

**LEST SCHEDULE INFORMATION**

January 03, 2017

5th – 8th Grade families,

Attached is the first draft of our LEST schedule, which we are sending home early because there are some changes from last year. Note that due to Concordia University basketball games, the opening and closing ceremonies are earlier than usual, and chess will now be run on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. We do not have specific schedules for basketball games yet.

Our first events begin Thursday morning this year, with the knowledge bowl informational session starting at 10:15 AM, and possibly some morning basketball games. Everyone please try to attend the opening ceremonies at Concordia’s gym beginning early this year at 2:00 PM; this is where we kick off LEST and celebrate our Champion of Character nominee. We usually all try to sit together on the right hand side towards the back of the gym as you walk in, below our Hope banner.

Part of the joy of LEST is getting around to as many events as you can possibly attend. Most of the events are on Concordia University’s campus, so you can park in one of their lots or on the street and stay for the day. Our basketball teams are playing in the larger school bracket again this year, which means we will only play in two gyms: Concordia’s gym and the Salvation Army gym. Addresses are listed on the schedule attached, along with the address of the swim meet pool. Remember (adults and students) to wear your Hope apparel with your blue and gold to show school spirit and encourage our students! We are super excited to have a cheer squad competing again at LEST this year, so please make every effort to support them on Friday night.

If you haven’t already, be sure to book your hotel room. As mentioned previously, again this year we have booked the Embassy Suites, Portland Airport. The room rate for a two double bed suite is $144, which includes a delicious and bountiful complimentary breakfast for all, happy hour drinks and appetizers, indoor pool, and refrigerators/microwaves in each suite. Rooms are reserved under “Hope Lutheran School” and can be reserved by calling the hotel directly at (800) 821-5879 or online at [www.embassysuitesportlandairport.com](http://www.embassysuitesportlandairport.com) (block code: HLS) no later than **January 25, 2017** or until they are fully booked.

More information will be available regarding schedules in mid to late January and in the meanwhile, feel free to ask questions of coaches or the school office.

Blessings, Kristen Okabayashi