



LONGLEAF SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

9400 Forum Drive ♦ Raleigh, NC 27615 ♦ (919) 896-8164

November 9, 2017

Longleaf Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Congratulations on a successful start to the school year. Following is an update after the completion of our First Quarter.

School Year Start Up -

- We started the new school year **on time and within our approved budget** while preserving the 2017-18 School Calendar and Instructional time.
- Due to the lower cost of rent at our temporary Forum Drive location, we utilized **surplus funds allocated for the cost of rent at our Chapanoke** location to **offset unplanned and special expenses** (utilities at the Forum, rental of CC and Co. Dance Complex, temporary shuttle bus service, etc.).
- To help accommodate the unplanned commuting effects on families of the temporary location, **we waived departmental and parking fees for the 2017-18 School Year**. A portion of revenue from Student Fees will be redirected to supplement existing departmental funding as needs are demonstrated.
- We **extended our school building hours** (7:00 am - 5:00 pm) to accommodate early drop-offs and late pick-ups due to the disruption and logistic concerns the delay caused LSA households.

Status of 322 Chapanoke Rd. –

- LSA retained an **Independent Construction Consultant**, Jim Lage of Covenant Facility Services, and added a **new Board Member**, Larry Williams since our July communication. Both gentlemen meet at the construction site every Monday morning with the general contractor for progress reports.
- Construction is occurring in two phases. **Phase I** is the interior upfit of the existing 50,000-square-foot building that contains academic classrooms, offices, and several arts studios. **Phase II** is the new 10,000-square-foot addition that will contain the blackbox theatre and dance studios.
- We can move in for second semester once Phase I is complete. Phase I contains ample space to accommodate the theatre and dance classes while construction on Phase II progresses.
- On Friday, October 21st, the second floor of Phase I passed the above-ceiling inspection, resulting in **the second floor of Phase I passing all City of**



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Raleigh inspections. The second floor is painted and carpeted, tile and baseboard are scheduled to be completed by Nov. 10. Science Lab casework has been delivered, lab countertops and sinks are ordered, installation will commence soon.

- All construction crews are now focusing on **completing the first floor of Phase I**. The above-ceiling City of Raleigh inspection for the first floor of Phase I is anticipated to occur **around November 20th**.
- As of this writing, we remain on schedule to hit the target date for obtaining our Phase I **Certificate of Occupancy for Education on December 1, 2017**.
- Foundation work on **Phase II** has started and steel is ordered. **Construction of Phase II** will continue during the second semester.

Budget Impact and Financial Status -

- **Enrollment for the 2017-18 School Year** fell below our anticipated enrollment. This was largely due to the unplanned temporary relocation to North Raleigh.
- Because our **State and Local Funding** are based on our enrollment, **we renegotiated many of the terms of our lease/construction agreement with our future landlord to offset this financial loss**.
- Additionally, School Administration and Board Members revised our Operating Budget to find ways to ensure a successful school year, while limiting the need to use the school's savings for general operating expenses.
- Our annual budget includes a revenue line for fundraising from the **Annual Fund**. This line remains in this year's budget as it has in years past. The school relies on Annual Fund donations from families to help meet the needs of our operating budget. We have had generous Annual Fund participation from our families in past years. Watch for communication about our **Annual Fund** pledge drive in the coming months. We will also be offering opportunities to sponsor some exciting upfit needs in our new space.
- Our required **2016/2017 Financial Audit** was completed in October. The Auditor presented the results at the October Board meeting. No findings were identified and our auditor congratulated LSA on having multiple audits with no findings. This is a great accomplishment. We thank team members who work diligently to ensure LSA's sound financial standing.

Move Status and Announcements -

- We will use the month of December to move items out of storage and set up as much as possible without disrupting instruction.
- At the end of instruction on **December 13, 2017 - the wireless network will be relocated from the Forum to Chapanoke** - we are working with our



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wireless network partners, Education Networks of America (ENA) to re-install the network at Chapanoke. Wifi will not be required for midterms.

- We are in the process of obtaining bids and discussing schedules with movers to complete our **move out of the Forum by December 31st**.
- To maximize moving, holiday and instructional time, **the school calendar** has changed. **January 3rd and 4th will be teacher work days**. The **school year will resume at 322 Chapanoke, commencing January 5, 2018**. We will only need to make up one of those days - please note: **mid-winter break will now be Feb. 15-19, 2018**.
- Our contract with the **Charter School Bus Co. will remain in effect for two of the buses through the end of the school year**. This was a commitment the school had to make in order to secure the buses for the first semester. This presents a win-win opportunity for those located in the northern and western parts of our student/household base. **We'll be working with the Bus company to set up new routes for second semester and will be offering seats to those in need of transportation at a rate supplemented by the school**. Watch for a separate communication on this. Please note: the shuttle buses were first offered to families residing in southern Wake county or outlying counties that had committed to attend LSA at Chapanoke Rd and experienced an unexpected change in proximity. During the second semester, supplementing the cost of transportation for those households that committed to the school with a known location at Chapanoke Rd. should be viewed as a different scenario. Going forward, we'll use this experience to consider transportation for future school years.
- We have **contingency plans** in place to remain at 9400 Forum Dr. should the COE not be available as planned. These will be communicated if and when necessary.

While challenging - we've accomplished a lot this quarter. In addition to the items noted, and all the great things happening in the classrooms and in our art departments, if you were not aware, the Triangle Business Journal recently reported the N.C. Department of Public Instruction has rated North Carolina schools using a "college and career readiness" standard. Their data was based on end of course performance tests, focusing on Biology, English and Mathematics. **Longleaf was ranked 18th out of 54 of the best Raleigh-Durham area high schools!** Also, in an article just published by the News and Observer, Longleaf enjoyed the following based on our students' **SAT scores - Top 5% of North Carolina High Schools** (27 out of 496 schools), **Top 19% of Wake County High Schools** (6 out of 32 including WCPSS & Charters), **Top 14% of North Carolina Charter Schools** (5 out of 37).



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We sincerely appreciate your patience, support and cooperation. As we enter the season of Holidays **and** households making school choices - remember all that we have to be grateful for. Spread the word about the unique opportunity Longleaf offers to those seeking a college preparatory education with a focus on the fine arts! We have assembled a fine group of educators and will be moving into a state of the art space - let's encourage others to join us!

Sabrina Francis
Chair, Board of Directors

Rachel Davis
Head of School