

AUGUST 2026



CHAPEL
UPDATE

ALUMNI
SUPPORT
STAFF

P.T.A
VS
P.T.O

WORK BEE

TAKE THE
SURVEY

SEE YOU
AT THE
POLE EVENT

BACK
TO SCHOOL
NIGHT



Principal's Corner

LODI ACADEMY

08/07/2026

Dear Academy Families and Students,

The countdown is on! School starts in less than 2 weeks, and we are beyond excited to welcome our students back to campus for a brand new year! The halls are ready, the classrooms are waiting, and our entire team is looking forward to seeing our academy family come together again. We cannot wait for the smiles, the excitement, and all the wonderful moments that this new school year will bring!

This week's newsletter is filled with exciting updates, important introductions, and reminders to help us start the year strong. We are highlighting our new, supportive Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), introducing this year's PTO officers, and sharing more about the people who help make our academy such a special place. Be sure to check out the article about the difference between a PTO and a PTA and learn more about how families can be involved in supporting our school community.

We are also thrilled to introduce some of the incredible individuals joining and supporting our academy this year. Please join us in welcoming our new **Social Media & Marketing Director Ashley Garner** and our new **Academic Support Coordinator Daphne McCann**. Both these girls are former Lodi Academy graduates, multi-talented, and eager to serve. We are also excited to welcome back **Dr. Daryl Payne, also known as grandfather to Erin**. We are grateful that he is serving our academy as a volunteer study hall supervisor a couple days each week.

Before the first day arrives, we have a few exciting opportunities to come together as a community. Join us for our **Sunday Work Bee on August 16 from 7 am - 11am** as we prepare our campus for the year ahead. Every helping hand makes a difference! We also look forward to seeing our families at **Back to School Night on Tuesday, August 18 at 6:00 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity to meet teachers, connect with our academy team, and get ready for an amazing year.

Thank you for being such an important part of our academy family. We are excited for all that this year has in store and cannot wait to begin this journey together.

With excitement for the year ahead,

Principal Cooper



**THE 2026-2027
SCHOOL HANDBOOK
IS NOW AVAILABLE!**



SCHOOL NEWS

BOY'S FOOTBALL CONDITIONING

SUN. 8/9 8:00-10:00AM
TUES. 8/11 4:30-6:30PM
THURS. 8/13 4:30-6:30PM

GIRL'S FOOTBALL CONDITIONING

SUN. 8/9 5:00-8:00PM
TUES. 8/11 5:00-7:00PM
THURS. 8/13 5:00-7:00PM

GIRL'S VOLLEYBALL CONDITIONING

MON. 8/10- 6:00-8:00PM
WED. 8/12 6:00-8:00PM

BOY'S BASKETBALL SUMMER PRACTICE

MON. 8/10 4:00-6:00PM
WED. 8/12 4:00-6:00PM

SPORT'S PHYSICALS

PLEASE BRING A CURRENT SPORTS PHYSICAL WITH YOU. YOU MUST HAVE THIS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE.

I HAVE ATTACHED A FORM TO THIS EMAIL. COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE.



WE ARE THANKFUL THAT DR. DARYL PAYNE (GRANDPARENT TO ERIN-SENIOR) WILL BE RETURNING TO VOLUNTEER AS A STUDY HALL SUPERVISOR.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE PARENT OR GRANDPARENT VOLUNTEER SUPERVISORS & SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS.

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT PRINCIPAL COOPER AT PRINCIPAL@LODIACADEMY.NET

* EARLY MORNING DROP OFF SUPERVISION:
MON-FRI 7:30-8:00AM

* LUNCH SUPERVISOR
MON-THURS 11:55AM - 12:30PM

* BE A PART OF OUR SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST (MUST BE CAPABLE OF CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT)

On our **School Supplies List** this year you may have seen that we are asking all Freshmen and Sophomores to have a "School Planner." This is also highly recommended for Juniors & Seniors too. And here is why!!

📖 **Planner Power!** A planner is more than just a place to write down homework...it's a **tool for success!** ☀

When students use their planner every day, they're building habits that will help them in school and beyond.

✅ **Stay Organized** – Keep homework, projects, tests, and due dates all in one place.

🕒 **Manage Time Wisely** – Plan ahead, avoid last minute stress, and stay on top of assignments.

🎯 **Take Responsibility** – Writing down assignments helps students take ownership of their learning.

✔ **Turn in Homework on Time** – Check off completed work and reduce forgotten assignments.

👨 **Keep Parents in the Loop** – A quick look at the planner each evening helps families stay informed and support student success.

🌱 **Build Lifelong Skills** – Organization, planning, and responsibility are habits that last far beyond the classroom.

Be on the lookout for your favorite **Daily Planner!**
This Year We Have A Planner Challenge! ☀

Can every student write down every assignment, every day? We challenge our students to make their planner their best friend this year! A planner keeps homework from becoming a mystery, helps students stay organized, and gives parents an easy way to see what's happening at school.

Write it down. Check it off. Celebrate success! ✔📖

LINK TO SUPPLIES LIST 📄





LOOKING AHEAD:

AUGUST  

16-SUN. WORK BEE-7:00-11:00AM
 18- BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT 6-7:30PM
 20- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
 21-BELL CHOIR TRYOUTS 7:15-7:50AM W/ MRS. ZIMMERMANN 
 21- STUDENT PRAYER VESPERS
 22-EDUCATION SABBATH @ ENG. OAKS
 27-30 SENIOR EXPERIENCE
 29-EDUCATION SABBATH @ FAIRMONT
 30-1 PUC PUBLICATIONS

September 

7-LABOR DAY- NO SCHOOL
 9- NAD COLLEGE FAIR 2:30-3:30 
 13-14- ALL SCHOOL CAMPOUT
 23-SEE YOU AT THE POLE 8:15-8:30AM
 24-27 STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONF.
 27-ANNUAL PET & HOBBY FAIR @ LSDAE
 29-PICTURE DAY
 30-4 PUC GIRL'S VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

October 

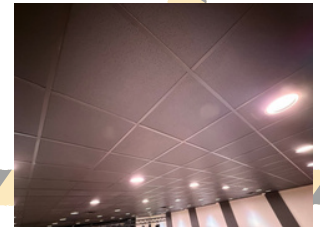
15-18-RIO FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT
 23-25 JUNIOR/SENIOR RETREAT
 26- 2ND QUARTER BEGINS

CHAPEL REMODEL UPDATE

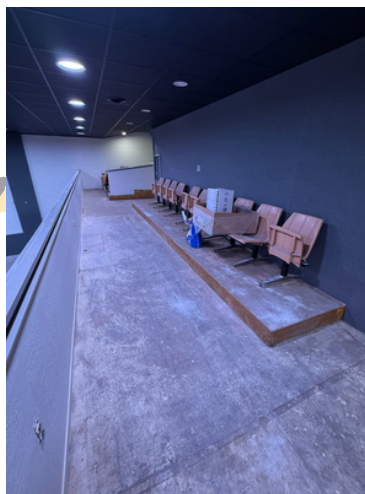


↑ STAIRS ARE BEING ADDED TO THE STAGE

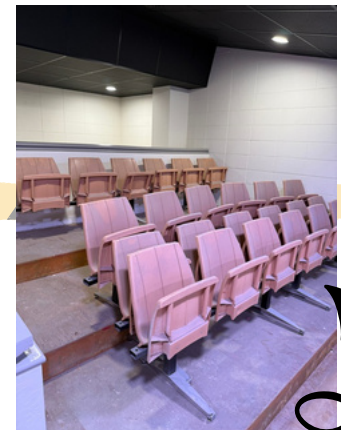
WORK IN PROGRESS



THE CEILING IS NOW A STYLISH BLACK



THE OLD A/V BOOTH UPSTAIRS



THERE A FEW OF THE ORIGINAL CHAIRS STAYING ON THE UPPER LEVEL

He has made everything
Beautiful
 in its time. *Ecclesiastes 3:11*

INTRODUCING

OUR FABULOUS ALUMNI SUPPORT STAFF FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



**SOCIAL MEDIA &
MARKETING COORDINATOR**

Meet Ms. Ashley Garner: From Pohnpei to Lodi Academy

You may recognize Ms. Garner from study hall or her popular Stretch and Strength class last year. Now in her second year working part time at Lodi Academy, Ms. Garner is a proud Class of 2020 graduate who served as SA Spiritual Vice President during her time here.

Ms. Garner graduated from Walla Walla University in June 2025 with a B.S. in Psychology. She then traded college life for an island adventure, serving as a student missionary in Pohnpei, where she taught 10th and 11th grade English and U.S. History.

A three year collegiate soccer athlete, Ms. Garner has a passion for psychology, mental health, health, and wellness. She currently works at a yoga studio and hopes to become a fitness instructor one day. She is also on the path toward earning her master's degree in School Psychology.

This year, Ms. Garner will bring her creativity to marketing and social media and her athletic experience to the field as our Assistant Girls' Flag Football Coach. Ms. Garner brings energy, creativity, and a heart for people wherever she goes. We are excited to have Ms. Garner back for another year at Lodi Academy!



**ACADEMIC SUPPORT
PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Welcome Back, Ms. Daphne McCann!

Lodi Academy is excited to welcome back Ms. McCann, Class of 2022! A recent graduate of Davis & Elkins College, Ms. McCann earned her B.S. in Exercise Science summa cum laude (with highest honors), along with double minors in Chemistry and Athletic Training. She was also a competitive swimmer who earned multiple swimming records during her college career. Talk about high achiever, Ms. McCann is one!

This year, before continuing on her path toward becoming a physician, Ms. McCann is returning to Lodi Academy to lead our Academic Support Program. She will help students strengthen their study skills, find success in the classroom, and develop a new tutoring program. Ms. McCann knows a thing or two about balancing academics, athletics, and a busy schedule, and we are excited for her to share those skills with our students!

But Ms. McCann isn't all books and swimming! She loves to knit, scrapbook, cook, bake, paint, do nails, and tackle just about any arts and crafts project. And if you've been on a houseboat trip with her, you may already know she makes a pretty great hot drink as our resident barista on the water! Lodi Academy also runs in the family. Ms. McCann's dad is an alum, too! Hardworking, disciplined, creative, and always ready to help, Ms. McCann is a wonderful addition to our team. Welcome back to Lodi Academy, Ms. McCann! We are so glad to have you share your talents with us.

Another Alumni of Lodi Academy, Mr. Evan DeChance!

A proud graduate of the Lodi Academy Class of 2022, Mr. DeChance spent 13 years as a student at Lodi SDA Elementary and Lodi Academy. (That means an honorary Kindergarten to 12th grade Student.) Lodi Academy has been an important part of his family's story for generations. His mother, Nancy (Hanson) DeChance, graduated with the Class of 1986, and his brother, Matthew, graduated in 2017. Some of you may know his grandmother, music teacher Jeanine Hanson.

Today, Mr DeChance has come full circle and is serving the school where he grew up. He works hard to keep our Lodi Academy campus looking beautiful and our grounds maintained. This year he will be learning the maintenance trade under the mentorship of our skilled and beloved Mr. Haesche.

When he's not on campus, Mr. DeChance enjoys spending time outdoors and loves camping with friends and family. We are grateful to have Mr. DeChance back at Lodi Academy and appreciate the dedication and care he brings each day. Welcome back, Mr. DeChance! We're thankful you are part of our team!



We're Ready to RISE!



Study Buddies is getting a major upgrade! This year, we're taking everything we loved about Study Buddies and transforming it into something bigger, stronger, and more connected.

Introducing... THE RISE PROGRAM!

RISE isn't just a new name—it represents what this program is really all about:

R — RELATIONSHIPS Building real connections and making sure students have someone they know, trust, and can turn to.

I — INCLUSION Creating a school community where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and like they belong.

S — SUPPORT Whether it's a tough assignment, a stressful week, or just figuring out high school life, you don't have to do it alone.

E — ENCOURAGEMENT Cheering each other on, celebrating wins—big and small—and reminding one another that we've got this!

So, what is RISE?

RISE pairs **upperclassmen with underclassmen** to create connections that go beyond academics. Yes, you can tackle homework and study together, but **RISE** is about so much more! It's having someone to check in with, ask questions, talk to, laugh with, learn from, and count on.

Our upperclassmen get the opportunity to **step up as leaders and mentors**, while our younger students gain a familiar face and someone in their corner as they navigate high school.

Why the change?

Because high school is about more than grades. **Connection matters. Belonging matters. Encouragement matters.**

We want every student to know: You belong here. **You matter here. And you don't have to figure everything out on your own.**

Study Buddies helped us get started. Now, we're ready to take it to the next level.

New name. Bigger purpose. Stronger connections.

**Let's connect. Let's support each other. Let's
RISE TOGETHER one relationship at a time!**



**CALLING ALL
STUDENTS!!**

**Your voice matters!!!
Please use this QR code
to vote for the name
you like best!**



INVITING PARENTS TO OUR SEE YOU AT THE POLE EVENT



Join us for “See You at the Pole” on Wednesday, September 23, at our school's flagpole from 8:15-8:30 a.m. We’re excited to announce that we are collaborating with the elementary school for this event!

See You at the Pole is an annual gathering of thousands of Christian students around the nation who meet at school flagpoles, churches, and online for a time of worship and prayer. The event officially began on September 12, 1990, in Burleson, Texas, when a group of teenagers gathered to pray for their schools. Since then, it has grown into a nationwide and international student-led event.

We invite families and churches to join us as we come together to pray for our school, our community, and one another.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

PTO VS PTA

DON'T LET ONE LETTER FOOL YOU!

At first glance **PTO** VS. **PTA** look almost identical, but that one little letter tells you a lot. You are going to be hearing a lot this year about our new **PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)** or **Home & School**. At our school, both names refer to the same group.

The **A** in **PTA** stands for **Association**, meaning it is part of a national organization with established bylaws, membership requirements, and dues. Please do not confuse this with our **PTO**.

The **O** in **PTO** stands for **Organization**, which means we are an independent group. This gives us the flexibility to create our own bylaws, manage our own funds, and focus on the unique needs of our school community.

As a private school, our **PTO**, also known as **Home & School**, works closely with the school administration and Board to support students, teachers, and families through volunteer opportunities, special events, and fundraising. No matter what you call us, **PTO** or **Home & School**, our mission is the same: supporting our school, teachers, and students. ***We invite every family to get involved!***

If you are interested in joining our team please reach out to Principal Cooper @ principal@lodiacademy.net. There are many exciting ideas on the horizon.

LODI SDA ELEMENTARY & LODI ACADEMY

WORK BEE

Sunday, August 16 • 7:00–11:00 AM

ALL-SCHOOL CAMPUS CLEANUP

Check in at either school office

CALLING ALL WORKER BEES!

Parents • Older Students • Alumni
Church Members • Neighbors • Grandparents

Help us get our campus and classrooms sparkling for the new school year!

Please bring tools and cleaning supplies, if possible.

Snacks & drinks provided!

THANK YOU!

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Tuesday August 18, 6:00–8:00 pm

**6:00PM-GATHER FOR FOOD,
FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN!**

PARENTS
AND
STUDENTS
WELCOME!

6:30-8:00PM

- INTRO OF STAFF
AND SA LEADERS

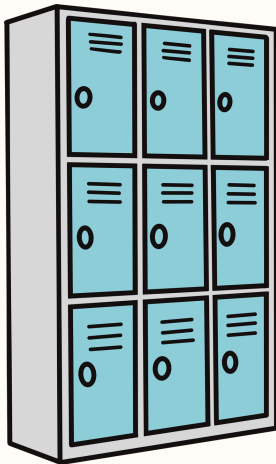
- WORSHIP

- GAMES

FUN

- LOCKERS

- CLASS SCHEDULES
HANDLED OUT



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!