



2021 September Newsletter

Hello HomeLink Families,

As you have read, our August newsletter went out not too long ago. I am writing to you again to share some updated information from our District. Please review the newsletter again as new information regarding changes to our program staffing and parent vaccinations have been included.

**I have some important information to share in this letter about welcoming back our families to in-person instruction, and I would also like to make sure you read a letter from our district office staff, found at the end of this message.**

**\*New Information\***

**Parent Vaccinations:** To continue to comply with COVID safety regulations and Governor Inslee's directive, we ask that all parents/guardians be fully vaccinated by October 18 in order to continue being on campus with their students. We want to continue to keep our students and staff safe as we work through such a challenging Pandemic and appreciate your patience and understanding. We will be providing you with more information in the coming weeks about how to verify your vaccination status, and about religious or medical exemptions if these are needed.

**WSLP Meetings:** Advisors will reach out the last week of August to schedule the WSLP meetings as WSLP meetings will take place September 1st-3rd.

**First Day of School:** The Lake Stevens School District will be starting school on September 1st, however, HomeLink will not start school until September 7th as our Advisory meeting will be taking place the first week of school.

**New staff:** I want to welcome HomeLink's new shared Counselor, Elsa Leal! We will be sharing her expertise with Cavelero this school year. She comes to us with years of experience and we are very excited to have her work with us at HomeLink.

**Building Safety:** We will continue to socially distance ourselves here at HomeLink. Students and families will need to socially distance 3 feet in both the classrooms and in the common area. Students can sit together in a "pod" if they are siblings. We will continue to engage in best hygiene practices, such as hand washing/sanitizing throughout the school day and sanitizing areas after

use. We ask that families do not bring in toys/activities to share with other students/families while at HomeLink and that all personal property remains with the family.

Please note that there is a maximum occupancy in our common area due to social distancing. We ask that if chairs/tables are unavailable during the school day, other seating accommodations are made by the family. We are unable to add additional chairs to our common area, making the table and seating situation more of a first-come, first-serve basis. We extend our apologies in advance and hope that this does not create an inconvenience for any family.

All students, staff, and families are required to wear masks throughout the entire day. Masks breaks can be provided throughout the school day as needed.

Families are able to use space outside of HomeLink. It is asked that we refrain from using the red round tables underneath the awning at Cavelero during their lunchtimes which is from 11:00-12:30 PM. Space is available for use outside of those times.

**Lunches:** We will continue to offer lunches through Cavelero to our students. All lunches are free for the 2021-2022 school year. Please see Jen McPhee for our lunch signup process when you return to HomeLink.

As we reopen our campus up to students and families, it is critical that all of our students and families sign in and out via SafeVisitor and also have a badge created for them for identification while they are on campus. Badges will be created at the start of school. In addition, parking passes will also be distributed during this time as well.

Returning student and new student Enrollment, immunization and ALE paperwork must be submitted to the office by August 25th to start classes on September 7th. Enrollment received after this date will be processed in the order received and the family will be notified when the student is eligible to start classes.

Are your child's immunizations current? Check with your doctor to make sure your children are up-to-date with this year's immunization requirements. You can also view and print your family's immunization records yourself by signing up for MyIR [wa.myir.net](http://wa.myir.net). Current immunizations are required before students can attend school. This also includes Student Emergency Care Plans that must be on file with the school nurse to start school.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Cheers to the new school year!

Respectfully,

*Angela Menon*

Director, HomeLink

Hello to our HomeLink families!

My name is Gina Anderson. I am the Chief Academic Officer in the Lake Stevens School District. I have worked in our district as a teacher, principal, and district officer administrator since 2002, and my heart lives here in Lake Stevens!

Part of my new role of Chief Academic Officer is to work directly with Angela and our HomeLink staff and families. I can't adequately express my delight at being able to work with the families and educators in your school! I have a special place in my heart for Alternative Learning, having taught in an ALE program for many years.

My goal is to give you periodic updates pertaining to your wonderful school.

### **Space at Cavelero ~**

You may notice when you return to campus that we needed to open up another room in the HomeLink wing to Cavelero staff. We know that this will likely come as a blow to you. As you know, our district is growing -- in fact, we've grown by more than 1,500 students in the last ten years alone! A large "bubble" of students is entering Cavelero this year, necessitating more space.

Angela and Mr. Haines (Cavelero's principal) have a good plan for how to ensure that our HomeLink families and our Cavelero students can share this space in a respectful and caring way.

### **New position for Angela ~**

Because of our astronomical growth, we needed to reassign part of Angela's position this year. She will be as dedicated to HomeLink as she has been, but she will now spend part of her time as an additional, half-time assistant principal at Cavelero.

Angela has been very transparent with our HomeLink staff in asking them to be open and honest, and to share if at any point they feel that her duties at Cavelero are affecting her leadership at HomeLink. I would ask you to be patient with Angela as she takes on this new role, but also ask that you share with her directly if you feel that you need more support from her.

Angela is an incredibly bright and talented administrator, and I am confident that she can take on both of these roles. Please help celebrate and support her as she takes on this additional role!

### **LSSD dedication to HomeLink ~**

You may be feeling a bit surprised by the change in Angela's role, and the loss of one of your classrooms. You may even be feeling a bit disappointed or concerned that our district does not support HomeLink.

Please rest assured that our district is dedicated to not just supporting HomeLink, but growing it, and growing alternative learning! Our support of your program is unwavering.

Periodically throughout the year, I will be providing updates to you as we continue to grow and learn HomeLink families. I look forward to sharing with you and learning alongside you how we can best support HomeLink

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Angela at 425-335-1594, or to call me at 425-335-1582.

Warmly  
Gina Anderson  
Chief Academic Officer