

Lincoln Park Public Schools

Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders at Lincoln Park Schools Today

James W. Grube
Superintendent of Schools

Nicole C. Schoening, CPA, SFO
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

September 25, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we complete our fourth week of the 2020-21 school year, with three weeks working with students, I'm happy to say that the school year has gotten off to a good start, or at least as good a start as we could hope for. The safety procedures and protocols are working well. We continue to navigate the virtual aspect of instruction and have worked through technology issues, and continue to modify the instruction, which is improving every week. Yes, we are experiencing some difficulties, but we are working through these issues as well. This year is still a work in progress and I believe that will be the case for the entire year as we continue to be flexible and adaptable to whatever comes our way.

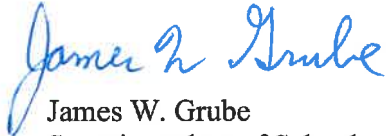
The administrative team has been discussing what the next step should be in the reopening plan, and we met with the Pandemic Committee on Wednesday to discuss what the next phase should be. Please remember just like with the re-opening plan, the next step will be a work in progress and be dependent on health information in Lincoln Park, Morris County, and the State. If things continue to progress and we don't experience any major safety/health concerns, the Lincoln Park School District will try to at least partially open the LPMS. We are considering a phased reopening plan for LPMS. At this point in time we are looking into the possibility of bringing the fifth grade back to the LPMS and bringing the eighth grade students back as well. We have tentatively set Monday, October 12th for this opening. The sixth and seventh grade classes would continue to receive instruction virtually. If this opening runs smoothly, we would look to bring the sixth and seventh grade students back, hopefully in November. The early dismissal schedule would be continued to be used, with students eating lunch at home, as well as some electives and specials being taught in the afternoon. We still need to look into when the LPMS start time and ending time would be, as this is very much dependent on the availability of the buses. We are still in the very beginning stages of the planning, and obviously more information and details will be provided between now and October 12th. We are also looking into the time frame of moving the virtual Wednesday schedule to a rotating day for the cohorts, but at this time we feel it is important that the next step is opening the LPMS. Once again, everything is contingent upon all health and safety measures staying as is or improving.

I recognize, once again, that nothing about this year is normal or easy for any of us. I also recognize that this whole next phase can be over in an instant if the health circumstances in Lincoln Park change, but as I mentioned earlier, if we safely can, we must try to keep moving forward. There are many moving parts, and as we move forward, Mr. Meyer will be in contact with the middle school parents leading up to October 12th. Just like for the original reopening plan, for the next phase to work, we need total cooperation from the entire Lincoln Park School Community, and I'm confident we will get that.

Once again, I can't thank you enough for all of your cooperation in making the school year work. I do want to stress how important it is for the parents of the students who are entering the building to complete the health assessment every morning. The entire process is completed in Genesis and only takes about a minute. By completing the form it allows us to start the day in a more safe and efficient manner. It is imperative that we get 100% cooperation from the parents, which will assist in our efforts to keep all of our students and staff as safe as possible. Please complete the form and I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

In closing, I want to reiterate that our goal is to get all students and staff back into the buildings for in person instruction. At this time, however, with the current guidelines and regulations in place that we are required to follow, this isn't possible. Hopefully, in the near future we will have both schools operating on the Hybrid form of instruction and we can keep moving this process forward.

Sincerely,



James W. Grube
Superintendent of Schools