

Dear LPS Community,

Day 1 of the school year is up and running! I spent the morning at the Hanscom Schools and had the opportunity to greet students and parents as they arrived at school. It was wonderful to see so many happy and excited children who were eager to be back at school. The anticipation of the first day of school always creates a great deal of nervous energy. My hope for all of us is that the nervousness about the unknowns begin to shift into excited energy as we all get to know new classmates, teachers, routines, and school communities.

There is a great deal of newness in this first week of school with the added COVID-19 protocols. On the Lincoln campus, the addition of being in different buildings with different drop off procedures has added a layer of complexity to the first days of school. A great deal of thought has gone into creating routines and procedures. And, there are a number of factors that can complicate these routines. This morning these factors included buses that did not arrive on time, children who were not dropped off at the appropriate locations, time delays due to the newness of drop off procedures, the need for more signage and staff to guide students. We can all do our part to make the start of the school day go more smoothly. We are working on making adjustments. Please review the communications from your principals about when and where to drop off your children in order to help the morning go smoothly and ensure that students are safe and ready to start the school day.

Each Wednesday, you will receive the Superintendent's Bulletin. This communication provides district-wide information. We will provide a calendar of upcoming events, information from around the district and updates on areas of focus for the district. Beginning next week, the format will take shape so that you become familiar with where to look for specific information each week. Often, my bulletin messages are written for faculty and staff but shared with the community as a whole. I hope that you will look for the Superintendent's Bulletin each week and take a moment to read it as a way to stay abreast of the great things happening across the district.

Today, there are a number of resources. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to reach out to your children's teachers, principals, central office administrators and me for assistance. I am looking forward to the school year and working together to make it a good one.

All the best,

Becky McFall, Superintendent

Important Information and Resources in this bulletin:

1. Parent & Student Handbook

2. Food Services/Lunch
 3. Peanut/Nut Free Classrooms
 4. Town of Lincoln, Diversity, Equity Inclusion and Anti-Racism Series
 5. After School Music Lessons
 6. After School Sports
1. The [Parent & Student Handbook](#) provides district information about programs and processes used across the district, as well as contact information for each department and school in the district. In addition, information about important legal regulations can be found in this document. Forms that are required for each student can be found at the back of the handbook.
 2. **Food Services/Lunch** - Tomorrow will begin our provision of lunch in our schools. In addition, access to lunch by students in our remote program is also available. Please read this [important Parent Letter about lunch services](#) and free lunch for all students. [Hanscom Lunch Menu](#) [Lincoln Lunch Menu](#)
 3. **Peanut/Nut Free Classrooms** - In order to ensure the safety of our students with nut allergies, extra precautions have been put in place this year. The [Peanut/Nut Free Classroom guidance](#) provided by our Health and Safety Working Group explains the reasons for the changes made.
 4. Please join us for the **Town of Lincoln, Diversity, Equity Inclusion and Anti-Racism Series**

Starting next Tuesday, the Board of Selectmen is hosting a series of three roundtables focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, & anti-racism. We hope you will join us for one or all of the roundtables. The first will focus on local policing, the second on the role of town government, and the third on the role of town institutions and non-profits.

5. **Afternoon Music Lessons – Two Exciting Opportunities!**

- a. [Lincoln After School Music Program](#)

[LASMP Video Introduction](#)

- b. Announcing our [Lincoln and Hanscom Performing Ensemble and Instrumental Lesson Program](#) : We are very excited to unveil to you the Performing Ensemble and Instrumental Lesson Program and how it will look this year!

The exciting new twist for this year is that this will be a DISTRICT WIDE opportunity!! We will be following a similar structure that Lincoln Middle School has followed, but with a few changes that include Hanscom Middle School students! This is very exciting a new collaboration. I think bringing us together in this way and through music is going to be a very special endeavor this year.

This will be an online, virtual experience for grades 6, 7 and 8 for students who have been a part of the Band and Orchestra and/or have had at least one year of experience with their instrument.

Please Click [here](#) for more information.

Watch this [video](#) about the program created by music teachers Ms. Sheppard and Ms. Hersee.

Please complete this survey to indicate your interest in participating in the Performing Ensemble and Instrumental Lesson Program

6. After School Sports

We know that it is disappointing that we are not offering after school sports this fall. The guidance requirements provided by MIAA the MA Interscholastic Athletic Association made our ability to provide a viable program for middle school students prohibitive. In addition, the changes we made to our school day schedule were necessary in order to meet our contractual obligations for providing teacher planning time. A downstream outcome is that students are dismissed from school at 1:45pm but faculty are not available to work with students until 2:55pm. The gap in time between dismissal and 2:55pm does not allow for after school athletics to take place in a manner that all students could access. Finally, if there are other middle schools available to compete against, we would need additional buses in order to meet the requirements for physically distancing students. We are not able to provide this level of transportation.

Finally, and most importantly, we have built our school day model on the premise that in order to keep our students and staff safe we need to do everything possible to maintain our small cohorts and minimize contact between individuals at school. We recognize that we cannot control what happens outside of the school day but we are asking for your help and support. At this time, we do not feel that providing after school athletics is the right decision. We will continue to monitor conditions and when the time is right, we will provide appropriate after school opportunities for students.