



# Lincoln Elementary School

Gettysburg Area School District

Dr. Matthew E. McFarland Sr.  
*Principal*

7/27/2023

Dear Lincoln Elementary School Families,

I hope that you and your family are enjoying the last few weeks of summer break. Here at Lincoln we are anxiously awaiting the start of another exciting school year. We just completed another successful year of summer camp at Lincoln Elementary. Our staff is putting the finishing touches on our building to best prepare our school for the upcoming school year.

Today our teachers (grades 1-5) mailed out their teacher introduction letters to each of their students and families. You should be receiving this letter in the mail soon. If you do not receive your teacher letter by Wednesday, August 2nd please contact our office. I hope you are excited to see who your teacher is for the upcoming school year and are anxiously awaiting to meet them. Our kindergarten teachers will mail out their teacher introduction letters after our Kindergarten Screenings.

I have included some other important back to school information and reminders below that will assist us in starting the school year off successfully! If you have any further questions about our school or the upcoming academic year please contact your teacher, myself, or our office at your convenience. Please enjoy the rest of your summer break and we look forward to seeing you here at Lincoln soon. Go Warriors!

## **We Care What You Think**

At Lincoln Elementary School we care what you think. Please visit this [link](#) as many times as you would like and answer any question(s) that apply. Tell us your thoughts or anything that you think is important for us to know. The link is also on our website for your quick and convenient access.

## **Important Dates**

- ✓ 7/27 – Teacher introduction letters mailed to families (gr. 1-5)
- ✓ 8/7 – Kindergarten screenings; 12pm-7pm @ Lincoln Elementary
  - If you have an incoming kindergarten student and did not receive an email regarding kindergarten screenings, please contact our office.
- ✓ 8/9 – Kindergarten T-Shirt Delivery
- ✓ 8/15 - Lincoln Wear Clothing Sale Opens!!!
  - Check back on our website for more information
  - You will also receive an email with ordering information soon
- ✓ 8/17 – New Warrior/Student Orientation; 5:00 PM – @ Lincoln Elementary
  - For students in grades 1-5 who are new to Lincoln Elementary
- ✓ 8/17 – Kindergarten Orientation; 6:00-8:00 PM – @ Lincoln Elementary
  - For our incoming Kindergarten students and parents/guardians



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- ✓ 8/22 – 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School
- ✓ 8/24 – Back to School Night; 6:00-7:30PM – @ Lincoln Elementary
  - For all students and parents/guardians in grades 1-5
- ✓ Please see our district calendar as an attachment to this email for additional dates and information.

## **Important Announcements/Reminders**

- ✓ Twitter: Do you want to see more of the GREAT things students are doing @ Lincoln. Follow us on Twitter: **@GASD\_McFarland**  
Download the app on your phone or bookmark it on your computer!
- ✓ Lincoln Elementary PTO - Our PTO is GROWING and we want YOU to be a part of this GREAT organization. Our PTO is very important to our students, staff, and community as it supports and provides resources to enhance the experiences provided at Lincoln Elementary. If you are interested in joining our team please contact Kari Zaney @ [Lincoln.PTO@outlook.com](mailto:Lincoln.PTO@outlook.com). Our next meeting date will be announced very soon. We look forward to seeing you there!
- ✓ We have water bottle fillers in our hallways!! We encourage families to send water bottles with students each day. Please ensure that only water is sent.
- ✓ All Lincoln students will receive their own Chromebook from the district. These will stay at school this year.

## **New Lincoln Staff**

We are excited to welcome the following new staff members to our school!

- ✓ Mrs. Chamberlin - Reading Specialist
- ✓ Mrs. Keenan - 3rd Grade Teacher
- ✓ Ms. Keller - 3rd Grade Teacher
- ✓ Mrs. Mendoza - School Psychologist
- ✓ Mrs. Nichols - Para Professional
- ✓ Mrs. Rickrode - Autistic Support Teacher
- ✓ Mrs. Sites - School Nurse

## **New Instructional Focuses**

We are excited to announce two new instructional focuses for the 2023-2024 school year. Our board has adopted CKLA Amplify as our new reading instruction resource. We are excited about the content, vocabulary, and comprehension components of this program.

This year we have also built additional time into our daily schedule dedicated to Science instruction. Pennsylvania has adopted new Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (STEELS) Standards. More information about these new standards can be found [here](#).

We will continue to provide additional information about these new initiatives as we progress through this school year.



### Student Day

Our student day will start at 8:40 am this year. If your child is planning on eating breakfast at school, please ensure they are dropped off as close to 8:20 as possible. This will ensure that all students arrive at their classroom prior to our late bell at 8:40. Please see our school schedule listed below.

- ✓ Student Day
  - 8:20 – Doors open
  - **8:40 – Late bell**
  - 3:10 – Dismissal begins

### Student Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

- ✓ Student transportation to and from school will utilize the same entrances and exits as in years past. **(Please access your Skyward portal to ensure that your child's transportation is correct and updated in our system. This is how students will be sent home on the first day of school.)**
  - Doors closest to the playground, buses only
  - Doors closest to Baltimore St., student drop off and pickup, walkers
- ✓ Please do not use the bus lanes near our playground if you are dropping off or picking up students from 8:00-8:40 and 2:45-3:30.

### Student Drop Off

- ✓ Please be cautious as you are dropping off your child in the morning for school. Here are some helpful guidelines to ensure that all of our students and families are able to arrive at school safely.
  - When dropping off your child/children stay in one lane using the curb closest to the school.
  - Utilize the entire curb for drop off. If you are the first/only car pull the entire way up past the school to make room for others behind you.
  - Do not pass other vehicles for any reason.
  - Please be sure not to block the crosswalk with your vehicle.
  - Look prior to moving your vehicle again after drop off.
- ✓ It is our goal to ensure that each student arrives safely to school. We appreciate your help with this.

### Student Pick Up

- ✓ If you are picking up your child/children from school at the end of the day please use the lot and doors closest to Baltimore St. The lane will be closed at the end of the day. We encourage you to park in our adjacent lot and walk to our exit doors. Please do not park in a handicap parking spot without the appropriate visible permit. Our staff will match you up with your child/children as soon as possible. Please be patient with us at the beginning of the year as we get to know you and your family and become reacquainted with our procedures.

### Attendance Policy

If a student is absent from school for any reason, a written explanation signed by a parent/guardian stating the reason for the absence must be submitted to the office. The excuse must be received by the office



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within three (3) school days of the absence. If a physician treated the student, the excuse should be written by the physician. Four (4) or more consecutive absences can be excused only with a note from the physician. Any student with ten (10) accumulated absences will be placed on a physician's note.

### **Electronic Device Policy**

If a student brings a personal electronic/communicable device to school, it must stay in the student's locker and be powered off. This includes smart watches that have communication capabilities.

### **Food Services**

Please find the proposed food service prices for the upcoming school year below.

Breakfast - \$1.35

Lunch - \$2.50

Milk - \$0.60

We encourage all families to check their eligibility to participate in our free or reduced lunch program. A parent or guardian should complete the online application after July 1st of **each school year**. Use this [link](#) and click on the School Cafe icon below to get started! If you completed an application during the previous school year, you should have access to your account. If this is the first time you have signed in to School Cafe, you must create a new account.

You may add money to your child's account by sending in an envelope to your child's teacher or the office. Please ensure to seal the money inside of the envelope and write your child's name, lunch number, and teacher's name on the outside of the envelope. You may also add money to your child's account electronically via this [link](#).

### **Health and Wellness District Policy**

- ✓ Foods and beverages shall not be used as a reward for classroom activities and throughout all District departments. Food may be allowed for an activity that promotes a positive nutrition message (e.g., guest chef, field trip to a farm or farmers market, etc.)
- ✓ Homemade food is not permitted to be brought to school for the purpose of being shared during the school day with students either by other students, teachers or other staff, or other persons.
- ✓ No snacks may be brought in for the purpose of sharing. Snacks must be brought in by an individual for that individual's consumption only. All snacks must be in compliance with the District's nutritional guidelines and procedures to promote healthy eating and maintain a safe environment for students with life threatening allergies and other serious health issues. The teacher will inform of any food allergies in the classroom. A list of healthy snack ideas will be provided by the school (attached to the end of this letter.)
- ✓ We know that Birthdays are an exciting time for students and families. However, we ask that you please do not send any items (edible or non-edible) into the school. We appreciate your support with this request! Your child will be recognized in his/her classroom on this special day!



### Elementary Handbook

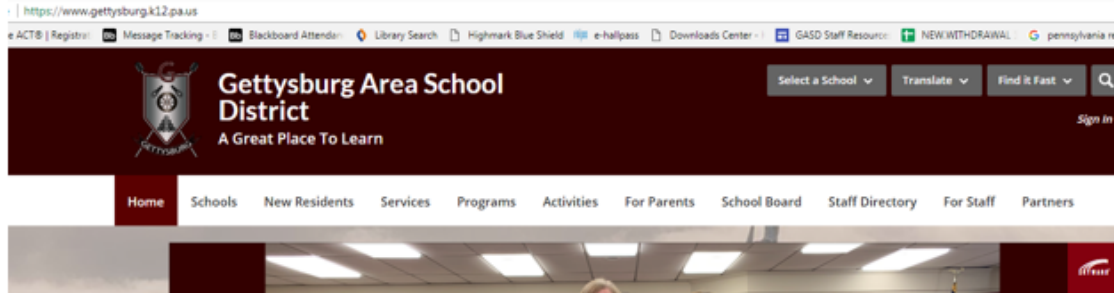
Please access our Gettysburg Area School District Elementary Handbook via this [link](#) for more information related to our district policies and procedures.

### Skyward: Family Access

The start of a new school year is a great time to log into our Skyward system to ensure that all of your contact information is updated and correct. **Again, please ensure that your child's mode of transportation is correct in our Skyward system.**

In addition, all of our back-to-school forms will be completed online via Skyward again this year.

All back-to-school forms districtwide and including elementary schools can be accessed through Skyward/Family Access. **To access Skyward**, go to **gettysburg.k12.pa.us** and click on the **Skyward block** on the **right-hand side of the page**.



Please complete these forms at your earliest convenience, but before the start of the school year. If you have any questions, please reach out to the elementary building secretaries.

### Warrior Way

Our Warrior Way program has served as our positive behavior support system for three years. Our Warrior Way pillars listed below detail what it means to be a Warrior at Gettysburg Area School District. Our staff will dedicate time throughout the school year to educate our students on what it looks like to follow the Warrior Way in various locations while at school. Previously, our school building has earned rewards such as extra recess, bounce house day, and special assemblies for following the Warrior Way and meeting specifically designed goals. I look forward to what we can achieve together this year by following the Warrior Way!

#### What is the Warrior Way?

Be Here: Every Day, On-Time

Be Involved: Participate, Engage, All In

Be Committed: Responsible; Safe Choices; Ownership for Actions and Learning

Be Kind: Show Respect and Include Others

In collaboration with our Warrior Way initiative, we will continue to use the behavior communication system detailed below.

- ✓ The students will begin the day on green. This is where we expect students to start and stay





throughout the school day.

- ✓ If a student shows exceptional behavior, they may move to blue.
- ✓ If a student is not following the Warrior Way they will clip down to yellow with a verbal warning.
- ✓ If this occurs again, then the student will clip down to orange with parent contact by teacher and/or student and consequences of teacher's choosing.
- ✓ If behavior concerns continue, the student will clip down to red. If a student clips to red, an office referral will be completed in Skyward by the teacher. The student and/or teacher will call home. The principal will also take appropriate action.
- ✓ If a student is harming self or others, they will be moved directly to red. The teacher will fill out an office referral form in skyward. The student and/or teacher will call home. The student will be sent to the office. The principal will also take appropriate action.

- ✓ **Blue** Exceptional Behavior
- ✓ **Green** Starting Point of the Day (Expectation)
- ✓ **Yellow** Verbal Warning
- ✓ **Orange** Notification sent to Parents from Teacher and/or Student
- ✓ **Red** Consequence of Teacher's choosing  
Teacher completes office Referral in Skyward  
Teacher and/or Student will call home  
Principal will take appropriate disciplinary action



*More information detailing our Warrior Way, student recognition, and school-wide activities will be shared in an upcoming newsletter.*

### **Title I Plan**

Lincoln Elementary is a Title I School. As a result, each year we develop a Title I plan to ensure:

*"that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach, at minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments."*

-U.S. Department of Education

With the help of numerous community and educational members/organizations, we have developed the following priorities for our Title I Plan for the 2023-2024 school year:

- ✓ **Priority #1:** Students at Lincoln Elementary that identify as economically disadvantaged will undergo increased progress monitoring in the areas of ORF fluency, computation, and concepts and applications areas. We will focus and increase our efforts related to family and community involvement for this subgroup.
- ✓ **Priority #2:** Students at Lincoln Elementary that identify as Hispanic will undergo increased progress monitoring in the areas of ORF fluency, computation, and concepts and applications areas. We will focus and increase our efforts related to family and community involvement for this subgroup.

More information and details regarding our Title I Plan and goals may be obtained on our website.

Lincoln Elementary School Website: <https://www.gettysburg.k12.pa.us/domain/136>



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## **LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - PARENT COMPACT**

The Lincoln Elementary School and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), (participating children) agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards. This school-parent compact is in effect during the 2023-2024 school year.

### School Responsibilities:

- The Gettysburg Area School District will:
  - Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards as follows:
    - Provide universal screening for all students, rigorous instruction using the Learning Focused Model with CKLA Amplify as the core resource, and other resources that match the skills and strategies as outlined in the curriculum and learning maps.
    - Targeted interventions are also provided to students who require additional assistance.
  - Parent-teacher conferences will be held annually in November during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.
  - Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows: Semi-annual report cards, progress reports, and progress monitoring data as designated by IEP's or Intervention programs
  - Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows: Staff is available to speak to parents before or after the school day by calling the elementary school in which the child is enrolled. Staff is also available during Back-to-School Night and during Parent Conferences.
  - Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities, as follows: Any parent may call the school or teacher to set up a classroom visit. PTO events and school-wide events also provide parental volunteer opportunities.

### Parent Responsibilities:

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

- Sending the child to school each day unless he/she is sick
- Making sure that homework is completed
- Reading to our children
- Listening to our children read aloud
- Monitoring the amount of television and video games
- Promoting a healthy lifestyle for my child, such as getting enough sleep each night, eating healthy foods, and being physically active
- Volunteering in my child's classroom if able, or participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to my children's education by attending parent conferences and Back to School Night
- Staying informed about my child's education and communicating with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school or the school district either received by my child (which may require checking the child's backpack) or by mail and responding, as appropriate



- Serving, to the extent possible, on policy advisory groups, such as the Title I Policy Advisory Committee, District Key communicators, or other school advisory or policy groups

#### Student Responsibilities:

- I, as a student, will share the responsibility to improve my academic achievement and achieve the State's high standards. Specifically, I will:
  - Do my homework every day and ask for help when I need to
  - Read every day outside of school time
  - Give my parents/guardians all notices and information received from my school every day
  - Bring all materials needed for school work each day
  - Follow the school rules
  - Be a good citizen by following the character counts, Warrior Way program

#### **Right to Know Information**

- ✓ As a parent of a student attending a school that is receiving Federal Title I dollars, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the teacher(s) and/or instructional paraprofessional(s) who instruct your child. Federal law requires every Title I school to comply and provide you with the requested information in a timely manner. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time you may ask:
  - o Whether the teacher met state qualification and certifications requires for the grade level he/she is teaching.
  - o Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
  - o What undergraduate and/or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration
  - o You may also ask whether your child receives assistance from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.
- ✓ The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which was signed into law in December of 2015 and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1956 (ESEA) includes additional right to know requests. At any time, parents/guardians and family members can request information on policies regarding student participation in assessment and procedures for opting out and information on required assessments that may include
  - o Subject matter tested
  - o Purpose of that test
  - o Source of the requirement
  - o Amount of time it takes students to complete the test
  - o Time and format of disseminating results.
- ✓ Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking skills he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and professionals meet applicable Pennsylvania state requirements.
- ✓ We look forward to the upcoming school year, and together we will make a difference in your child's life.





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Again, I want to thank everyone who continues to work diligently to successfully prepare our school for yet another great year. Let's make it a GREAT one! Go Warriors!!

Yours in education,

Dr. Matthew E. McFarland Sr.

Principal

Lincoln Elementary School

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<https://www.gettysburg.k12.pa.us/domain/10>

Twitter: @GASD\_McFarland





## GETTYSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Healthy Classroom Snack Ideas for Elementary Students

Dear Parents,

Good nutrition is linked to better behavior and academic performance. Providing healthy snacks to your child demonstrates your commitment to his or her health as well as promoting a healthy school environment and healthy eating habits.

Adding healthy snacks between meals increases focus and performance. Children are able to comprehend and retain information presented in the classroom at a higher rate when their bodies are fueled by healthy eating.

Eating a healthy snack allows you to add to your intake of essential nutrients. Fruits and vegetables add vitamins A and C, both of which are important for immunity, wound healing and teeth and gums, as well as fiber. Add low-fat cheese, yogurt or hummus to increase protein intake, which is necessary for healthy muscles, skin, cells and hair. Whole grain crackers add complex carbohydrates and additional fiber. Low-fat dairy foods increase calcium intake, a nutrient that is needed for healthy bones.

Parents and guardians will be responsible for sending in a daily snack to school for their child from the list below. Snacks should be in individual servings for your child only. Students will not be allowed to share snacks.

#### Healthy Classroom Snack Ideas

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Fresh Vegetables Sticks              | Baked tortilla chips w/salsa            |
| Fresh Fruit, cubed or sliced         | Hummus w/pitas, veggies, tortilla chips |
| Whole grain crackers                 | Low-fat popcorn                         |
| Pretzels                             | Low fat or fat free yogurt              |
| Graham Crackers                      | Rice Cakes                              |
| Trail mix with dried fruit (no nuts) | Ham & Cheese or Turkey sandwich         |
| Whole grain Cereal                   | Whole-grain muffins                     |
| Breakfast or granola bars            | Fruit & cheese                          |
| Low-fat cheese cubes                 | Sunflower or sesame seeds               |
| Dried fruit                          | Applesauce or Peach Cups                |

**Allergies:** We ask that you do not send in snacks with your child that contain peanuts due to possible allergies. Your child's teacher will notify you if there are additional allergy concerns in your child's class, such as tree nuts.