

PROFILING 2020-21

Will we or won't we? That seemed to be the question of the summer of 2020. Specifically, will we open LCA in September? Fortunately, the resounding and stubborn answer was, **"Yes, we will!"** LCA administrators then became inquirers, constantly asking questions related to how best to open a school in a pandemic, and, once open, how best to keep it open. As summer progressed, critical thinking ensued. Daily inquiry resulted in deliveries of plexiglass dividers, air purifiers and air conditioners. Continued attention to detail led to special seating arrangements and schedule adaptations. Every question or change brought new challenges, but what resulted was a year of in-person learning available to all with a flexible hybrid option for those who needed one. As Mr. Fletcher recently said, **"Now that we have done this, there is no if, only how."** We are a can-do community of inquirers - open for the business of learning and growth.



INQUIRERS

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

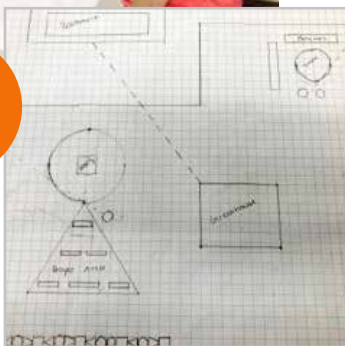
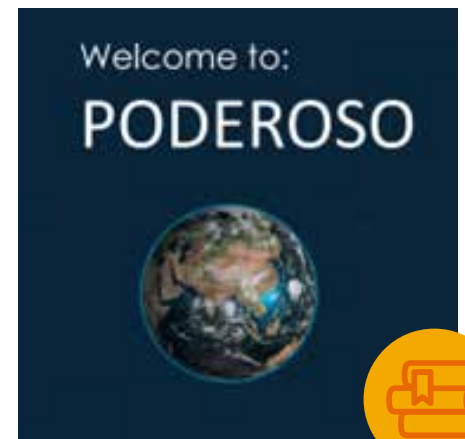
What are my interests and strengths? What is a problem that I can solve with a product or service, or is there a current solution that I can improve upon? What is the market for my product? Through self-exploration and market research, our 7th grade Design students found an intersection between their own passions and a "problem" they felt existed in order to start their own businesses. Our student entrepreneurs continued to inquire as they applied graphic design elements, marketing strategies, principles of finance and ethics in developing a **Social/Sustainability Initiative** on their way to making a pitch. The experience culminated in a shark tank presentation in front of judges.



KNOWLEDGEABLE

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

Eighth grade Individuals and Societies students exemplified knowledgeable traits while **creating their own colony** on a fictitious planet called Nisi. Students had learned about the colonization of North America previously, and this gave them a chance to apply what they learned in their own unique way. Students used a packet to plan their colony, and each had to include information about why they were leaving Earth. The reason they were leaving needed to be a current issue, but also was to mirror a reason that Europeans left for North America. In addition, students had to think through the type of colony they would settle, where they would settle on a planet similar to Earth, the type of government they would have, and the type of economy that would work best in the geography of their colony. Each student chose a different medium in which to display their knowledge, and final products included slideshow presentations aimed at attracting colonists, tourism brochures showcasing their colony's beauty and success, and videos showing the many features and strengths of the colony.



THINKERS

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

7th grade pre-algebra students engaged as thinkers in their **spring architecture project**. An outdoor space at LCA was offered as the "blank slate" from which students could propose development plans. Early in the project, students measured the space and agreed upon a scale for their sketches. Everything had to be drawn to scale, and geometric attributes such as perimeter, area and volume were calculated. Finally, students delivered brief "elevator pitches" as LCA administrators and teachers viewed their designs. Each final product was unique and the result of creative and critical thinking. Who knows, maybe LCA will someday feature an outdoor mini golf course, sand volleyball court, or art class extension!

COMMUNICATORS

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.



Guilty or not guilty? That was the question 5th grade scientists attempted to answer this past spring as they reviewed evidence from a case of theft at a gem shop. This **CSI assignment** called on students to review all evidence and then bring their hypotheses to a group setting where they had to practice strong communication skills. Communication requires active sharing and listening. The 5th graders were very respectful and mature as they debated the facts of the case. Their attention to the details of science as well as to the art of communication impressed all who observed their work.



See more IB Community Projects here

[VIEW ALL](#)

PRINCIPLED

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

Even in a pandemic year, LCA 8th graders completed their **IB Community Project**. While there were unique constraints this past year, there were also opportunities. Students were limited in their ability to volunteer in person at local agencies. However, Mr. Sinchak guided students through the processes involved in becoming true advocates for a cause. Project elements included a research paper, a video plea, letters to lawmakers, connections to faith, and personal learning goals. The letter writing proved fruitful as several students received personal letters back from officials. As students grew in their role as advocates, they learned that there are many ways to be of service in our world.





OPEN MINDED

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

Mind, body and spirit - all important factors in an LCA education. Our most extensive extra curricular programming is **CYO athletics** which serves 60% of our student body. Athletic directors, coaches and athletes were compelled to approach each sport and each season this year with an open mind. Head nods replaced post game handshakes; championships were limited to 8th graders; fan support was limited. Regardless, good sportsmanship and camaraderie were front and center. Minds were challenged, bodies were strengthened, and spirit was alive and well. Go team!

CARING

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

LCA students continued their **tradition of service**. Each grade focused on a need and found unique ways to address that need. Putting faith into action, students and teachers served the world. Ultimately, a multitude of needs were met by our budding Saints.

View our 2019-2020 Social Justice infographic

[VIEW HERE](#)



RISK TAKERS

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

Typically held in September, the **LCA Amazing Race** was postponed this past year due to the pandemic. But when it was finally time to hit the streets of Cleveland, the joy and excitement were palpable. 8th grade students, teachers and administrators worked in teams to decipher clues all around the downtown area. In the process, they met local police officers, sang songs, went way off course in some cases, and had so much fun with every new discovery. Venturing out into the world this spring felt a little risky, but it was well worthwhile!



BALANCED

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives - intellectual, physical, and emotional - to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

Case counts, mask mandates, social distancing...one could really get bogged down in the rules of the road this year! But not at LCA. We knew we had to balance our focus on safety with some really fun and engaging days. Two of these days included costumes, classroom transformations, and unique lessons. Disney Day, held in the fall, turned classrooms into everything from Infinity and Beyond to Under the Sea. Favorite book character day once again transformed spaces and brought to life places such as Narnia and Hogwarts. **Creative curricular connections** were made throughout the day and, once again, magical memories were made.



REFLECTIVE

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

Throughout sixth grade Language & Literature, students studied a variety of characters in the novels we read over the course of the year. As a culminating activity, sixth grade students reflected upon the diversity of these characters as well as themselves. Using George Ella Lyon's poem *Where I'm From* as an example, students **created their own original pieces of poetry**. They drew upon their own unique experiences and memories in order to do so. Students created written versions and even voice recorded their poems. The final products were sincere, creative, and authentic. There's a poet inside each of us!

Learn more about International Baccalaureate Program at LCA

LEARN MORE



Where I'm From

I am from books.
From Beanie Boos and the Muppets' Christmas Carol.
I am from the floor in front of the vent
(Hot, toe-warming,
It felt like a warm blanket.)
I am from the blueberries,
The home-grown tomatoes:
Sweet, juicy,
And always getting eaten by rodents.

I am from Sunday dinners and the
Christmas tree farm.
From Starkeys and Zbiegiens.
I am from rule followers and perfectionists.
From "Speak up!" and "Quiet down!"
I'm from singing hymns at church
Always slightly off key.

I'm from Euclid and West Virginia.
Pancakes at the pool and birthday donuts.
From my grandpa's changed birthday,
My dad getting hit by a car.

Baby books with embarrassingly funny photos
We all laugh about later.

I'm am from a sponge
That absorbs words on a page
And never gets full.

ELEANOR ZBIEGIEN

