

# Lake Hiawatha Elementary School

1 Lincoln Avenue  
Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034-0052  
(T:) 973-263-4344 • (F:) 973-263-4346



Steve Figurelli, Principal

August 25, 2020

Dear Lake Hiawatha School Community,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is with great excitement that I welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year. I hope you have enjoyed the summer making memories with your loved ones. While, undoubtedly, this year will look different from previous years, please know our commitment to the safety, well-being, and growth of your child(ren) remains steadfast. Our staff has worked tirelessly to prepare our school and classrooms to greet students - both in-person and virtually - with open arms! We are looking forward to our hallways filling with smiles, excitement, and joy in a few precious days.

Like our community, our staff continues to grow! Please join me in welcoming Ms. Kelly Malkinski, Ms. Mary Jablonka, Ms. Erica Stambach, Ms. Jessica Gabelmann, and Ms. Victoria Georges to LHS. Ms. Malkinski will serve as our newest PSD teacher; Ms. Jablonka has joined us as a special education teacher; Ms. Stambach will serve as an additional LDTC on our Child Study Team; and both Ms. Gabelmann and Ms. Georges will join us as preschool paraprofessionals. We are thrilled to have them as part of our team!

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, please note that many critical areas of operation have been modified. Below, I have highlighted several new protocols and important information to help ensure a safe and smooth opening to our school year.

➤ **School Schedule:**

○ **Preschool:**

- Students will attend either an AM or PM schedule:
  - AM Session: 9:00am - 11:30am
  - PM Session: 1:00pm - 3:30pm
- Students in our PSD and transitional classes will attend split AM/PM sessions Monday through Friday every week.
- Half-day Preschool will be held following the Week A/B model. Special education students will attend Monday through Friday every week. Tuition general education students will follow the Week A/Week B model.
- Students who have opted for “all remote” learning will follow their teacher-created schedule in either the AM or PM.

○ **K-5:**

- The district will follow a Week A/Week B model with Fridays reserved for virtual instruction.
- Half Day In-Person Session: 8:55am - 1:00pm.
  - In-person staggered dismissal starting at 12:40pm. *More information to follow.*
- Virtual PM Session for all students: 1:55pm - 3:25pm

➤ **Student Schedules:**

- The Parent Portal will open on or before August 27, 2020.
- Student schedules will indicate your child’s homeroom and assignment: Cohort A, Cohort B, All Remote or In-Person Daily (for preschool classes). This information is based on your family’s response to Dr. Sargent’s Parent Survey.

- **First Week Of School Schedule:**
  - 9/2: Half Day Schedule. Cohort A will attend in-person classes. No afternoon session for Grades 1 - 5. *Preschool will follow the AM/PM split day schedule.*
  - 9/3: Half Day Schedule. Cohort B will attend in-person classes. No afternoon session for Grades 1 - 5. *Preschool will follow the AM/PM split day schedule.*
  - 9/4: Half Day Schedule. Virtual instruction for ALL students in Grades 1 - 5. No afternoon session. *Preschool will follow the AM/PM split day schedule.*
  - Please click [HERE](#) to access the district calendar for the specific cohort schedule through October 2nd.
- **Kindergarten:**
  - Kindergarten students will begin classes with the Week A/Week B model on September 14.
  - Individual orientations (one parent, child, and Kindergarten teacher) will be scheduled for *all* students the week of September 8.
    - Families will receive a separate SchoolMessenger with information and instructions on how to sign up for in-person or virtual orientation.
- **Instructional Materials for “Remote Only” Students:**
  - Students who have opted for “all remote” learning will have a scheduled curbside pickup of materials on Friday, September 4th.
  - A SchoolMessenger will be sent to families with additional details.
- **Pomptonian Student Lunches:**
  - Parents may pre-order lunch for your child. This will be provided as a “grab and go” lunch as we prepare for dismissal. Children will eat lunch at home.
  - If your child attends PM SKIP, please pack a lunch or pre-order from Pomptonian. PM SKIP students will eat at LHS.
- **Arrival and Dismissal:**
  - Doors will open at 8:55am for students to report directly to their homerooms.
  - Designated entrance & exit doors have been assigned to specific grade levels to help reduce congestion and maintain appropriate distancing.
  - *A separate message with this information will be forthcoming.*
- **Additional Reminders/Information:**
  - Please note all students are required to wear a facial covering at all times.
  - Parents will be required to complete the COVID Daily Parent Form in the Genesis Parent Portal on any day that your child is scheduled to be in the school building.
  - Students who have opted for “all remote” learning should log on to Seesaw or Google Classroom daily to access instructional materials and experiences. Teachers will provide a daily schedule for students to follow.
  - Please pack a daily snack for your child. Snacks should be something children can open and eat independently.
  - Please pack a small beach towel for your child to use for outdoor snack and activities, weather-permitting. This towel will be brought home each afternoon.
  - Please label your child’s facial covering. We would also recommend packing a second facial covering in a brown paper bag, labeled with your child’s name.
  - Information on the SKIP Program will be shared from the district office.

In closing, when we transitioned to distance learning in March, I for one certainly did not expect what has transpired these past five months. What this time has taught me is that, while we do not know what the future holds, we *do* know that each day is a gift. It has taught me the importance of appreciating the moment, celebrating the little things, and giving second chances. Each sunrise has reminded me that every day is a new beginning and we will emerge from this even stronger.

Over the next few days, you will continue to receive information from our school and district to help bring you clarity. Please know that our staff is here to support and serve. We appreciate you, your partnership, and your trust in us.

Warmly,



Steve Figurelli  
Principal