Dear Largo High School Community:

I hope that our students enjoyed an exciting and restful summer. In addition, to rest and relaxation, I hope that all students took advantage of the time away from school to learn and grow as young adults. I know in the 2019-2020 school year, we will continue to grow and exceed academic expectations.

I’m excited to announce that we have moved to an electronic hall pass system. By using e-Hallpass we will be better able to track the amount of time our students are out of their classes. At the start of the school year we will provide training to all students on this new system.

We will also be moving towards having our morning announcements on a morning show that will be posted daily on our own Largo HS YouTube Channel. Having our daily announcements posted online allows parents to view them so that they don’t miss any of the information that is shared with our students in school. This also allows students who are absent to have access to the information. Once the online channel is operational we will have a link posted on our school website.

Please take your time to read this summer letter so that you are aware of our plans and expectations for the upcoming school year.

Dr. Mirshah’s Reflections:

As I begin my fifth year as the principal of Largo High School, I am reflecting on the road traveled and the road ahead. We have made a significant amount of progress in improving our school culture and academic achievement, but I believe we need more targeted school improvement. As I begin my fifth year as your principal my hope is that you will support my efforts to take our school to a new level.

Largo High School earned three out of five stars on the Maryland State ESSA Report Card. We are proud of our successes and will continue with our great work in the areas of 9th grade promotion, 4 and 5 year graduation rate, and College and Career Readiness. In the 2019-2020 school year our focus will be on improving and building on our score.

A key focus area for the administrative team will be observing our educators and providing them with the coaching, feedback, and support they need in order to improve instruction in the classroom.

We have identified four school improvement goals to help us in our efforts to improve teaching and learning in our building.

Please note that the data being used is from the 2017-2018 school year. I will update our goals and improvement plans once the data is received for the 2018-2019 school year.

- Increase student attendance rate
  - Since the 2015-2016 school year our attendance rate has been at 92%. We would like to increase our student attendance rate to 95% by the end of this school year.

- Increase student performance on English 10 assessment
Currently only 30.3% are proficient on the assessment. We would like to increase to at least 50% proficient on the assessment.

- Only 4% of our SPED students scored as proficient in 2017-2018 on the English assessment. Increase the percent proficient for SPED students to 15%.

- Increase student performance on Algebra 1 assessment
  - Currently only 10.6% are proficient on the assessment. We would like to increase to 25% proficient on the assessment.
  - None of our SPED students scored as proficient in 17-18 on the Algebra 1 assessment. Increase the percent proficient for SPED students to 15%.

- Increase the percentage of students who score ready for post-secondary based on dual enrollment, SAT, ACT, AP, CTE, ASVAB, and academy/program completion or certifications.

We believe that these goals are attainable with your support. I will share more specific information on our school improvement plan at Back-to-School Night on September 19, 2019.

Welcome to 2019-2020 School Year:

My hope is that for the remainder of the summer our students continue to work, read, take classes, complete community service hours, research scholarships, gather information for FAFSA, research colleges and universities, practice SAT/ACT questions on Khan Academy, and take part in other educational opportunities. Throughout the summer, I shared (and will continue to share) via Twitter numerous activities that fit the above criteria.

During the summer months we are focused on putting into place programs that will help in welcoming our incoming freshmen, continuing to prepare our sophomores and juniors, and preparing our seniors for graduation. As soon as the graduation date for the Class of 2020 is announced it will be shared via social media.

Summer Homework Packets:

Students are expected to print and complete summer packets. These packets are due at the start of school and can be found on the Prince George’s County Public School website (http://www1.pgcps.org/summerpackets/). Please make sure that they are completed and given to the appropriate teachers at the start of school. Students must make completion of these packets a priority in the next 6 weeks.

Exciting Instructional Opportunities:

Instructional Programs available at Largo:
  - APECS (Academic Preparedness for Enrichment and College Success)
  - AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)
  - AFJROTC (Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps)
  - Academy of Business and Finance
  - Academy of Health and Bio-Sciences
  - Pro-Start Culinary Arts
  - JP Morgan - Emerging IT Leaders (New in 2020)
  - Autism Program

Last year our first cohort of APECS (Academic Preparedness for Enrichment and College Success) graduated. Our APECS students proved that you can graduate high school and complete at least a semester of college credits at PGCC. Students in the Class of 2023 will be identified based on their academic record and invited to apply. This program was created to better serve our highly motivated and academically talented students.
We will move into our fourth year as an Arts Integration school. This means we will deepen the connection between the arts and content in all curricular areas. We will also continue to host talented artists who will come to Largo to work with our students.

We will continue our focus on Literacy in all content areas, as well as a strong emphasis on the Common Core State Standards.

Our talented students have built two electric vehicles and competed their cars in the DC Electric Vehicle Grand Prix. Last year we started a robotics program. This year our goal is to build on our STEM and robotics program.

Largo High School was selected as the recipient of a grant from JP Morgan and in 2020 we will add the Emerging IT Leaders program as an option for our students. Students in this program will have the option of earning one of four industry certifications by the time they graduate (CISCO IT Networking, Computer Sciences and Programming, Cyber Security, and Interactive Media/Web and Digital Communications).

**Important Dates and Information:**

**August 14th** is the start of fall sports. Anyone with questions should contact our Athletic Director, Coach Ball-Ward. In order to participate students in grades 10-12 must meet academic expectations. All incoming 9th graders are automatically eligible for the fall season. Copies of the athletic packet are available in the main office and all forms and medical exams must be completed prior to August 14th. Coach Ball-Ward has organized clinics to help with the medical exams on August 1st and 7th from 4:00-7:00 PM for a cost of $25.00 – Please contact Coach Ball-Ward for more information. A Google Sign-Up sheet was posted on the Largo Athletics Twitter account.

**August 17th** is the Prince George’s County Public Schools Back-to-School Fair. The fair will be held at the PG Sports and Learning Complex. The fair runs from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Please stop by to visit our administrative team at the fair. Also, there are lots of free items that will be given away at the fair and many vendors with important information. If you have any questions please call 301-952-6380 for more information.

**August 30th** is the orientation date for incoming 9th graders. School busses will run on a regular schedule and you should receive information from the transportation department regarding bus route numbers. If you have any questions please call transportation at 301-952-6570.

**September 3rd** is the first day of school for all students. Our school hours are 7:45 am - 2:25 pm. Students will receive their schedules and the bell schedule during homeroom on the first day of school.

**September 19th** is our Back-to-School Night. We will begin promptly at 6:30 pm for all students and parents in grades 9-12. At 5:30 pm we will have a special program for parents of incoming 9th graders and the parents of our graduating 2019 seniors. In addition, our special education department will provide an overview of the Autism Program for incoming 9th grade students in this program prior to the start of our Back-to-School Night. More information will be shared at the start of school.

**MySchool Bucks:**

To further prepare students for our curriculum, breakfast and lunch are offered through our cafeteria. There is an electronic payment portal for school meals. MySchoolBucks is an online payment service that provides parents the ability to securely pay for meals, monitor student cafeteria purchases, make tuition
payments for Before and After School Extended Learning programs, and receive email notifications for low account balances. The Department of Food & Nutrition Services no longer accepts personal checks.

This year our Class of 2020 students can also pay for their senior packages using MySchoolBucks.

As you set up your account and make deposits please make sure you are sending funds to Largo High School and not the International High School at Largo.

1. To enroll visit www.MySchoolBucks.com and register for a free account.
2. You will receive a confirmation email with a link to activate your account.
3. Add your students using their school name and student ID.
4. Make a payment to your students’ accounts with your credit/debit card.
If you have any questions, contact MySchoolBucks directly: parentsupport@myschoolbucks.com
1-855-832-5226 Visit myschoolbucks.com and click on Help/FAQ’s

Free or reduced-price meals are available to students based on household size and income. If income falls below the amount listed at http://www1.pgcps.org/foodandnutrition/ for household size, then students living within the household may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Students are automatically eligible for free meals if the family receives assistance under the Food Supplement Program or Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) benefits.

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, please go to http://www1.pgcps.org/page.aspx?Pageid=234147&id=235880 we encourage those who qualify for free or reduced price meals to complete the application. There are packets available in the main office for those who would like to pick them up. It is important to note that this program provides more than meals, students may qualify for free or reduced prices for SAT/ACT, support with the college application process, and qualification for college tuition assistance.

Dress Code Expectations:

At Largo we believe that students should have some flexibility in their attire. However students are expected to “dress appropriately and in a way that is consistent with learning being a priority” as stated in the PGCPS Board of Education Administrative Procedure 5152.

We will be enforcing strict dress code expectations. Failure to abide by this procedure will result in consequences that are in-line with the PGCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

Here are a few things to consider regarding appropriate school attire:
- Families should only be expected to provide 2-3 pants/skirts that are appropriate for school and 3-5 appropriate tops. We also ask that students keep expensive or designer clothing at home.
- Students in our AFJROTC program will continue to wear full military uniforms on their assigned days.
- Students in the Medical Assistance program may be expected to wear medical scrubs on lab days.
- We continue to encourage our students to wear Largo spirit and athletic wear, we will have several t-shirts that can be purchased for $5.00 at Back-to-School Night. In addition, each class will have their own class shirt.
- Once students have been given their school ID cards, they will be expected to have them on their person at all times.

PGCPS Dress Code Expectations:

1. Head dresses can be worn indoors for religious or health reasons only.
2. Shirts and blouses should be continuous from neckline to waist. The entire mid-section should not show. No tank tops and muscle shirts should be worn as outer wear.
3. No clothing with vulgar language, obscene pictures, weapons, drug/alcohol or drug paraphernalia and tobacco products should be worn.
4. No identifiable gang/crew clothing or paraphernalia should be worn.
5. No see-through clothing should be worn.
6. Skirts, dresses, shorts, and spandex skirts should be approximately six (6") inches below the buttocks, and no shorter than fingertip level.
7. Pants should be secured at waist with no sagging below the waist to expose undergarments. Tights, stretch pants, leggings, and body suits must be worn with clothing long enough to cover the buttocks.
8. Shoes must be worn.

**Communication:**

If you have a Twitter account please follow me at @AfieMirshah for school related updates. I take great pride in showcasing the great work of our students and staff. If you would like to receive text messages from me please text @largop to 81010.

Our staff will also share important information via Robo calls. If you have not received any automated calls from the school please call 301-808-8880 and ask to speak with our school registrar to ensure that we have the correct contact number for you in our system.

Attached to this letter is our school Emergency Contact Form please complete this form and send it to school for your child. The forms can be mailed to Largo High School attention to Ms. Locker, or dropped off in person in the main office.

We are ready and excited to start what will be a wonderful 2019-2020 school year, we look forward to welcoming our LIONS back to the DEN!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mirshah