

LAKE SHORE CENTRAL SCHOOLS

EVANS-BRANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE: 959 BEACH ROAD, ANGOLA, NEW YORK 14006-9782

All Schools 716-549-2300

Fax 716-549-6407

www.lakeshorecsd.org

On Beautiful Lake Erie

**LAKE SHORE
HIGH SCHOOL**
959 BEACH ROAD
ANGOLA, NY 14006-9782
716-926-2307
FAX 716-549-4033

**WILLIAM G. HOUSTON
MIDDLE SCHOOL**
8855 ERIE ROAD
ANGOLA, NY 14006-9624
716-926-2400
FAX 716-549-4374

**ANTHONY J. SCHMIDT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
9455 LAKE SHORE ROAD
ANGOLA, NY 14006-9400
716-926-2350
FAX 716-549-4428

**HIGHLAND
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
6745 ERIE ROAD
DERBY, NY 14047-9698
716-926-2460
FAX 716-549-2337

**JOHN T. WAUGH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
100 HIGH STREET
ANGOLA, NY 14006-1300
716-926-2370
FAX 716-549-2380

**TRANSPORTATION
DEPARTMENT**
8710 N. MAIN STREET
ANGOLA, NY 14006-9603
716-926-2240
FAX 716-549-4369

**W. T. HOAG
EDUCATION CENTER**
42 SUNSET BOULEVARD
ANGOLA, NY 14006-1000
716-926-2480
FAX 716-549-4391

To: Parents of current 4th graders at Lake Shore Schools

From: Superintendent Dan Pacos

Re: Location of 5th Grade Classes for 2024-25

Hello Everyone:

I hope the start of this school year has been a good experience for you and your children, and I would like to give you some insight on some of the issues Lake Shore will be looking at as the year progresses.

As you are probably aware, space in our elementary schools has been getting tighter and tighter. Due to the increase in class sizes and the creation of classrooms to accommodate those increases, we have given up what used to be some fun extra space in our elementary buildings.

We have been concerned about the impact of overcrowding on our students and the learning process, so we studied enrollment trends and contracted for an independent enrollment projection. Those studies are completed, and the numbers point to our enrollment staying around the current level for the foreseeable future.

We have begun a study of how to address the space crunch in our elementary buildings and free up instructional space for all content areas. The numbers show that our elementary buildings will stay overcrowded, but our Middle School will continue to operate below capacity (The Middle School was built to serve 900 students – currently it houses only about 500 students.). Thus, one option under consideration is to move the 5th grade classes to the Middle School. A question that must be addressed is, would such a move alleviate the space crunch while also maintaining/enhancing the 5th grade educational program?

Having said that, let me eliminate some concerns right away: we are NOT planning to close a building, or move 8th graders, or mix 5th graders with upper grades in the school.

We are looking at the impact of current and projected enrollments on kids and programs. While we know that the best educational decisions are not made by numbers alone, those numbers do have bearing on our students. Most recently, we lost our fitness room at Highland, and we have lost rooms used to host CSEs, parent meetings, and Native American Language programming in our elementary schools. During the next several months, program impact is among the factors we must consider as a school-community, as well as how a move might impact our students and families, our curriculum, transportation, schedules, and staffing.

Several study committees are being formed in the weeks ahead because we want to take a careful, thoughtful approach to evaluating options and make sure we consider all of the issues, including problems, positives, and possibilities.

One of those committees is a Parent Committee, which will have two meeting times in order to accommodate parent schedules. You may choose to participate in the morning Parent Committee meeting, which will meet at 9 a.m. on Monday, October 16th **or** the evening Parent Committee meeting, which will meet at 6 p.m. (Locations and sign up opportunities will be announced soon.) These committees will provide valuable input into the process before any recommendation or decision is made. If you cannot serve on a committee, you may also contribute your input via a Parent Survey which will be emailed to all elementary parents. We will continue to update parents on this process via our website, Facebook and newsletter announcements.

We have included a fact sheet for your review. Watch for more information regarding signing up for a committee as well as a survey to ask your questions for the committees to address.

Thank you in advance for your input, which will help us continue our vision of making our buildings and facilities a safe, welcoming educational environment for students to come to every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel A. Pacos", is written in a cursive style.

Daniel Pacos
Superintendent of Schools