

# 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,

This letter finds us ten days away from the opening of the 2020-21 school year. I am sure we can all agree that this opening is far different than any other opening of a school year that we have ever experienced. It has been confusing and frustrating for all of us due to the uncertainty that has surrounded this opening process. The uncertainty of the direction provided by our state and federal leaders on what is the proper way to handle the pandemic has not helped the planning process. With that said, the Lincoln Park School District is set to open for all students on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, utilizing the Hybrid 1.5 model and the virtual model for families that have chosen the virtual option. The teaching staff will return for the 2020-21 school year on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, and will spend the week preparing for the students' return on September 8<sup>th</sup>. There has been one change that was necessary due to a scheduling issue, which is aligning the middle school's schedule to the LPES schedule. The middle school and elementary school start time will now be 9:00 AM and the end time will be 1:30 PM, for in school instruction, during the Hybrid 1.5 option. This was necessary due to class coverage needs. Once we are able to open the middle school again, we will return to the normal middle school schedule.

If you haven't already, please open your student's account in Genesis: Cohort placements have been listed for the students who are coming into the buildings. The students placed in the Red Cohort will attend school on Mondays and Tuesdays, and those in the Blue Cohort will attend school on Thursdays and Fridays. All Lincoln Park students will attend school virtually on Wednesdays. Also, students who are eligible for bus transportation and indicated on the survey they were planning on using bus transportation, should receive a bus pass that was placed in the mail today. If you do not receive a bus pass by next Wednesday, please call transportation at 973-696-5500 ext. 1004. Students are required to present the bus pass to the bus driver every time they ride the bus. This is required this year in order for us to assure the bus capacity we arranged is maintained. On the first day of school your child will also receive a lanyard with a laminated bus pass for them to carry every day. Our hope is that this will make it less likely for the bus pass to get lost or damaged. Please keep in mind that every year it takes a couple of weeks to iron out all the bus routes and pick-up and drop-off times, and we thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.

The Boys & Girls Club is working with the state to get approval to provide an aftercare program to parents who need it, on the day their cohort is in the building. At this time they do not know if this program will be available at the start of school as they need to be approved by the state. The Boys & Girls Club will provide you with information moving forward.

The following information was provided in last week's letter and I feel it is worth repeating. Please remember, as has been stated from the beginning of the development of the plan, to begin the 2020-21 school year, the schools can be moved to 100% virtual instruction at any time due to the following reasons:

- A directive comes from the Governor or DOE to close the buildings and move to 100% virtual instruction.
- The Borough's Department of Health directs the schools to close.
- Safety/health issues are identified requiring the closing of the school buildings.
- The building cannot be properly staffed due to the number of employees taking leave or due to illness.

As we get closer to the September 8<sup>th</sup> opening of the 2020-21 school year, with both the LPES and the LPMS in school schedule operating from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Virtual instruction will continue when the students return home. More information will be forthcoming from the building principals. Virtual instruction will continue in the afternoon, when the students return home. The building principals will be providing you further guidance on the requirements and procedures that will be followed regarding instruction and safety as the year progresses. Although I know there is still quite a bit of uncertainty and confusion, hopefully, the weekly updates that have been provided during the past few weeks have been helpful.

Enjoy the last week of summer and continue to stay safe.

Respectfully,

*James W. Grube*

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