

Dear Families and Staff:

I hope this Perspective finds you well-rested after the Thanksgiving Holiday. The next few weeks are sure to be filled with anticipation of more holiday festivities. To celebrate is to share our joy with those around us. Start now and smile!

This is the annual attendance reminder. The district will generate revenue this year based on average daily attendance. This is calculated on real “seat time,” regardless of whether or not students are ill or excused for an appointment or family travel. We receive dollars from the state based on the percentage of students who attend school each day. For example, this year the state guarantees us \$5,780 per student, based on 180 days of attendance. The average attendance rate is calculated by the percent of the total student population present each instructional day. If 1,200 students have an average attendance rate of 96%, we will receive \$6,658,560 in revenue from the state next year. If our average attendance rate is 98%, we generate \$6,797,280. Most elementary school districts in the state average 98%. Larkspur has been averaging 96% over the past several years. We know we can improve. The rationale is simple--by increasing our attendance rate by 2%, we can make an additional \$138,000.

Parents may not be aware that we can count a full day of attendance for students if they spend **any** portion of the school day in class. This means if you have scheduled an appointment for 10:30 a.m. and you keep your child out of school the entire day, we lose money. If you are leaving on a family trip at 10:00 a.m. and you can send your children to school for the first hour of the day, please do so, as we can count your child present for even 30 minutes of attendance. This may seem like too much trouble, but when you think about the amount of energy our PTA’s expend raising 100K, it’s worth every cent.

We have a goal to reach and revenue to enhance. Our goal is a 98% attendance rate. We know that each and every one of you already gives immeasurably in many ways to our district and we truly appreciate your efforts. If you have any questions regarding attendance, please contact the school offices. Thank you for supporting our attendance campaign!

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 28, 6:00 p.m., School Board Meeting, Hall Library

Agenda and back up material online at www.larkspurschools.org

Monday, December 3 and 17, 6:00 p.m., Facilities Master Plan Committee, Hall Library

Please join us to help determine the next 10 years of facilities needs in our district. The committee meets every two weeks and is open to the public

Wednesday, December 6, 12:30 p.m., District Advisory Council, Community Room

Focus on Strategic Planning

Tuesday, December 11, 8:30 a.m., Superintendent/Board Coffee, Il Fornaio

Focus on Facilities and Program Needs

Wednesday, December 19, 6:00 p.m., School Board Meeting, Hall Library

Honoring outgoing Trustee Michael Futterman, thanking returning incumbent Kevin Mangan and welcoming Sheri Mowbray