

## **2020-2021 School Year Addendum**

As we enter into the 2020-2021 school year together, we, as a school community, will face challenges like never before. The coronavirus pandemic has forced us to take many precautions to keep everyone safe. This requires a tremendous amount of planning and many traditional aspects of the LPMS experience will be very different. That does not mean that we can't have an enjoyable learning experience for this school year. It does mean that we ALL need to work together to make this school year a success, despite the challenges before us. Please understand that all of these changes are done to meet requirements imposed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). We have been in close contact with the Lincoln Park Health Department and the district Restart Committee as we made decisions regarding the reopening of LPMS.

[Welcome Back Video](#)

### **Daily Schedule:**

LPMS will begin with the hybrid learning schedule on October 12, where Mondays and Tuesdays are Red (A) days and Thursdays and Fridays are Blue (B) days. Wednesdays will be taught remotely to start the year. Since some classes are only offered every other day (special areas subjects), Wednesdays will be designated as either an A day or a B day so that students will know which classes they will log-in for. The first Wednesday, October 15, is scheduled as an A day and the next Wednesday as a B day.

Students will be assigned to come to school for in-person learning in either the Red cohort or the Blue cohort. Parents may choose to have their child participate only in remote learning. Those children will still log-in to a live stream taught each day, with a scheduled time for each class. This is also true of the off-days for students who are attending in-person instruction (for example, if you are assigned to attend on Red days, you will log-in to a scheduled live stream on Wednesdays and Blue days).

During the hybrid learning schedule, there will be an 8 block day. After block 5, students who are attending in-person instruction will be dismissed at 12:50 and will have 45 minutes to get home. They will be given a 20 minute lunch period. Block 6 will resume at 1:55 for students to participate in virtual classes. Blocks 6 - 8 are scheduled at 25 minute intervals, but that is to allow the teachers to have direct contact via live-stream with their students. Assignments will be given and placed on the teachers' Google Classrooms with the expectation that students will continue to work on the assigned projects beyond the 25 minutes of scheduled remote instruction. These remote classes will primarily consist of physical education/health classes and electives such as STEM, performing arts and band, though cycle classes may be at this time for some grades. While there are four blocks that will be taught virtually, students will not be scheduled during all of these blocks. Instead, students will be expected to complete the assignments given by their electives or physical education teachers or they may contact their core teachers during their office hours, which will take place at this time.

Block	Start Time	End Time		Block	Start Time	End Time
HR	8:25	8:50		Lunch	1:35	1:55
1	8:53	9:38		Virtual 6	1:55	2:20
2	9:41	10:26		Virtual 7	2:20	2:45
3	10:29	11:14		Virtual 8	2:45	3:10
4	11:17	12:02				
5	12:05	12:50				
Dismissal	12:50					

Each grade will have a separate entrance. Fifth graders will enter by the 5th grade entrance by the bus circle. Sixth graders will enter through the 6th grade entrance between the 5th grade wing and the media center wing (once 6th grade returns). Seventh grade will enter through the rear of the school, around the gym (once 7th grade returns). Eighth graders will enter at the science hallway just beyond the gym. Each student will be assigned to a classroom where they will report for homeroom. The students will remain in their homeroom class and each of the teachers will switch rooms to visit each cohort throughout the day.

**Lockers** - Lockers will not be used this school year. Students will be required to store all of their belongings in their backpacks, at their seats. Jackets will be hung on the back of their seat and any materials students need will be available to them at their seats.

**Daily Health Screening** - Each day, before a student is allowed to enter the school building, his/her parents must complete the on-line Daily Health Screening (DHS) form. If a student arrives and his/her parent has not filled out the form, the student will be asked to call his/her parent so they can complete it. If the student is unable to contact his/her parent, the student will have to report to the nurse's office until he/she can be cleared. Complete honesty is essential on this form to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the school.

**Attendance and Tardiness** - Students who are walking or getting dropped off are expected to arrive at LPMS between 8:00 am and 8:15. With the shortened day, it is essential that students do not miss time in the morning unless they have a doctor's appointment or similar activity that can't be scheduled outside of school hours.

If a student is ill with any symptoms that could be Covid related, the parents of the child should indicate that on the DHS Form. Indicating the presence of such symptoms will prompt a message stating that the student should NOT attend school that day. This will serve as notification for the school nurse that the child will be absent. Mrs. Lopuski will be providing guidance for parents whose child exhibits one of these symptoms. We are aware that the presence of these symptoms could indicate a number of illnesses or conditions, but for everyone's health and safety, protocols MUST be followed before the student returns to school. Failure to do so could result in the child being moved to 100% virtual instruction. If a child is absent for a non-Covid related issue

(toothache, physical injury such as a sprain or break), the parent should call the school nurse, but does not need to fill out the DHS form, unless the student is expecting to come to school late.

**Arrival and Dismissal** - Students will have four separate entrances for each grade:

8th grade will be the end of the science hallway, just beyond the gymnasium.

7th grade will enter through the rear entrance, around the gymnasium.

6th grade will enter between the fifth grade wing and the library wing, at the bus circle.

5th grade will enter at the fifth grade entrance by the bus circle.

We will make every effort to keep the students outside in the morning, so they should dress appropriately for the weather. If inclement weather makes that impossible, students will be brought into their respective hallways, with the exception of the sixth grade, who will line up in the APR. All students being dropped off should plan to arrive between 8:00 and 8:15. Please take every precaution to try to avoid being late. Anyone arriving after all fifth graders have entered the building should report to the front door and the main office.

Students will be dismissed by walkers first, one homeroom from each grade at a time. As buses arrive, one bus will be called in between the walker dismissals. Once dismissed, students must leave school grounds. They may not gather to play games or socialize with friends as they need to return home, eat lunch and prepare for their afternoon virtual classes. Parents who are picking up should arrive at the school parking lot by 12:45. With approximately 50% of the student population attending in-person each day, the parking lot should be less crowded than normal. We continue to encourage parents who are picking up their children, to consider meeting them off school grounds, such as on Randolph Street. If a student is walking home with a sibling or a friend, they should plan to meet at the edge of school grounds so that students exiting the building after them do not have to pass through a crowd of students.

As of the start of the school year, there are no plans for after school extra-curricular activities. Some clubs or activities may be scheduled, but these will be done virtually, so all students should plan to return home as soon as they are dismissed. There will be no late bus so it is important that students listen for their bus to be called. Staff will not be available to monitor students who miss their bus or can't be picked up please discuss a back-up plan with your child.

**Discipline** - With an early dismissal schedule, there will be no after school detentions. With the modified structure of LPMS, we are hoping and anticipating that there will be fewer disciplinary infractions. Should a student violate our code of conduct, possible consequences could include restorative justice assignments, morning detention, in-school suspension, or placement on 100% remote learning. We understand that parents are facing their own logistical challenges with their own lives, so we are hopeful that parents and children will discuss the need for working cooperatively, expressing compassion and understanding for others and abiding by the school rules, now more than ever.

**Health Office** - If a student needs to go to the nurse for any potential Covid symptoms, he/she will bring all of his/her materials to the nurse's office, in case the student is to be sent home. Mrs. Lopuski will make that decision and will contact the parent if appropriate. The nurse's office is now located in what was formerly the art room. This is a larger office and we have made modifications to accommodate students with Covid symptoms, should we encounter such a situation.

If a child is being sent home, the parents will pull around to the back parking lot and will stop by the art room exterior door to the left of the board office. After pulling up to the curb, please call the nurse's extension - 973-696-5520 ex 245 (THIS NEEDS TO BE UPDATED). Mrs. Lopuski will meet you at the door so you can sign your child out.

**Lobby Guard and Bins** - The Lobby Guard will still be in use, but visitors to the building will be greatly reduced. Students being sent home for medical reasons will not be signed out through Lobby Guard. If a parent is picking up a child early for a non-health related reason, such as an orthodontic appointment, the parent will sign out the child using the Lobby Guard and a valid driver's license is still required. Parents will not be entering the building except with very few exceptions. Most meetings will take place via Zoom to limit the number of people in the building.

The drop-off bins will be placed outside of the building for items that need to be handed in, but items students forgot will not be accepted. There will not be a time for students to come to the office to collect items that were dropped off and we will not have staff available to deliver them to the students. It is imperative that before leaving for school, students collect all necessary materials such as their **face mask, chromebook, water bottle and any other necessary school supplies**. Since students will begin the year attending in-person only two days per week, it is important to avoid anything that will interfere with the learning experiences on these days.

**Lunches** - Since we are operating on an early-dismissal schedule, students will not be eating lunch in school. Our food service provider will continue to provide lunch which will be ordered on-line, in advance. Lunches can be picked up on Mondays (for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) and Thursdays (for Thursday and Friday). More information on ordering lunch is available at [www.Pomptonian'sWebsite.com](http://www.Pomptonian'sWebsite.com). Shortly before dismissal, bagged lunches will be dropped off at the student's last block class so they can take them home or to their after-care location, to eat before their virtual classes begin.

**Masks** - Students must wear a cloth or disposable medical mask over their nose and mouth before getting on a school bus, during the entire bus ride and while at school. Once in their cohort's classroom, students will be allowed a mask break under the teacher's direction. As the state of New Jersey has mandated the wearing of masks in public places for several months, students should be accustomed to wearing one. There is scientific evidence that cloth masks do not restrict breathing or the intake of oxygen into the body. Students are not to remove their mask unless directed by a teacher and in accordance with the safety rules of the classroom. Students will be given one cloth mask, but if the student forgets to bring a mask to school, a disposable mask will be provided to the student. If a student regularly arrive without a mask, that student may be switched to 100% virtual instruction. We encourage students to keep a back-up mask in their backpack in case the mask is left at home or if the one being worn breaks. Removing the mask besides during the designated mask breaks will result in disciplinary consequences and could result in a student being placed on 100% virtual instruction.

**Media Center**- The LPMS Media Center will not be checking out books for the time being. There are e-books available for checkout from the LPMS media center. Mrs. DeVescovo will be emailing information about this option to all students.

**Snacks** - Students of all grade levels will be permitted to have a snack, if they choose to bring one. As students will spend their entire day in one classroom, it is imperative that parents and

students consider this when deciding what snacks to bring to school. Anything that has the potential to make a mess or that will require utensils, should be avoided.

**Water** - Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school with them. Water fountains will be turned off, but the refill station above each fountain will be accessible so students can refill their water bottle. If a student forgets his/her water bottle, teachers will have disposable paper cups that can be used in an emergency.

**\*\*100% Remote Learning** - If the number of cases of Covid-19 increases to the point where schools are closed, all classes would be switched to remote learning. If that were to happen, the current schedule would continue with the possible exception of the length of time for each block. During 100% remote learning, all students are expected to log-in to their scheduled classes as the predetermined time. All work must be submitted according to due dates.

**Acknowledgement of Code of Conduct/Student Handbook  
and the 2020-2021 School Year Addendum**

In order to have a successful school year, it is imperative that all students and their parents/guardians be familiar with the rules set forth in the student handbook. You will be asked to fill out this form as part of the Genesis return to school forms. In signing that form, you are stating that you have read the student handbook and understand the rules and potential consequences for infractions. Please pay special attention to the 2020-2021 School Year Addendum..

I have read and understand all of the rules set forth in the 2020 - 2021 Lincoln Park Middle School Student Handbook.

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_