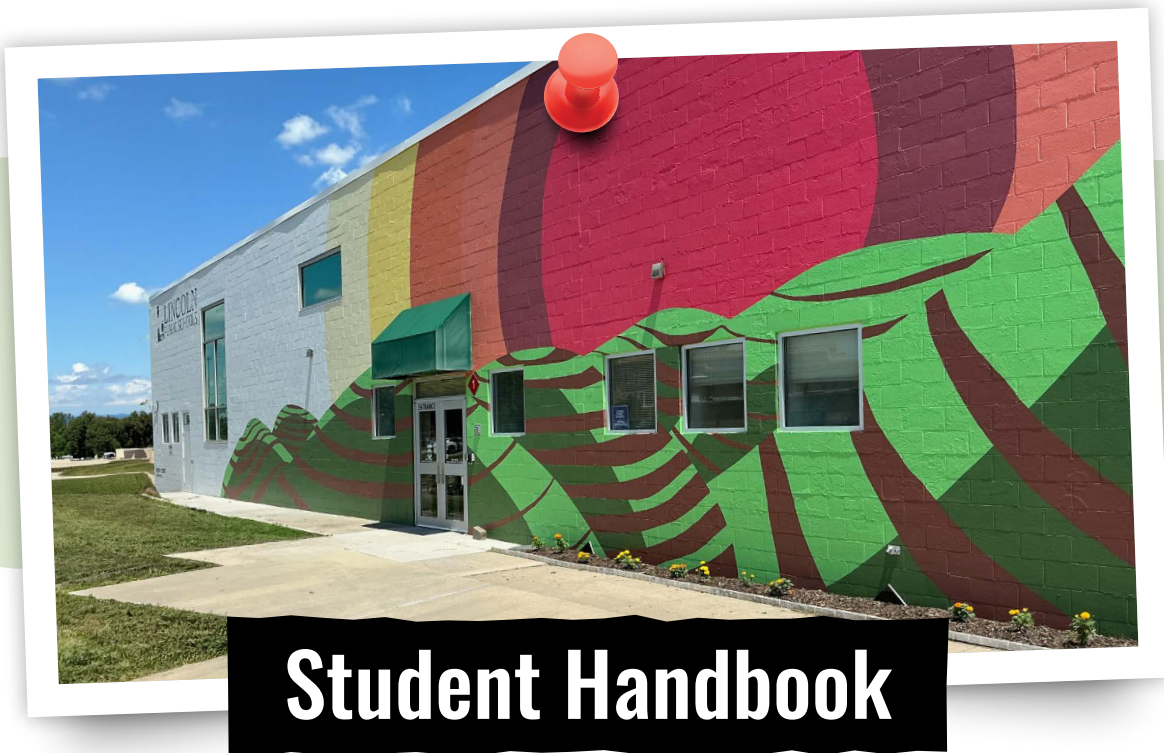


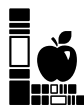
2026 **A&H** 2027

# ARTS & HUMANITIES

## – Focus Program –



## Student Handbook



**Lincoln**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

643 S 25th St., Suite 15, Lincoln, NE 68510 | 402-436-1785 | [Arts.LPS.org](https://Arts.LPS.org)

[facebook.com/LPSArtsandHumanitiesFP](https://facebook.com/LPSArtsandHumanitiesFP) | [X.com/LPS\\_ArtsFocus](https://X.com/LPS_ArtsFocus) | [instagram.com/arts\\_humanitieslps](https://instagram.com/arts_humanitieslps)

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## For Bilingual Liaisons:

Arabic: 402-436-1715 نرجو الإتصال بهذه الأرقام إذا كنتم تحتاجون إلى خدمات الترجمة للغالب العربية

Russian: Если вам требуются услуги переводчика пожалуйста позвоните по телефону: 402-436-1942

Español: Por favor llame a este número de teléfono si necesita servicios de intérpretes: 402-436-1938

Vietnamese: Xin vui lòng gọi về số này nếu quý vị cần có dịch vụ thông dịch: 402-436-1939

Ukrainian: Будь ласка, зателефонуйте за цим номером, якщо вам потрібні послуги перекладу: 402-436-1786

Karen: ဝံသးစူကီးလိတဲစီနီဂ်ာအဲအံ့ဖဲနမ္မာလိာ်ဘုာ်ကတိကျီးထံတဲအတဲဆီာ်ထွဲမၤစၢ 402-436-1769



## Please Note:

*All procedures, guidelines and dates outlined in these documents are subject to change, based on recommendations and directives issued by the Nebraska Department of Education, the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD), or other governing body.*



## JULY 2026

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
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## AUGUST 2026

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## SEPTEMBER 2026

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## OCTOBER 2026

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## NOVEMBER 2026

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## DECEMBER 2026

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## JANUARY 2027

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## FEBRUARY 2027

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## MARCH 2027

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## APRIL 2027

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## MAY 2027

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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

## JUNE 2027

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
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| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

- First Day for K, 6, & 9th Grades
- All K-12 Students in Session
- Last Day for Students
- All Schools Not in Session
- Schools Not in Session (Professional Learning/Planning Day)
- ⌞ Quarter Start Dates
- ⌞ Quarter End Dates

## Graduation Dates

**Tuesday, May 18, 2027** – Yankee Hill

**Wednesday, May 19, 2027** – Independence Academy

**Thursday, May 20, 2027** – Bryan Community

**At Pinnacle Bank Arena – May 21-23, 2027**

Fri: LHS | Sat: LNS, LNW, LSE, LNE | Sun: LSW, LSB, EHS

**Calendar Options for Families:** The Lincoln Public Schools District understands and appreciates that our community has a wide variety of rich and varied religious celebrations and observances. In the event families recognize these holidays, parents should notify schools. Students will be given excused absences and allowed reasonable opportunities to make up any schoolwork missed.

**Note:** Changes to the calendar may occur as a result of inclement weather or other circumstances. If sufficient school time is lost as a result of calendar changes, and it brings the total number of school hours for the year below the state minimum requirements, the Superintendent will implement a plan for making up this time, which may require additional minutes added to the day, additional days added to the calendar, days previously identified as non-student days re-scheduled as student days, or other appropriate calendar or schedule measures.

# Arts and Humanities Administration

Dr. Darla Berks - *Administrator*

# Arts and Humanities Focus Staff

Emily Dvorak - *Math*

Maggie Elsener - *Art*

Lisa Tatro - *Counselor*

Falla Halsey - *Social Studies*

Nancy Harter - *Executive Secretary*

Michelle Hrbek - *Art*

Tara Moore - *English*

Erin Owens - *Social Worker*

Mackenzie Wylie - *Special Education*



## Important Dates

### SEMESTER 1

**Sep 24 & 29** Parent Teacher Conferences

**Nov 6** Fall Art Show

**Nov 9** Fall Open House (for 8th grade students)

### SEMESTER 2

**Feb 16 & 23** Parent Teacher Conferences

**Apr 16** Spring Art Show

**Apr 19** Spring Open House (for 7th/8th grade students)

**May 14** Senior Art Show





# Intent of Student Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the practices, rules, regulations, expectations, and general information about the Arts and Humanities Focus Program. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained within it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the procedures and rules contained in this handbook.

Although the information found in this handbook contains detailed and specific information on a variety of topics, the handbook is not intended to be all-encompassing to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day, or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract.”

The administration reserves the right to make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students.

The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should the situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations. This handbook is a supplement to the [LPS Important Information Handbook](#) to clarify how rules, regulations, and general information about Lincoln Public Schools apply to A&H.



## Focus Program Mission Statement

The mission of Lincoln Public Schools Focus Programs is to engage students by customizing their high school experience to explore their passions, guide them to graduation and match their skills with global opportunities.

## Focus Program Values

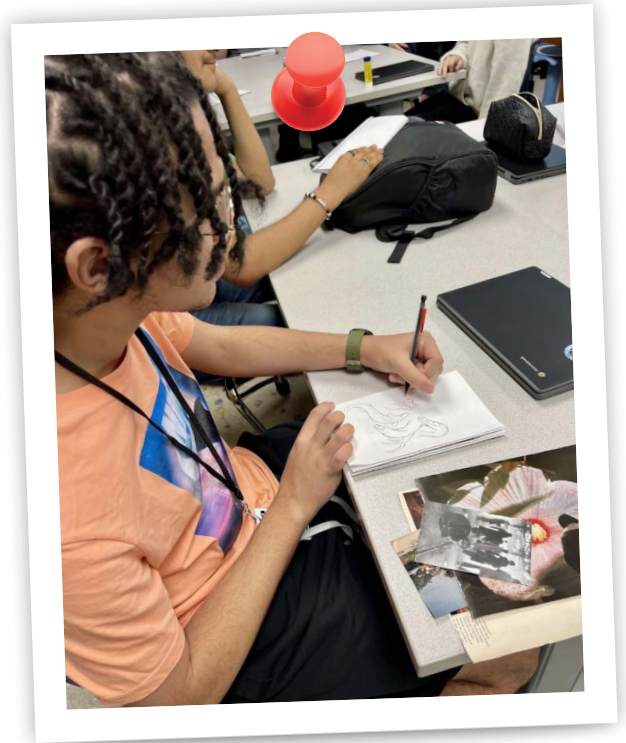
Our values are exploration, education, engagement and empowerment.

# What is the LPS Arts and Humanities Focus Program?

The Arts & Humanities Focus Program (A&H) offers experiential learning opportunities at school and in the Lincoln community. The curriculum emphasizes a focus on the creative process, personal and social responsibility, empathy, and critical thinking. A&H has a capacity of 100 students and 5 teachers in math, English, social sciences, and visual arts. Several differentiated and AP courses are offered in these content areas at A&H.

There are many hallmarks of A&H:

- All students participate in Humanities, a mixed grade level, interdisciplinary course that fosters a collaborative, project-based approach. Learning experiences include guest speakers, field trips, and community partnerships, including the Lied Center, Ross Theater, and Sheldon Art Gallery.
- Teachers know students as individuals and offer differentiated instruction and feedback.
- Students are motivated, responsible learners who are curious about the world around them.
- Students thrive being part of a small, tight-knit learning community.
- Instruction is learner-centered and challenging, culminating in a student-designed Senior Capstone project.



Students apply at A&H through our website, and oftentimes students are encouraged to apply by an administrator or counselor at their home high school. Students and parents/guardians must agree to A&H expectations if selected to attend. While at A&H, students may continue to participate in athletics or other student activities at their home high school.

For more information please contact A&H directly at 402-436-1785.

## A&H Focus Program School Wide Expectations: C.A.R.E.

**COMMUNITY** - be inclusive, supportive, positive and collaborative

**ACADEMICS** - complete and turn in work, advocate for self, be curious, show effort, be critical thinkers

**RESPECTFUL** - give and receive feedback, politely do what an adult asks, leave a place better than you found it, value different perspectives

**ENGAGEMENT** - be present, phones away, ask for help, be an active listener

# Humanities at A&H

The Humanities is a required course for all students in grades 9 through grade 11, and focuses on:

- Semester Theme - past themes include time, change, power, nature
- Experiential education, including field trips
  - Documentary and Independent Films at the Mary Riepma Ross Theatre
  - Art galleries in Lincoln and the annual trip to the Joslyn Art Museum and Kaneko in Omaha
  - Nature experiences at Spring Creek Prairie and Prairie Pines
  - Performances at the Lied
  - Performances by Nebraska Shakespeare
- Guest Speakers
- Project-based learning



## Senior Capstone at A&H

Students complete a culminating research paper and project that showcases their learning in the Humanities class and in high school, in general. Projects are interdisciplinary and investigate future professions, social problems, passions, or hobbies and provide an opportunity for students to understand themselves in the creative process. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, problem-solving, and developing skills like goal setting and time management (all great skills for college and beyond!).

## Art Shows at A&H

Student art shows are hosted at A&H in the fall and spring. Seniors also participate in the end of year senior art show/capstone presentation that takes place in May. In addition to these opportunities, students can participate in juried art shows and many other community art shows throughout the year.

# A&H Attendance Expectations

***Developing and maintaining regular attendance is one of the most important steps to becoming a successful student and is an expectation for students attending A&H.*** When a student is not in school, the possibility of learning the classroom objectives and earning credit is significantly reduced.

## Truancy:

Students are expected to be in class during class time. Leaving the building is not permitted during instructional time or passing periods.

## Tardies:

Being on time to class shows respect to your teacher and classmates, and helps you succeed in class.

**Any student needing to be absent or check out of school during the day is expected to:**

- have a parent or guardian call the student's home high school and A&H informing of the absence.
- have a parent or guardian call the Main Office with the time the student needs to be dismissed.
- check in at the Main Office when returning to school before going to class.

# A&H Attendance Process

A&H students will follow a three-tiered attendance system within our Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) program. The interventions listed below will be implemented to help students maintain good attendance. Incentives will also be awarded to students who make improvements to their current attendance patterns.

Nebraska Law LB464 places school absences into two categories: School Excused (SE) and Not School Excused (NSE). School Excused absences include those excused by a doctor or the school health office and any absence approved by school administration such as student activities, suspensions, or students currently in alternate placements. Absences that are Not School Excused and are subject to attendance interventions include Parent Acknowledged, Illness, and Truancy. The law also states that students who accumulate 20 days of Not School Excused absences in one school year may be referred to the County Attorney.

## Step One Interventions

- Parents will be contacted by an A&H staff member to discuss absences.

## Step Two Interventions

- **10 days of Not School Excused (NSE) absences**
  - Parent/Guardian will receive a Stage One Attendance Letter from the student's home high school.
  - Students and Parents will meet with a member of the home high school and A&H student support team to discuss absences and develop a Collaborative Plan. The goal of the Collaborative Plan is to identify and reduce barriers to improve regular attendance.



## Step Three Interventions

- **15 days of Not School Excused (NSE) absences**
  - Parent/Guardian will receive a Stage Two Attendance Letter.
  - A member of the home high school and A&H student support team will meet with the student to continue to support their attendance.
  - An A&H Contract may be considered at this time.
- **20 days of Not School Excused(NSE) absences**
  - Parent/Guardian will receive a Stage Three Attendance Letter.
  - Students may be referred to the County Attorney as directed in Nebraska State Law LB464.
  - An A&H Contract may be considered at this time.

## A&H Academic Expectations

A&H is a program that students choose to attend based on a commitment to a humanities and arts-based education program where a unique community of learners is transformed through critical thinking and interaction with the world.

### Program Contract:

- A student may be considered for a Program Contract if they are not having academic success and/or are not in regular attendance.
- Students at A&H have chosen to attend, and students are accepted based on the potential to find success in a new environment. A&H has a limited number of spaces, so students must make use of their space at A&H by attending regularly and earning credits.
- Students with poor attendance and/or multiple failing grades may be placed on an Program Contract.
- A parent/guardian meeting will be held to outline the specific expectations a student must meet to continue attending A&H.
- Students will be provided multiple supports and interventions to help students become successful.
- Students who are not on track to graduate will be expected to return to their home high school to acquire necessary credits. Students may apply to return in the future.
- If a student does not meet the expectations of their contract, the student will lose their place at A&H.
- Re-admittance into A&H will occur only if the student indicates a commitment to demonstrating academic and/or behavioral expectations.

## High School Grading Scale

Synergy Gradebook uses the following scale to assign letter grades based on calculated averages:

90% = A | 85% = B+ | 80% = B | 75% = C+ | 70% = C | 65% = D+ | 60% = D | Below 60% = F

## Library Resources

Scan the QR code or go to [home.lps.org/artslibrary](http://home.lps.org/artslibrary).



## A&H Behavior Expectations

### Important Information Booklet

This handbook is only a supplement to the LPS Important Information Booklet, which can be found at the following link: [LPS.org/ii](http://LPS.org/ii). This Important Information Booklet is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Lincoln Public Schools. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the rules contained in this handbook.



## A&H is a Drug / Alcohol / Tobacco / Vape Free Campus

### Smoking, Tobacco, and Vaping

Smoking and vaping (by students or adults) are prohibited at A&H, in the building, or on school grounds. Students are not to have any smoking or vaping-related products visible in the building or on campus.

**The use and/or possession of any device or material related to smoking/vaping will result in consequences that may include:**

- Confiscation (parent/guardian will need to pick up)
- In School Suspension (served at their home attendance school)
- Out of School Suspension
- Referral to Student Services

### Drug/Alcohol Related Offenses

When a student is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol and/or in possession of illegal substances, the student may be searched as well as any of their property on this campus (including vehicle searches). The student may be referred to the Lincoln Police Department and possibly cited.

## Possible Consequences

- Suspension from school
- Referral to Student Services
- Mandatory parent/guardian meeting before returning
- Other interventions as determined by the administration

## Vape Detection System

Vape detectors are in all student restrooms/locker rooms in our high schools. The detectors do not record video, audio or any personal identifying information. This device will send an alert and allow administrators to identify students quickly and efficiently who may be vaping.

If a student is found to be vaping, or have vaping products on them, then the student will have an opportunity to participate in the Vape Educate program. Students who have multiple violations will face consequences as outlined in the LPS Behavior Accountability Matrix.

# Personal Electronic Devices and Communication

A&H respects instructional time and wants all students to learn, earn credits, and graduate. Students who are focused on learning are much more successful than students who are missing learning due to a device.

All personal electronic devices are expected to be powered off and put away during the instructional period (this includes cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, etc.). Personal electronic devices should not be visible or used in class. Not visible means the phone can be on the student's person, as long as the student is not using the device. Students may use their personal electronic devices before and after school, between classes, and during lunch.

If a student is accessing a personal electronic device during the instructional period, then the following sequence of consequences will be applied. Compliance at any step will prevent movement to the next step.

**Step 1:** The teacher will ask the student to put their personal electronic device in the designated storage location in the classroom.

**Step 2:** The teacher will contact the office and the device will be collected and held in the main office (or designated location) for the remainder of the day and logged as an electronic device infraction (Regulation 5420.4). If the student refuses to turn over the device, they will be removed from the classroom and escorted to the office or designated problem-solving location.

## Electronic Device Logged Infractions

**1st Offense:** Returned to the student at the end of the school day. Offense logged.

**2nd Offense:** Returned to the student at the end of the school day. Offense logged. Parent/guardian notified.

**3rd Offense:** Return to the student at the end of the school day and a building-level in-school corrective plan developed. Parent/guardian notified. Offense logged.

If habitual non-compliance with personal electronic device restrictions leads to frequent disruptions to learning, the teacher will write a referral and the administrator will work with the student and family to determine a personalized plan to meet the expectation.

**Additional Information:** Students are encouraged to take their personal electronic devices with them in the event of an evacuation as long as it results in no evacuation delay.

Recording the image or voice of another person with an electronic device, without the express permission of the person recorded, or the failure to promptly delete such a recording following the request of the person recorded violates the LPS Responsibilities of Students (Policy 5480).

If a student brings their device to class, they do so at their own risk and, in doing so, specifically agree to hold Lincoln Public Schools harmless from all liability, damages, claims, costs, expenses, or other charges of any kind or nature whatsoever resulting from bringing their device to class.

## Communicating with Your Student During School Hours

Please contact the A&H office with messages that need to be sent to students during the school day. Texting your student during class time directly disrupts instruction and the learning of everyone within the classroom setting. The A&H Support Staff is happy to help you and will quickly pass along messages. Thank you for your help with this matter and for protecting our instructional time.

## Appropriate School Clothing

If a student's dress interrupts or distracts from classroom activities or is seen as inappropriate for the school setting, the student will not be permitted to continue wearing the clothing in school. This includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: offensive/obscene/vulgar; hate speech; reference to or advertises drugs, alcohol, or tobacco; threatens safety; gang symbols; guns/weapons/violence. Clothing must cover all private parts and undergarments. The administration will be the judge of appropriate apparel. Students wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to turn the items inside out or change clothing.

## Student IDs

Students will be expected to wear their IDs. New IDs can be reprinted at the home high school for a fee.



## Mental and Behavioral Health Point of Contact

[home.LPS.org/socialworkers/mental-behavioral-health-points-of-contact](https://home.LPS.org/socialworkers/mental-behavioral-health-points-of-contact)





# Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

## Arrival

- The building opens at 8:00 a.m.
- Class begins at 10:05 a.m.
- Students will be allowed to enter the building upon arrival and will wait in the big room.
- Students can enter the building through Door 1 (main entrance through the Main Office).
- Students must scan their student ID each morning upon entering the building.



## Dismissal

- Students are dismissed from the building at 2:55 p.m.
- Students should go home without delay unless participating in an activity.
- The building closes at 4:00 p.m., and students should be off school grounds.

**Note:** Students waiting for rides after 3:30 p.m. are expected to wait in the big room. There are multiple reasons for this expectation:

1. Parents will know where their students are located.
2. During cold or inclement weather, this is a warm and dry location.

## Dismissal From School During the School Day

Students are required to check out of the main office when leaving the campus for any reason before the end of their scheduled day. Parental notification is required for all students under 19. If a student is dismissed due to illness, he/she must be seen in the office before exiting and a parent will be contacted.

## Parking, Drop-off and Pick-up

Student parking is available in the parking lot. If spots are full, students will be able to park in the LHS lot by the baseball field and walk across the bridge to get to the building. Parents can use the lot to pick up their students. Lincoln High students will walk across the street to our A&H building as there will not be transportation provided.

## Bus Drop-off and Pick-up

- LPS Transportation will provide busing for student's arrival and return to their home high schools.
- Buses may combine schools at the end of the day if they are short drivers. We will do our best to send a message home when we know this is happening.

## 2026-2027 Bell Schedule\*

| Monday                              | Tuesday                             | Wednesday                           | Thursday                            | Friday                              |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Sectional 1</b><br>10:05 - 11:30 | <b>Sectional 4</b><br>10:05 - 11:30 | <b>Sectional 1</b><br>10:05 - 10:46 | <b>Sectional 1</b><br>10:05 - 11:30 | <b>Sectional 4</b><br>10:05 - 11:30 |
|                                     |                                     | <b>Sectional 2</b><br>10:49 - 11:30 |                                     |                                     |
| <b>LUNCH</b><br>11:30 - 12:00       | <b>LUNCH</b><br>11:30 - 12:00       | <b>Sectional 3</b><br>11:33 - 12:15 | <b>LUNCH</b><br>11:30 - 12:00       | <b>LUNCH</b><br>11:30 - 12:00       |
| <b>Sectional 2</b><br>12:00 - 1:25  | <b>Sectional 5</b><br>12:00 - 1:25  | <b>LUNCH</b><br>12:15 - 12:45       | <b>Sectional 2</b><br>12:00 - 1:25  | <b>Sectional 5</b><br>12:00 - 1:25  |
|                                     |                                     | <b>Sectional 4</b><br>12:45 - 1:27  |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Sectional 3</b><br>1:30 - 2:55   | <b>Humanities</b><br>1:30 - 2:55    | <b>Sectional 5</b><br>1:30 - 2:11   | <b>Sectional 3</b><br>1:30 - 2:55   | <b>Humanities</b><br>1:30 - 2:55    |
|                                     |                                     | <b>Humanities</b><br>2:14 - 2:55    |                                     |                                     |

\*Schedule subject to change for learning opportunities or experiences.

## Lunch

Students will either bring their lunch, purchase lunch from the Lincoln High cafeteria, or pre-order a hot lunch. Students in grades 11 and 12 may leave campus for lunch and must scan out and in when they return.

**To pre-order hot lunch for the week go to [arts.LPS.org](https://arts.LPS.org) or scan the QR code.**

Students in 9th and 10th grade are required to stay on campus for lunch. They are allowed to go to LHS to purchase lunch if they return within ten minutes of leaving. Students must scan in and out of LHS. This is a privilege that can be revoked with continued issues. Non-A&H students are not allowed to eat lunch at A&H.



## Notes



# ARTS AND HUMANITIES

LPS FOCUS PROGRAM

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9/25



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