

# LSA Community Team Meeting



**MISSION: POSSIBLE**  
*AGENTS OF CHANGE*

Hello, everyone and welcome to my first ever Community Team meeting, and in fact my first ever Zoom meeting! I will ask for your patience as I pretend that I totally know how to operate Zoom and didn't just spend the last week stressing over various disaster scenarios of the many ways I might cause this meeting to crash and burn. I am way out of my comfort zone here leading a meeting, and so I will admit that I have written out basically every word of this meeting. I apologize if it sounds like I am reading everything - that's exactly what I'm doing! If you will indulge me as I get used to leading meetings, I promise I'll get better at winging it and soon I won't need to write out every word.

My name is Laura Chapman and I am a Stay-At-Home-Mom of 4. This year I am, like the rest of you, also a homeschool teacher. My kids are ages 8, 10, 12, and 15, and I am having a range of success with the remote schooling, from close to zero with the 8-year-old to doing really well with the 15-year-old. My oldest is Daniela and she is a 10th grader at Longleaf this year. This is our first year here and we are so happy to be a part of the Longleaf family. Longleaf was her first choice high school and she is so happy to be in creative writing and visual art. She loves to write and can't wait to get to take digital art, which is her passion. Her younger sisters have recently discovered dance classes at DDI in Wake Forest - they now attend via Zoom - and all my kids usually swim for the team at the JCC each summer (but not this summer). We have a house full of pets, 3 cats and one indoor rabbit, and in my spare time I like to read, I like to bake increasingly complicated bread, and I have discovered that I love sticker-by-number books (less mess and commitment than paint-by-number).

My younger kids are students at another charter school, Casa Esperanza in northeast Raleigh and we have spent many happy years there. We are definitely a charter school family. Daniela and I are very glad to be part of such an awesome charter high school and I hope that my participation as a Community Team Leader is helpful to you, my new school community.

## **Purpose of LSA Community Teams**

- **Essential Agreements**

## **Introduction Activity**

- **School 2020-2021 Theme**

## **Discussion Topic: Remote Learning**

- **Parent Survey Results**

## **Share Community Team Announcements and Celebrations for School Newsletter**



Our Agenda for this first meeting of our Community Teams is as follows. I will go over the purpose of our meetings, our Essential Agreements (basically the ground rules), we'll have a short Introduction Activity, and we'll talk about our school theme for this year. Our discussion topic will be the results of the Remote Learning Survey that everyone got last week, and we will end the meeting with any announcements from Ms Williams and a request for families to share their good news for inclusion in the school newsletter.

# LSA Community Teams

## Mission: Connect the Community

### LSA Community Team Leader Role and Responsibilities:

**Direct Contact and Community Representative** - Available via school email address: [laura.chapman@longleafschool.com](mailto:laura.chapman@longleafschool.com)

**Hosts and Facilitates Discussions** - LSA Community Team meetings are held once per month online via Zoom for families to **Connect, Congregate, and Celebrate** by sharing feedback on topics impacting LSA

**Provide School Information** - Announce school events and encourage participation

**Collect Team Announcements** - Information will be shared in the school newsletter

**Attend Head of School Meetings** - Share questions, comments, and suggestions gathered from community meetings or email messages and convey responses

So what are Community Teams and why do we have them? Our Community Teams are small groups of Longleaf families, and their mission is to make it easier to virtually connect our community. It's harder to feel like you're a part of a larger school community when you can't get together in person. It's just easier, especially over Zoom, to gather as a small group and get to know each other.

I am one of 10 Community Team leaders. I head up the North Raleigh group. We are divided up according to where we live, so that it will be easier to get together when we are eventually able to hold some in-person small group activities. I am your direct contact with the school. If you have questions or concerns, or anything you want to share with school administration or the school community, you can feel free to send me an email and I will direct you to the proper person in the school administration. My email is here on the screen.

I will be your host for monthly Zoom meetings and will share with you feedback on topics of interest to Longleaf families. These can be topics suggested by families, so please send me your ideas and I will see what I can do to get them incorporated into our meetings. The school will email out a reminder with the meeting times and links each month. Remember that you can attend whichever team leader meeting fits best into your schedule. We are all discussing the same topics.

As the meeting host I will also announce school events and encourage everyone to participate! It's going to be different this year but we can still be a strong community even if it has to be virtually.

At the end of each meeting I will ask you for any good news you want to share with everyone via the school newsletter. Any good news is welcome, no matter how small! Keep in mind that your good news may inspire another family, or might just be something to make someone smile after a hard day. It all counts!

I will also be attending monthly meetings with Ms Williams. This is to pass along to her suggestions and comments from my Zoom meetings with families, as well as to gather information from her to give out to you. For example, this month we will be looking at the responses received from last week's Remote Learning Survey.

# Meeting Essential Agreements

1. Be Courteous and Respectful of all Contributors
2. Maintain Confidentiality
3. Keep Comments Brief to Allow Others to Share
4. Turn Negatives Statements into Positive Suggestions
5. Enjoy Building Relationships - **Connect, Congregate, and Celebrate** Together!

Our Meeting Essential Agreements are just our ground rules. Be courteous and respectful. Maintain confidentiality: if you privately tell me something about your student or your family, my role is to direct you to the school personnel who can help you resolve your issue and I will not share your personal details with others outside of this.

If it's not something sensitive, though, mentioning your concern in these small Zoom meetings might allow those folks attending to help answer your question, or even just acknowledge that they are having the same issue. Regardless, we all agree to be courteous and respectful of what others choose to share in our meetings.

Keep comments brief so everyone has a chance to speak. Let's try to find a positive way to present issues so that we can look for solutions and not just complain. That's not to say you can't have a complaint, but let's do our complaining with the aim of finding a resolution to the problems.

Most of all, remember that the aim of the Community Team meetings is to enjoy building relationships among our fellow Longleaf families. Let's all admit up front that Zoom is awkward and if we could, we'd gladly get together in person to make new friends. But until that is possible, we can try to find the best in Zoom and let it help us connect and celebrate our unique high school community.

# Community Team Meeting Dates

I'm planning for my Zoom meetings to be on Tuesdays at 6:30pm:

10/13	1/12	4/13
11/17	2/9	5/11
12/15	3/16	6/8

## 2020/21 Calendar



### Weather Make Up Days

Qtr 1 10/5, 10/1, 10/2  
 Qtr 2 11/23, 11/24, 11/30  
 Qtr 3 2/15, 3/3, 3/5  
 Qtr 4 4/5, 4/6  
 Days will be made up in the order listed for any days missed during that quarter

Professional Development  
 Professional Day  
 Exams  
 Teacher Workday  
 Last day of the quarter  
 Community Service Day

These are the tentative dates for my upcoming meetings. All Community Team meetings will be held the 2nd or 3rd week of each month. I have chosen Tuesdays at 6:30. Keep in mind that you can attend any of the Community Team meetings; pick the one that fits best into your schedule. Just take a look at the email you'll get during the first week of each month with all the meeting times and links.

# Introduction Activity

2020 - 2021 School Theme - **MISSION POSSIBLE: AGENTS OF CHANGE**

The entire LSA Community is on a mission to be leaders of all of the changes impacting education this school year! We will prove that as a united team our school can be a model for all other schools in the state of North Carolina! Instead of allowing these changes to negatively impact LSA, we will proactively face challenges by taking charge of our journey as Agents of Change!

**Agents, here is your first task! Decide on a family code name and share it in the Zoom Chat! You have a few minutes to complete this mission!**

Since this is our first Community Team meeting we will start off with an Introduction Activity to help us define the purpose of our meetings. Our theme for this school year is Mission Possible: Agents of Change. Our school community is on a mission to take charge of all the changes impacting education this year. And there are a lot of them! Rather than let these changes define us and negatively affect our attitudes and our outlook, we at Longleaf want to take charge of our educational journey and become positive agents of change.

So our first task is: a code name. Each agent family will have a couple minutes to think about a code name that communicates to others your decision to have a positive outlook towards the changes happening this school year. You can put your code name in the chat or just hold off until time is up and unmute yourself. If everyone is stuck, I can share the name I chose for my family and see if that helps give you some inspiration. Or I can do that to start with?

My family's code name is: Lemonade. I chose this to represent my desire to take the changes and events that have been thrust upon us this year - the lemons, if you will - and turn them into something positive, to try to see a bright side of things instead of focusing on what I don't like about all the changes this year. It's so easy to get down about the way things are these days and I will admit that many days it seems like I'm having a harder time with this than my kids are. Making an effort to pick one positive thing to focus on helps refocus my negative energy and give me a more positive outlook.



# Topic - Remote Learning

## Parent/Guardian Survey Results: Online Lesson Presentations

### Challenging for Students

- Small Group Activities
- Reading and Research Tasks

### Successful for Students

- Google Slides/Presentations
- Live Teacher Lessons
- Online Videos
- Digital Worksheet with Examples

#### Parent/Guardian Recommendations:

- More time for assignment completion
- Coordination between teachers of when major assignments, quizzes, and tests occur
- More class breaks
- Contacting parent/guardian if student has a pattern of not participating appropriately or is missing assignments

This month's discussion topic is the survey we filled out as "homework" after the Virtual Open House session last Thursday.

Challenging for Students are Small Group Activities and Reading & Research Tasks. Zoom for classes is just awkward to start with, my student says. In small groups it's worse. If there's not a natural leader in the group, then no one says anything, and if there is then it's basically just that person talking with one other student. Does anyone have anything to add to the challenges?

Successful for Students are Google Slides/Presentations, Live Lessons, Online Videos, and Digital Worksheets with Examples. My student listed her favorite item as Live Lessons, and she mentioned to me that she does not care for the online videos, which seems to not be the case for others.

Lastly, we have the Parent Recommendations for improvement of remote learning for their student. Top answers include More time to complete assignments, Coordination of tests, quizzes, and major assignments, More class breaks, and Contacting a parent when a student has a pattern of not participating or is missing assignments.

My student voted for more breaks. She finds it hard to sit for such long periods and complains often that her back hurts. She sits in a proper chair at a desk, but I will agree she does sit for long periods of time. Does anyone else want to share what they recommended to improve remote learning for their student?

Just a point of interest, these responses come from the 21% of families who filled out the survey. That survey is still open, so if you would like to have your opinion heard, please do fill it out. Even if everything is going well for your student and you have no improvements to suggest, that is still helpful information for the school to know.

## Announcements and Celebrations

Please share anything you would like announced to the entire school community in the next newsletter/communication.

*Tell me now!*



*Email me later!*

[laura.chapman@longleafschool.com](mailto:laura.chapman@longleafschool.com)

Final section of the meeting is to share any good news you'd like to have announced to the school community in the next weekly email. If you'd like, you can email your news to me. There isn't a set deadline for your email, since for now news will be shared in the weekly messages. The newsletter is a work in progress.

My next meeting is Tuesday, Oct 13, at 6:30. Remember that Ms Babb will send out an email with all the team leader meetings and you can attend whichever one fits best into your schedule.

Thank you so much for being my first-meeting guinea pigs! I hope that these meetings become something we all look forward to as a way to connect with each other so that we are together even though we are physically separate.

Thank you again for attending, and see you next month!

# LSA Shuttle

[lsashuttle@gmail.com](mailto:lsashuttle@gmail.com)

Transportation options, including the shuttle, are listed on the school website in the FAQ section: <https://www.longleafschool.org/admissions-faqs>

For those who are interested in learning more about the North Raleigh Shuttle. Many thanks to Elizabeth for answering questions, about the shuttle as well as about board meetings. And thank you to all who attended my inaugural meeting! I apologize again for my technical difficulties. My husband has offered his high-powered computer for my next meeting, so that should not happen again. It was great to meet you all; see you next month!