

# Lincoln Park Public Schools

*Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders at Lincoln Park Schools Today*

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this correspondence finds you relaxing and enjoying the days of summer. I want to continue to provide you with updates as we prepare for the 2020-21 school year, particularly, the partial opening of the school buildings for some form of in-person instruction. As I previously shared with you, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has provided districts with guidance for opening schools. The document can be accessed via this link: [The Road Back](#).

As per the guidance in The Road Back Guide, the Lincoln Park School District has created a Restart Committee in order to develop a reopening plan. The first objective of the Committee was to decide on what would be the safest and best option for opening the school buildings for in-person instruction. Many options were explored, with the criteria of the DOE and the safety recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) driving the decision making process. The school buildings' opening will be broken into phases, with different levels of opening provided. We have developed four opening phases of instruction during the 2020-21 school year. Each phase will be considered and measured against the health and safety protocols mandated by the state. These protocols include social distancing, face coverings, health screenings, and sanitization of buses and school buildings.

The Committee has selected the **Phase 2** option for the opening of the 2020-21 school year for the Lincoln Park School District, based on the current requirements and directives of the NJDOE. The other three phases are not reasonable or possible at this time, as they don't meet the current directives. It is important to note, entering or exiting each of the four phases is possible during the upcoming school year, dependent on state, county, and local directives. I have attached slides on the phases of reopening, providing the different phases of instruction we may be working with throughout the year.

The other recommendation from the Restart Committee at this time is to modify the school calendar. The 2020-21 school calendar will be modified with the students' first day of school being moved from Thursday, September 3rd to Tuesday, September 8th. The Committee felt, with the changes to the instructional format and the additional safety procedures that are needed to be in place before opening the schools, the start date had to be moved. The teaching staff will return on September 1st and will participate in professional development as well as safety training before the students return on September 8th. The professional days previously on the school calendar, scheduled for October 12th and May 17<sup>th</sup>, have been removed. These days will become student attendance days. Also, all delayed opening days planned for professional development have been removed from the calendar.

The Restart Committee will be meeting again next week and during the following weeks to put protocols and procedures into place relating to general health and safety concerns, facility cleaning procedures, transportation, and facility usage. Updates will be sent weekly as parts of the reopening plan are finalized.

On Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, I will be hosting a virtual meeting through the Zoom platform for any parents who would like to ask questions regarding the four phases of the instructional plan, as well as discussion on the changes to the school calendar. You can register for the meeting at [Lincoln Park Phases of Opening](#). If the registration capacity is reached, I will consider hosting additional meetings. Please keep in mind that the focus of the meeting will be the district's phases of opening and school calendar, and we are at the beginning of the creation of the plan. The entire plan will not be completed until the first week of August.

Today you should have received a link to a survey that we are asking all parents to participate in. The total time to complete the survey should be less than five minutes. The objective of the survey is to try to estimate the number of students planning on returning to school in September. The second area will be trying to ascertain the number of eligible students who plan on using the bus service normally provided by the district. Keep in mind, the survey is with the understanding that the schools will be meeting the current guidance of the NJDOE and the CDC. The guidance can be found in the link to [The Road Back](#) document. Once again, it is important to stress the information provided and the decisions being made are being based on the current climate and directives provided by the state as of today.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your time and continued support. Best wishes to you and your family for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Respectfully,

*James W. Grube*

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