



Lincoln Elementary School

Gettysburg Area School District

Dr. Matthew E. McFarland Sr.

Principal

Dear Lincoln Elementary School Families,

I hope that you and your family have enjoyed a safe and rejuvenating summer break. We are anxiously awaiting the start to another excellent school year here at Lincoln Elementary School. I appreciate your flexibility, patience, and understanding as we begin to reopen our school in the safest and most equitable manner for our students.

Important Dates

- ✓ 8/25 – New Student Orientation; 6:00 PM – Virtual
 - For students in grades 1-5 who are new to Lincoln
- ✓ 8/26 – Kindergarten Orientation; 5:00-7:00 PM – @ Lincoln
 - For our incoming Kindergarten students and one parent/guardian
- ✓ 8/27 – Back to School Night; 6:00-7:30PM – virtual
 - For all students in grades 1-5
- ✓ 8/31 – Students' 1st Day of School

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!
- ✓ 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.
 - A fee of \$25 will be charged to each student's lunch account to cover the insurance for this device.
- ✓ Student Day
 - 8:20 – Doors open
 - 8:45 – Late bell
 - 3:05 – Dismissal begins
- ✓ Food Service prices for the 2020-2021 school year
 - Breakfast - \$1.15
 - Lunch - \$2.25

Return to Learn Plan Highlights

- ✓ Our completed Return to Learn Plan may be found on our district website. However, here are some highlights as they relate to Lincoln Elementary.
- ✓ Students are required to wear face coverings while at school.
 - More information related to this topic may be found via Dr. Perrin's letter (attached to the end of this letter.)
- ✓ Specials teachers will travel to classrooms



- ✓ Lunches will be served in classrooms
- ✓ Utilize outdoor areas for instruction and eating as much as possible
- ✓ Students will be spaced 3-6 feet apart during instruction
- ✓ Recess
 - Increased time
 - By grade level
- ✓ We have increased and enhanced our cleaning, sanitation, and ventilation procedures.
- ✓ We will spend an increased amount of time educating our students about appropriate hygiene and other necessary beginning of the year skills.

Visitors and Access to School

- ✓ For the time being:
 - Visitors will not be permitted to enter the building during school hours.
 - If you need to pick up your child for an early dismissal or are late arriving to school, please ring the bell at our entrance doors by the playground and we will come out to assist you.

Student Drop Off

- Student transportation to and from school will utilize the same entrances and exits as in years past.
 - 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 8:15-8:45 and 2:45-3:30.
- Please be cautious as you are dropping off your students in the morning for school. Here are some helpful guidelines to ensure that all of our students and family are able to arrive at school safely.
 - When dropping of 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.

Health and Wellness 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.)

Skyward: Family Access

This note is to inform you of a change to how back-to-school forms will be completed this year.

All back-to-school forms districtwide and including elementary schools will now be completed through Skyward/Family Access. **To access Skyward**, go to [gettysburg.k12.pa.us](https://www.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. Computers will be available at all elementary schools during back to school nights and during kindergarten orientation for form completion.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the elementary building secretaries.

Summer Work

Our custodial, grounds, and maintenance staff have been working tirelessly all summer to best prepare our school, staff, and students for the upcoming school year. I appreciate the effort, patience, and flexibility from these staff members as they removed desks and furniture and completed other tasks to ensure our school is sanitized and safe for our students and staff. I thank everyone who had a hand in successfully preparing our school, staff, and students for yet another great year.

Safety

At Lincoln Elementary, the safety of our students is our top priority. As a result, there is a continued focus both at the district and at building level regarding the most effective means to keep our students safe. We continue

MAKING SCHOOL SAFE

Bing – Common Sense Licenses

to reflect and analyze our current procedures in order to take appropriate action to improve our current standing. For the safety of our students, we do not make our current safety operating procedures public. However, I am happy to inform you that our district and building has implemented the following to improve the safety of our students:

- Increased safety measures at our front doors and office.
- Increased number of safety drills throughout the school year.
- Consistent and frequency evaluation of protocols and procedures.
- Numerous initiatives that will result in an increased law enforcement presence at Lincoln Elementary.
- Contracted a Student Resource Officer (SRO) for the 2020-2021 school year.



- An SRO is a “real” police officer who will be serving the Gettysburg Area School District in that capacity.

School-Wide Positive Behavior Plan

At Lincoln Elementary it is our goal to create and maintain a learning environment that encourages and expects appropriate behavior from all of our students. As a result, during the 2020-2021 school year we will continue the implementation of our Lincoln Elementary School-Wide Behavior Plan. Each homeroom classroom will utilize/implement a five (5) “clip” behavior system.

- ✓ 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 rules 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
Consequence of Teacher’s choosing
 - ✓ **Red** Teacher completes office Referral in Skyward
Teacher and/or Student will call home
Principal will take appropriate disciplinary action



In addition to the implementation of our school-wide behavior plan we will continue to improve upon our already well-instituted school-wide positive behavior reward system.

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:
 - Whether the teacher met state qualification and certifications requires for the grade level he/she is teaching.
 - Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
 - What undergraduate and/or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration
 - 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
 - Subject matter tested
 - Purpose of that test
 - Source of the requirement
 - Amount of time it takes students to complete the test
 - 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.

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 kabobs
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.



Dear Parents/Guardians:

This week, the PA Department of Education provided updated information regarding “face coverings” based on an order from the Secretary of Health. The updated information can be found [here](#). This order will require us to update our Health and Safety Plan.

The order requires everyone, adults and students, to [wear face coverings](#) at all times, and limits exceptions to a couple of areas: Face coverings do not have to be worn,

- While eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task;
or
- At least 6 feet apart during “face-covering breaks” to last no longer than 10 minutes
- With a documented exception permissible by law.

It is our expectation that students choosing any “in-person” learning option will come to school complying with the order so that we are able to *keep our schools open and safe*.

Upon returning to school, we will initially approach compliance with face coverings through education and reminders. Should non-compliance become an issue, parents will be contacted. Further issues will be addressed by administrators which could include discussions with parents regarding alternate learning placements.

As we continue to make final preparations for August 31, it is important that we are aware of final decisions regarding instructional programming. If a programming change is desired, please **contact your child’s school no later than 3:30 p.m. on Monday, 8/24/20**. As the district allocates staff to ensure a high-quality education for all learners, we cannot guarantee enrollment in GASD Online Learning after 8/24/20. GAVA will continue to be an option for all learners wanting a fully online education.

We remain committed to opening school safely and equitably and appreciate your continued patience and support as we navigate our “Return to Learn” while responding appropriately in a fluid situation.

Sincerely,

Jason Perrin, D.Ed.
Superintendent

