

# LAKE SHORE CENTRAL SCHOOLS

## EVANS-BRANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 9, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Over the past several days, there has been conversation and media coverage of the practice recently initiated at Lake Shore High School for students who want to use the restroom during class time.

We would like to share some background regarding why this practice was initiated and answer questions that have been asked about how this practice is being implemented. Since September, there have been a number of incidents of restroom vandalism. Some examples include:

- Flooding caused by paper products, pens, pencils and other items jammed into toilets/urinals.
- Removing caps on urinals, causing them to overflow.
- Food, wet paper towels and other materials thrown on walls.
- Standing on urinals and sinks, causing them to pull away from the wall.
- Disassembling soap dispensers and throwing them out windows.
- Ripping paper towel dispensers off walls.

Over the past several months, the High School has made several attempts to address this vandalism, as well as vaping. Our initial measures included:

- Reviewing video of hallway activity
- Conducting frequent restroom checks
- Requiring students to sign in and out when leaving classrooms
- Using hall monitors to supervise the areas outside of the restrooms
- Sending school statements and peer messages from student leadership that this is unacceptable behavior.

Despite these and other measures, incidents of vandalism and vaping continued. In addition, there were increasing numbers of complaints from students that they could not comfortably use the restrooms due to vandalism and students congregating there but not using the facilities.

The practice of using monitors to escort students was initiated only after other measures to prevent restroom vandalism and vaping were not successful. We understand that the misbehavior of a few has led to these measures which affect all students. Nevertheless, clean and hygienic restroom facilities are something all students should expect. The intent of this new practice is to ensure that all students can safely and comfortably use our restrooms and to protect the integrity of our school facilities.

Under this practice, students will only be escorted to and from restrooms during class time. During hall passing times, all restrooms are open and can be used by all students. Accommodations are made for students with special restroom needs.

Since we started using monitors to escort students to/from restrooms during class time, there have not been any further incidents of vandalism. We will continue to work with our student leaders to consider possible alternate or additional strategies to address these concerns. We are committed to ensuring that our restrooms are clean, sanitary and safe for all of our students.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact me at 926-2308.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Koch". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Christine Koch, Principal  
Lake Shore High School

#### **Q&A**

##### **Did the High School lock some restrooms?**

Flooded and unsanitary restrooms were locked for repair and cleaning, then re-opened for use.

##### **Why doesn't the High School use hall monitors?**

There are hall monitors at the High School but they cannot be in every hall at all times.

##### **Do the monitors go into the restroom with the students?**

No. The monitors walk with the students from their classrooms to the restroom, wait outside the restroom, then walk with the student back to his or her classroom.