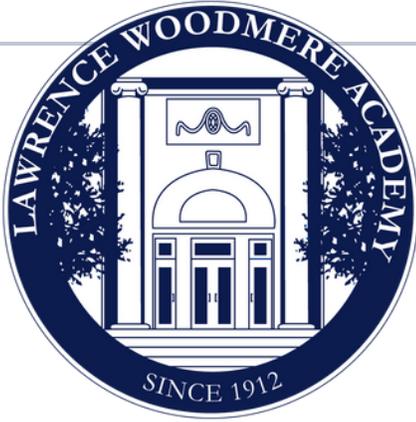


# LWA NEWSLETTER

VOL: 9



## MISSION STATEMENT

LWA teaches and motivates students to seek, discover, embrace, and apply knowledge while exploring their personal, artistic, and academic talents in order to engage in life with a culturally respectful, civically responsible, and innovative entrepreneurial spirit for success in higher education and the careers of an increasingly global society.

## MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear LWA Families,

I am going to let you in on a little secret: I still get the “scaries” before the first day of school. Even after all the planning the team and I do over the summer to ensure the students have a safe and successful start to the year, I always find myself preoccupied with all the small and large details that go into opening day. Only after I see the students smiling in the hallways, reconnecting with their teachers and friends, and groaning about all the work, can I breathe a sigh of relief: they are here, they are safe, and we are ready.

As we continue to focus on our goals of retention, increasing enrollment, and expanding programming, I also want to recognize all the amazing things already happening in LWA. Though it has barely been a month since the start of school, we hit the ground running even before the first day. Orientation sessions for our new students, the Back-to-School BBQ, the memorial event in honor of September 11, Curriculum Night, Day of Service, Friday Forum, and the Mid-Autumn Festival are some of the September highlights. We had a great first month of school, and I want to express my gratitude to every person who has contributed to this successful start.

Thank you to the administrative team for your dedication during the summer, thank you to the teachers for your commitment to our students, and, of course, thank you to the families for your continued support of our small and mighty school.

Best,  
Hank Williams



At Home with  
the World



# GETTING READY FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!



September 3rd was new student orientation at LWA, and it was a great day full of excitement and connection! Students mingled, made new friends, and explored the campus. There were icebreaker activities that helped everyone feel comfortable, along with informative sessions about school policies, clubs, and resources. The highlight was the welcoming speech from Mr. Williams, who inspired everyone to embrace the upcoming school year. Everyone left feeling energized and ready to start their journey at LWA!

# FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



**Welcome back, LWA Tigers!**

As we kick off another exciting school year, we're thrilled to welcome back our returning families and extend a warm greeting to our new students! We hope your summer was filled with fun, relaxation, and adventure. This year promises to be full of learning, growth, and new experiences.

We look forward to seeing you at our school events and a wonderful year ahead!

# AT HOME WITH THE WORLD



2024-25 LWA New International Student Orientation was launched on Monday, August 26th. An amazingly talented group from Chad, China, Hong Kong, France, Ireland, and Russia was welcomed by the school administration, faculty, and staff. Two remarkable student-interns, Adam A. and Sylvanus T., joined the program to introduce the newest addition to our campus, share their stories and experiences, and help everyone get settled smoothly in their new school environment. With a sprinkle of fun and a dash of enthusiasm, they made sure the new students were not just prepared but also excited for what lies ahead. Overall, it was a fantastic introduction to LWA community, setting a positive tone for the adventures that lie ahead. In five memorable days of this orientation, new friendships were born. Many of them will last a lifetime! - Dr. Olga Pagieva

# BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ



LWA welcomed the 2024-25 school year with the annual Back-to-School BBQ on September 7th, 2024. Despite the rain, it was an AMAZING day! From bouncy slides, blocks, race cars and books there were several activities to enjoy. Many of our community partners also came out to support our Tiger family as well. A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to our very own BBQ Master Mr. Steve Ostroff for always being willing to jump behind the grill. Thank you to all our student volunteers as well for making the day special for our LWA community.

# 9/11 MEMORIAL EVENT



## TO THE HEROES OF GROUND ZERO

**Memorial** — Steel beams from Tower 2 of the World Trade Center form a memorial sculpture dedicated at Lawrence Woodmere Academy. It honors victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack, including Port Authority head Neil Levin, a 1972 graduate of the school. Speakers were (right to left) Zara Zimmerman, LWA senior, who got Mayor Bloomberg's permission to remove the beams, Headmaster Dennis R. Carroll, and Ronald Prioleau, VP of the Student Senate.

LWA honored and remembered all victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks with a memorial assembly on the front lawn of the school. Each year, students gather at the memorial plaque and sculpture, made from steel beams from Tower 2 of the World Trade Center, to remember and reflect. We will never forget.

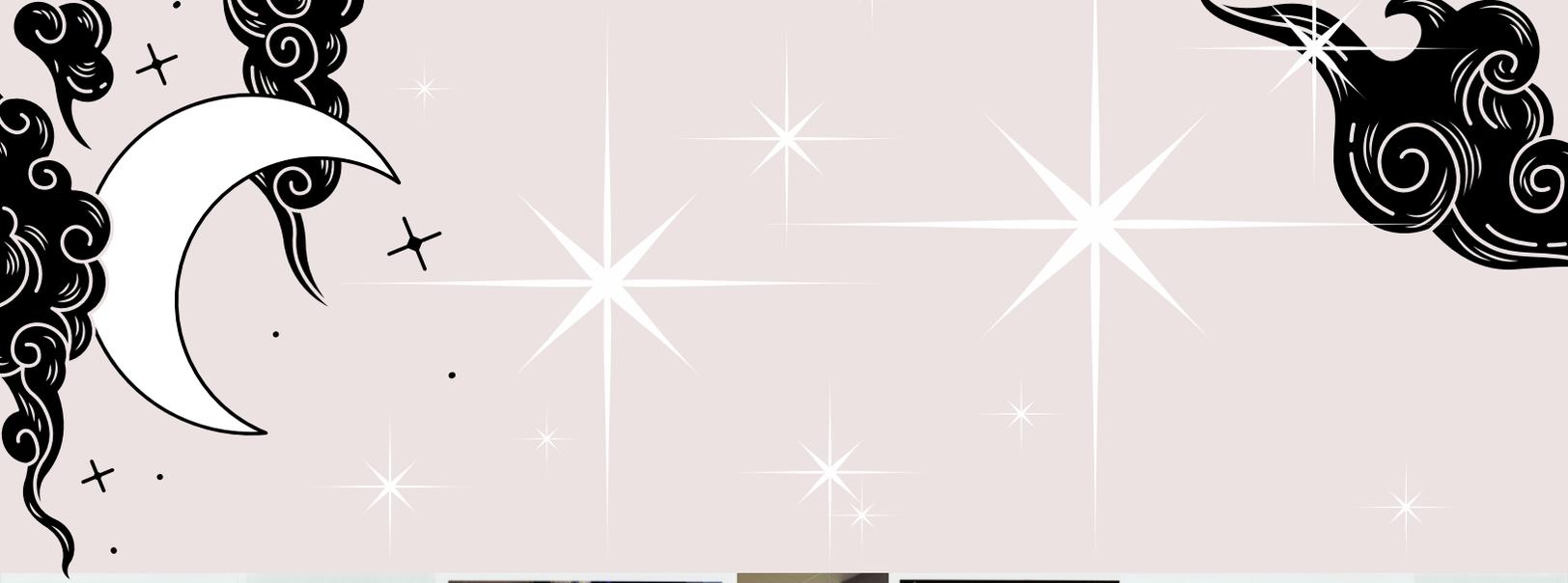
# LWA DAY OF SERVICE



“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Here at LWA, service stands as one of the three pillars of our beloved school. On September 21, 2024, the Tiger community, family and friends came together for the LWA Day of Service. Classrooms were organized, gardens were cleaned, walls were painted and so much more! Thank you to all our student, family, and staff volunteers for making this day a smashing success! There are always opportunities to volunteer for various initiatives in and around the school, and we appreciate all those who answer the call to serve in ways big and small for our students and our community.

Lawrenceveritas  
Woodmereintegritas  
Academyservitium



# FRIDAY FORUM & MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

The legendary Mr. O’Keeffe hosted the first Friday Forum of the 2024/2025 year, and it was a smashing success! Teachers made important announcements about clubs, students were awarded Paws of Praise for acts of kindness, and Mr. Williams spoke about the importance of respect.

Part of this month’s assembly was a wonderful celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival, which is a holiday celebrated for thousands of years in East and Southeast Asia in gratitude for the harvest and hopes for future prosperity. It is a time for family reunions and delicious dinners, including moon cakes as a nod to the fullest moon of the year.

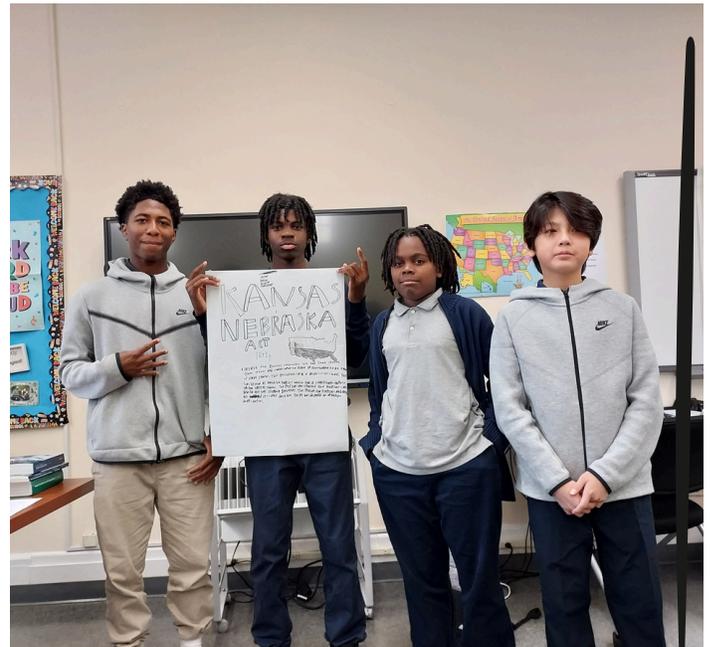
Our international students, under the wise and kind guidance of Dr. Pagieva, Director of International Student Program, put on a spectacular show full of song, poetry, and dance. The students shared a piece of their culture with us, and we thank them for their dedication to helping LWA be “at home with the world.”

# CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

Third and fourth graders learned about using lemons to write in invisible ink in Ms. Charles' science class!



Over the past week, students in the eighth grade completed a jigsaw research project on the causes of the Civil War. Students worked as a team to conduct research about a specific issue leading to the Civil War and worked together to create a poster to educate the class about their specific issue. Students then presented their work to class and taught each other about the various issues such as the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Bleeding Kansas, and the Missouri Compromise. - Mr. Ellis



# COLLEGE CORNER



As part of LWA's College Guidance Program, admissions representatives from various universities come to LWA to speak with students several times a week. During these informative sessions, students not only learn about individual schools but have the opportunity to ask questions regarding college admissions in general. A fan favorite is :“What is the best and worst college essay you have ever read?”

# MONTHLY MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS



I'm excited to introduce a new initiative this school year: Monthly Mental Health Seminars for all middle and high school students.

This program is designed to foster emotional growth, build mental resilience, and create a supportive environment where students can learn about and discuss important mental health topics.

This will be the first year we are implementing these seminars, and the goal is to provide students with the tools they need to navigate challenges, build emotional intelligence, and strengthen their interpersonal skills. Each month, we will focus on a specific topic that encourages self-reflection, group activities, and open discussions to engage students in a meaningful way.

-Ms. Baralis, School Psychologist

## September Topic: Growth Mindset

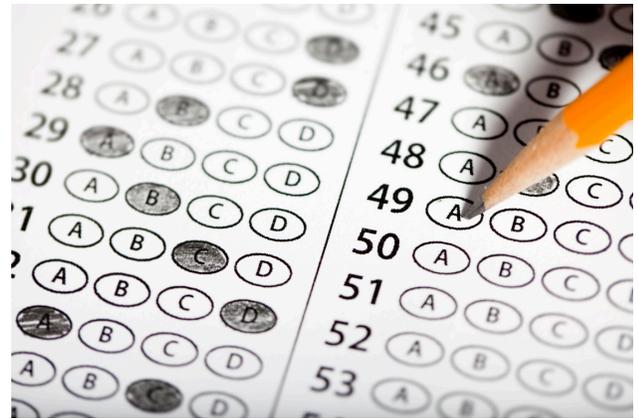


# ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

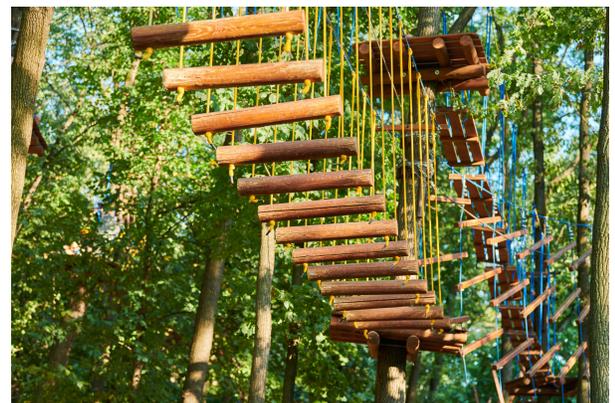
School is closed on Thursday, October 3, and Friday, October 4, for Rosh Hashanah.



The in-school PSAT is quickly approaching. More information will be coming soon for the Upper School students.



Are you ready for an adventure? Middle and Upper school trip to Adventure Park is on October 10th.



# WOODMERE GALA 2025

LAWRENCE  
WOODMERE ACADEMY  
INVITES YOU TO

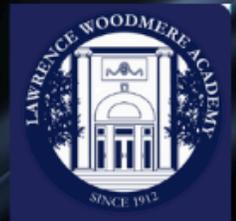
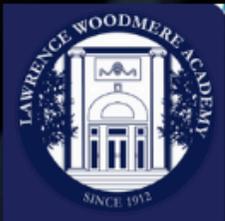
SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING  
GALA

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FEBRUARY 8, 2025

7:30 PM

GREENVIEW AT  
LAWRENCE YACHT  
& COUNTRY CLUB



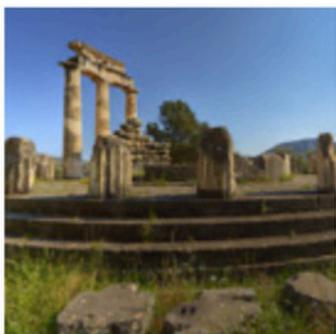
# INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS WITH LWA

## LWA Upper School Students are invited to join us in Greece for Summer 2025!



What is it like to live in a country where classical mythology and ancient history still have a presence in everyday life? In the capital of Athens, namesake of the goddess Athena, walk in the footsteps of ancient Greeks at the Acropolis—and in the footsteps of current residents in the Plaka district. In Delphi, Epidaurus, and Cape Sounion, learn how an old belief in mythological figures still influences medicine, politics, and philosophy.

Stay tuned for additional information coming soon!



# SCHOOL CALENDAR



## Did you know?

The Upcoming Events section of our website has a button to add the school calendar to your personal Google Calendar. Look for the Google Calendar button at the bottom of the section.



For families that prefer the At- A- Glance format, please reference:  
**LAWRENCE WOODMERE ACADEMY**  
**SCHOOL YEAR 2024-25**