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Los Angeles County High School for the Arts

## Principal's Message

When I think about the best of LACHSA, I think about our students. I see in each of them the desire that motivates them, the strength that grounds them, and the passion that allows them to soar. As we have seen, there are also many tensions that our students must learn to navigate in their experiences at LACHSA--the long commute, the even longer school day, and the number of classes each week, to name but a few; as I have said often, our students are here at school more than many of the adults. With second semester firmly upon us, I wanted to share some of our thinking in the next few months as we continue to strengthen the support for our students. We have implemented several minimum days to allow students a chance to breathe and decompress from an often-stressful school experience. The first was the Monday past, between first and second semester. There are two additional dates—February 10<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup>—where our students will be released at 12:35 p.m. We hope these days will allow our students to further their studies, practice their art, or rest and recharge. These days, while minimum for our students, will be an opportunity for us to provide professional development for our teaching artists. Our teaching artists are some of the finest professionals anywhere and this will be our chance to support their work with us in areas related to special education, the WASC process, and with safety and security procedures, among other things. These sessions will further strengthen the community as we continue to support our students. We are working on the school calendar to accommodate for performances and exhibitions, academic assignments and college applications, for example--we should never ask our students to choose between a performance or studying for an exam! Our work is just beginning as we continue to strengthen the supports for our students' success.

*George Simpson*

### Upcoming Events

<b>Parent Council Meeting</b>	<b>2/2</b>
Room TBA (check main office) 6:30-8:00 p.m.	
<b>Music Gala</b>	<b>2/7</b>
Luckman Theatre 7:30 p.m.	
<b>Student Minimum Day</b>	<b>2/10</b>

## Important Announcements

Please check [www.artshigh.org](http://www.artshigh.org) (News and Updates tab) next week for more important scholarship information!

### Next Week is Spirit Week!

**Monday** - Pajama Day/Crazy Hair Day

**Tuesday** – Look-a-Like Day

**Wednesday** – Animal Day

**Thursday** – Normal High School Day

**Friday** – Decades Day

### Save the Date!

Student Minimum Days

February 10<sup>th</sup> & April 8<sup>th</sup>

Students will be released at 12:35 p.m. on these dates.

### Date Correction

The Music Gala will take place on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

### Chicken Pox

Please note that one of our students has been diagnosed with chicken pox and to be aware of any possible contagion.