

Dear Lincoln Public Schools Families,

Happy Friday! We have finished our first two days with students, and I wanted to express my appreciation to our building-based staff for all of their efforts to help make those first days run as smoothly as possible. When I was in buildings yesterday and today, I saw lots of smiling faces – I hope your children came home each day with happy stories of new friends and fun activities.

I will be sending out bi-weekly notes to families again this year, and I will use these notes as an opportunity to share district-wide information, and to occasionally share my thoughts on important topics. As we head into the Labor Day weekend, I wanted to highlight a few areas: the implementation of a new K-8 literacy curriculum, emergency operations planning, and ongoing roadwork in Lincoln.

#### New K-8 literacy curriculum

Last year the district [went through an extensive process](#) to pick a new K-8 literacy curriculum, EL Education. I will be sure to provide additional information over the course of the year (and, if you would like, please feel free to watch a presentation at next Thursday's School Committee meeting about the new curriculum), but especially for our new families, I wanted you to know that this will be a big focus of district-wide work. Implementing a new curriculum is a complex endeavor, and we know that the first year of implementation is always a learning process; however, we are very excited about how EL Education will help us provide high-quality learning experiences for students.

#### Emergency operations

Keeping students and staff safe is one of our most important responsibilities, and we take it very seriously. To that end we regularly engage in emergency operations planning, and we practice a variety of safety drills over the course of the year (both the Lincoln and Hanscom Schools had their first fire drills in the last two days).

We maintain an internal emergency operations plan and crisis guide, which we review and revise each year. Over the summer we met with school and district leadership, along with local police and fire chiefs, to go through our planning (Hanscom Base operations involve overlapping military emergency response protocols, and we work closely with Base personnel as well to ensure coordination around emergency operations for the Hanscom School).

I am a big believer in planning and practice – working proactively with safety personnel, training staff, and practicing for emergency situations so that, God forbid a true emergency were to happen, we have learned behaviors to fall back on to maximize student and staff safety. We are also careful in the way we conduct these drills so that the drills themselves don't create stressors for our students. The goal is to empower our staff, students, and families to be and feel safe, while recognizing that we live in a world where emergencies can happen.

#### Ongoing roadwork in Lincoln

For our Lincoln School families, we anticipate that ongoing work on water mains on Lincoln and Bedford Roads will unfortunately continue to impact bus routes and lead to traffic delays. We are in close communication with the Town and our bus contractors (Doherty's, Eastern Transportation, and CASE Transportation), and we will work with them to be as proactive as possible about communicating any challenges to impacted families.

In some cases this may mean that our bus contractors will need to adjust their routes, which could lead to changed pick-up and drop-off times. The nature of the road work is such that different sections of the streets could be inaccessible on different weeks, so the changes to routes could vary from week to week. We also anticipate that parents who drive their children to school could experience detours that vary from week to week. I apologize to impacted families, and we will do

our best to share information, but I would strongly recommend visiting the [Town of Lincoln Alert Center](#) and the [Lincoln Police Department Facebook page](#) for regular updates.

Thank you, and have a wonderful long weekend!

Parry Graham

Superintendent