Timing for graduation ceremony/celebration.

13:05:41 My college graduation was cancelled due to poor planning (rain storm, no back up plan). There was a follow up "graduation" about a year later. My understanding was it was not well attended. I don't know anyone who attended.

13:06:00 Just going to speak for the class of 2019, we still love you all.

13:07:06 All 3 of my kids miss going to school every day, and I can't believe that March 13 was the last day my seniors will ever be in the school. But it's a mark of Latin's rigor and intellectual curiosity to note that some kids are doing better at home, not a suggestion to expand online learning for all.

13:07:22 I thought number of days was waived by OSSE.

13:07:38 Thank you Peter, Diana, and team. What you have done for the community in this short time, not only distance learning but the support you have given to families through technology and food and emergency assistance.

13:07:52 If you guys need any tech help between Uber Eats gigs and DoorDash, I'm available!

13:08:06 My daughter is worried about boredom if school ends while stay at home is still in place. She'd love Latin's school year to continue as long as possible.

13:08:17 I heard the school day minimum was waived as well.

13:08:43 From Carl Lyon: Will let you know! Likely depends on whether we're allowed in the building, though. We bought 300 new Chrome books... Need all the help we can get!

13:08:57 Very appreciative to the staff for putting together great lessons. My kids are doing well with this and prefer asynchronous learning during this time rather than the scheduled "live" classes. It gives them the opportunity to do their classwork at their own pace - faster than average in some classes and slower in others. This has also given us more opportunity to have discussions with them about what they are learning. They contact their friends through chat or online in games so they are continuing to have social interactions.

13:09:27 How will class placements be handled for next year given the changes in assessments? (middle school in particular as it relates to accelerated math and/or language add on options). Is this all through the summer school enrichment/advancement class options?

13:09:28 We feel the same way. I'm not sure what our kids will do without online school.

13:09:31 So grateful for the thoughts and initiatives being out in place for our children.

13:10:13 Echo that...I am very grateful.

13:10:15 I see you've joined the dark side with Chrome Books...Oh boy! I'd be happy to help, just lmk!

13:11:17 Will parents be allowed back into the building in perhaps timed blocks to allow for social distancing in order to clear out lockers?

13:11:50: How will 7th grade students qualify for 8th grade honors classes or will that change for 20-21?

13:11:50 Grateful that Latin is moving to project-based, final assessments, instead of final exams. My D's college courses have canceled or modified finals.

13:12:09 For enrichment summer school classes online, will they be live?

13:12:17 Can I understand the significance of getting ahead? My daughter will be entering ninth grade.

13:12:22 I am immensely impressed and grateful to the WL team

13:12:55 Confused me too coming in to high school - some kids do it to free up their schedules. Like if Chorus would be a conflict. Some kids do it because they love a subject and want more.

13:13:15 Can the administration please share the slides from this presentation, as well as the Unified Classroom Support document?

13:14:43 When will students meet with their advisors to plan their fall schedule (thinking selfishly of scheduling senior year classes/graduation requirements)?

13:14:57 Will the school want athletic uniforms returned?

13:15:04 If your kid does choir and other electives, no time for study halls unless some of the required courses are done in summer.

13:15:39 Think Latin has done a great job but some classes (EG lab sciences) are not effective in DL. Is there a plan to improve that?

13:15:58 Will the school want athletic uniforms returned?

13:15:58 Thank you, Diana.

13:16:23 From Diana Smith: We are recording this and will share the slides and the recording.

13:16:43 Will incoming 5th graders be able to attend summer school as well?

13:16:51 Appreciate all you do - so impressive and amazing! Thank you!!

13:16:58 Thank you!

13:17:47 Martita, please consider a drive thru trash bag of items handed out on a per advisory classroom basis.

13:18:01 From Diana Smit : We may in fact be able to have more synchronous learning for enrichment summer school classes.

13:18:18 That way no one is in the building and aerosols should be limited. Just a thought.

13:18:32 That would be great for summer school.

13:19:05 How will you handle sports credits for spring sports?

13:19:20 How will we handle scheduling honors classes and choosing them?

13:20:24 Agreed with all the praise everyone has said. The faculty has done a tremendous job and my kids are thriving. What are some of the immediate needs that Latin is seeking right now where parents can be helpful?

13:20:42 From Bob Eleby El: Yes, the school does want uniforms turned in. Please just drop off at the main desk between the hours of 10-3, once Martita send out the locker clean-out plan.

13:20:48 Thank you so much for your hard work with this transition! A question about a potential early starting date: If families made travel plans for August based on the previously announced starting date, will students be penalized for missing school during the time previously expected to be part of summer break?

13:21:12 Yes. Kudos to the support team!!! My son is getting all the support and services to keep him moving forward.

13:21:50 I would love this!

13:22:31 Have you set a date/time for an open house for students who have recently been admitted through the lottery? Our family continues to hear from families and want to advise them correctly.

13:22:50 Will remediation classes during the summer be offered for both kids who have struggled throughout the entire year as well as kids who have just struggled during the distance learning portion of school?

13:23:08: I am overly impressed with how Latin has addressed this crisis. Latin did get this right and should be a model for other schools and institutions.

13:23:27 Can someone explain what criteria are being used for teachers to opt in/out of synchronous learning? If students need it and are not getting it, what can be done?

13:23:34 Overall, distance learning has worked pretty well for our junior and most teachers have been very accessible. However, she has not had any synchronous classes. The target of scheduling only on Mondays is perhaps too constraining. Reworking schedules and/or consolidation of classes taught multiple times per day can make it possible for all teachers to participate for a one or two hour block at least twice a week.

13:23:38 This may be a breakthrough for those students with attention or focus difficulties. I also think the later start time is better.

13:23:39 Yes, please share how rising 10th graders will choose their courses.

13:23:40 Shout out to Ms. Waidmann who was open to and is helping revive "board game club" via Zoom for the last two weeks.

13:23:44 From Diana Smith: Yes, to both. Please send either Jimmy Kelly or Kara Brady the names and we will address.

13:23:48 Re: PE credits: what about Juniors? Will they have to take 2 session senior year if they had intended to take spring session this year?

13:24:14 Yes - PE credit answer didn't answer issue for non-Seniors

13:24:32 Ditto about appreciating the successes some students are having with the distance learning! The format is direct, clear and objective. Also, participation is measured in a way that reduces extrovert bias, which is great!

13:24:39 What about sports credit for middle school? Mr. Eleby El mentioned HS - does the same apply to MS - 8th grade?

13:24:40 Good question about grading. Some are not posted by teacher or teachers.

13:24:48 I appreciate all the work that the faculty and staff have put in and I am happy to hear that so many kids are doing so well. However, who should we be reaching out to if our children are struggling?

13:25:42 From Bob Eleby El : Non-seniors should have enough time to make up sports credit. Please email me so we can work on a plan.

13:25:43 From Diana Smith : Thanks for the comment about Mondays and synchronous learning. We chose Mondays because it is the only day that all the classes in the entire school meet. We would need to make a whole new schedule for the school if we were to go to another day. I will do some thinking and get back to you. Happy to talk offline.

13:26:09 Hi, I was wondering if the grading for classwork is based on completion rather than actual understanding of the material?

13:26:20 We have had that challenge (blank documents) as well.

13:26:20 That is what we have done...reached to the teachers directly. That has worked perfectly. Yes, we have had the blank document issue.

13:26:21 Agree - we have that issue too.

13:26:35 Rest assured we have the same issues in our house.

13:26:56 From James Kelly: Many of you have been in touch with me, Ms. Brady, and Ms. Bradley with individual grading questions, and I certainly encourage folks to continue to do so. We are working to improve this process for everyone!

13:27:34 Would like the ability to double check submitted exit ticket and documents.

13:27:55 Sounds good. Thanks Mr. Kelly. The efforts are appreciated

13:28:35 Regarding student schedules for next year, will students be able to sign up for classes after the registration process or sometime sooner (specifically for high schools students)?

13:28:48 From Diana Smith : If your child is struggling in one class, then please do email the teacher or the advisor. If more than one class and systemic, please call Mr. Kelly in the Middle School and Kara Brady in the Upper School.

13:28:53 From James Kelly: - Yes, we are working on this, and aim to be in touch with details soon.

13:29:33 As I'm sure the faculty knows, there are students who are handling this crisis by becoming more anxious, particularly about grades. Faculty could reach out to parents, not just students, to work through the anxiety in addition to addressing specific grade issues.

13:29:43 Zoom play dates

13:30:17 From Diana Smith : For social isolation, try a study group. It is working for some of our high schoolers.

13:30:23 Do we have a school psychologist or counselors with suggestions to help kids navigate the social disparity?

13:30:41 Will summer school be all synchronous learning? What will physical distancing look like on the fall? Can teachers use Google Forms for many assignments?

13:30:45 Thank you!!!!!!!!!!!!

13:30:46 Sent to teacher. Still waiting for a reply. What is the turn around for email? It's been three days.

13:30:57 Thank you - this was so very helpful.

13:31:07: Thank you all. Like so many, we are very impressed by how the school has been handling this difficult situation.

13:31:09 Great study group suggestion, Diana.

13:31:11 Thanks so much!

13:31:17 From James Kelly: Our counselors are continuing their work. Please encourage folks to be in touch if support is needed.

13:31:23 For parents unable to attend this session please let us know how to access recording. Thank you for the great communication. We're lucky and we know it.

13:31:23 Thank you for being so thoughtful. This was really helpful.

13:31:28 Very good information. Thank You. Be Safe...

13:31:36 THANK YOU!!!!

13:31:38 Agree with parents' question about school counselor team help for students.

13:31:40 This has been great. Thanks for all of the staff and teachers' hard work!

13:31:41 From Diana Smith : High-school course selection will be handled through the advisor. We will start in two weeks.

13:31:58 I like the idea of Zoom play dates however --I don't know how to coordinate. Is this something the school can assist with?

13:32:06 Thank you again. The Washington Latin Team is doing an amazing job!!

13:32:13 Can this chat be sent to us?

13:32:14 God Speed Latin Administrators and Community. Thank you for this outreach today.

13:32:14 Thank you for everything that the staff at Latin is doing to keep our community engaged. Really great job and very appreciated.

13:32:19 So much gratitude to all the staff and faculty at Latin for working so tirelessly during this challenging time. We are so proud to be part of this community!

13:32:29 Don't forget to reach out to your parent association reps for each grade to help with things!

13:32:30 How do we donate? On website?

13:32:31 From James Kelly - More details about summer school coming very soon! Still working on the others.

13:32:39 In terms of end of school date and start date for next year, has thought been given to extending the current year a bit to avoid having to start earlier in August? As other commenters mentioned, my kids have expressed that they would prefer to have school continue now while there's a stay-at-home situation and not much else to do and not have to go back earlier in Aug if things are back to "normal."

13:32:57 Thank you so much LATIN PCS!

13:33:27 Bravo and thank you!

13:33:30 Thank you to all the staff at Latin - you have been doing an amazing job!!

13:33:32 Thank you!

13:33:39 I didn't understand the answer about sports. My kiddo signed up for a sport in the spring to fulfill his requirement. Is he good for that?

13:33:39 Thank you!! Very encouraging session.

13:33:54 Is Latin preparing for the scenario in which school can't open next year?

13:34:19 If anyone has information on how we can advocate to education leaders about the great work Latin has done, please let us know how! Thank you.

13:34:59 Would like to echo my concern about timeline to make adjustments to grades. Perhaps a designated staff person that is working with teachers to expedite that would be great.

13:35:51 Be sure to save the chat notes! (They don't always save!) :)

13:36:27 Thank you Latin PCS.

