



October 12, 2021

Dear Lawrence High School community,

We are writing to you in follow-up to recent communication regarding altercations on campus, as well as important updates on immediate and long-term steps to ensure LHS is home to a safe, productive learning environment for everyone.

As we shared last week, there was an additional Lawrence Police presence on site Friday in response to altercations in the afternoon. These were followed today by additional altercations related to Friday's incidents, which resulted in injury to staff while attempting to intervene. All of these matters are under active investigation by Lawrence Police, and those involved face serious LPS disciplinary consequences.

Collaborative efforts among LPS and LHS administration and staff, Lawrence Police leadership, and the Mayor's Office continued over the weekend, this morning, and on campus this afternoon, as we determine how best to support our students and families, and meet these challenges as a community.

Most immediately, in an effort to reduce gatherings and address concerns about altercations in the lunch periods, meals were served in classrooms in the afternoon today and LHS conducted a staggered dismissal in the afternoon. LHS expects to issue a revised daily lunch schedule shortly to address these concerns on an ongoing basis.

Lawrence Police have assigned an additional full time School Resource Officer to Lawrence Public Schools, bringing the total number to four officers and a sergeant. Two Community Policing Officers have also been assigned to the campus, and additional patrols will be conducted around neighboring LHS areas as students arrive in the morning and are dismissed at the conclusion of the school day

Looking ahead, we recognize continued, sustained conversations are required to address what we know to be complicated issues. It was anticipated that a return to full in-person school this year would include a wide range of transitional challenges, particularly for the greater-than-normal number of students being introduced to high school and our campus for the first time. It is very clear to all of us that these challenges are real, and will require time, persistence and our entire community to address. LHS is in the process of forming a group of stakeholders to support and guide this work, which will be active throughout the year.

We are grateful to all of you for your continued support of our students, as well as the entire LHS staff, safety team and Lawrence Police for the work they do every day. LPS and LHS We will continue to stay in frequent communication with you, and available to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Victor Caraballo-Anderson
LHS Head of School

Cynthia Paris
Superintendent of Schools