



Lincoln Middle School Newsletter

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<http://lincoln.portlandschools.org>

Dear Lincoln Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! I hope your summer continues to be a time of rest and relaxation and that you've had time to read at least one good book.

As we prepare for the start of the school year, I'm reminded of the challenges presented by a struggling economy. We remain committed, however, to making Lincoln a great place to learn and there is good news:

Beginning in September, Lincoln will become a Title 1 school. Although this brings many new requirements, we will receive additional funding that will support two new teaching positions, allow us to save two educational technician positions, provide programming materials and support staff development.

Additionally, we have partnered with Spurwink to provide two social workers as part of their Public Schools Counseling Program. Portland Recreation will offer an after school program similar to the programs in our elementary schools. And, we will work with USM and Big Brothers Big Sisters to start a mentoring program.

New MacBooks have arrived and they are very cool! Our 7th and 8th grade students will be issued new Apple MacBooks this year as part of the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI).

Also, our school counselors have worked very carefully to gather student information from parents and teachers. Mrs. Santiago and I used this information to create schedules tailored to meet the needs of each of our 470 students. Incoming 6th grade students will find their house placements in this newsletter, but we will distribute student schedules on the first day of school when teachers and counselors will be available to help students understand their schedules.

The start of a new school year represents a time for new beginnings, and I look forward to working with our students, parents, staff and community to make Lincoln Middle School the very best. As you begin to get ready for the start of school, know that our school secretaries and counselors will be available to help you beginning Monday, August 24th.

Wishing you success,

Steve Nolan, Principal
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IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, September 3rd
First Student Day

Monday, September 7th
Labor Day (no school)

Tuesday, September 8th
School Pictures
Begin fall sports sign-ups

Thursday, September 17th
Back to School Skate Party

Thursday, October 1st
Open House

SCHOOL TOURS

For ALL 6th Grade Students
AND
NEW 7th & 8th Grade Students

Please call 874-8145 or email
Mrs. Connolly at
connoj@portlandschools.org
to reserve your spot!
Please specify your preferred tour
time.

Date & Times
Monday, August 31st

Tour 1: 10:00 am

Tour 2: 1:00 pm

Attachments:

- 2009-2010 School Calendar
- MEA Scores for 7/8th Grade Students
- House Placements for 6th Grade Students

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL — Thursday, September 3, 2009

Grade 7/8 Students

- Report to school at **8:00**;
- Students will go directly to their house areas when the bell rings at 8:05;
- Lunch will not be served for students in grades 7 and 8; and
- 7th and 8th grade students will be dismissed at 10:45.



Grade 6 Students

- Report to the front entrance at **10:45**;
- Students will be escorted to the gym for a brief grade-level meeting;
- Lunch will be served or students may elect to bring their own lunch; and
- Students will be dismissed at 2:25.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

School supplies depend on house placement and courses taken. For example, some students will have literacy in place of a world language. While students may be eager to purchase supplies, it makes sense to wait until school starts and student schedules are distributed. Teachers will review all needed supplies on the opening days of school and allow time for students to get their supplies. For students who may already know their house placement and courses (returning 7th and 8th grade students, for example) a list of school supplies by grade level and house can be found on our web site at <http://lincoln.portlandschools.org>.

MORNING PROCEDURE

The main entrance will be reserved for 6th grade students during the morning when students enter the building 8:05-8:15. All students may use the gazebo entrance or enter the building through the cafeteria.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

After the first day of school, school days begin at 8:15 and end at 2:25. We have a two-day, rotating schedule – Blue Days and Gold Days. Students attend language arts, math and science classes daily and all other classes every other day. Please see the **example** of a student schedule below. **Note:** Students needing additional time and support will have academic support, literacy, math intervention, special education and/or ELL classes as needed and in place of some courses.

Example	Blue Day	Gold Day
8:15-9:15	Language Arts	Computer
9:15-10:10	Math	Social Studies
10:10-11:05	Science	Enrichment
11:05-11:35	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
11:35-12:30	Music	Language Arts
12:30-1:25	Personal Fitness	Math
1:25-2:25	Spanish (or French)	Science

EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Students will be dismissed at 1:25 every Wednesday, October through May. Students will attend their regular classes, although class periods will be shorter, and they will have a lunch/recess break. Busses will pick-up students at 1:25 for their ride home, and there is **no** late bus on Wednesdays.

TRIMESTERS for LINCOLN

Lincoln Middle School is on a trimester grade reporting system, as are all middle and elementary schools in Portland. This means there are three grading periods. The first trimester is September 3rd through December 4th.

FOCUS ON LEARNING

Too often, teaching and learning is interrupted by calls coming into classrooms, announcements and students requesting to go to their locker, water fountain, bathroom, etc. We have implemented the following procedures to better support learning for all students:



15-minute rule – The first 15 minutes of each class period will be preserved for getting class started and students focused on learning. Students will not be allowed to leave class during the first 15 minutes, and the beginning of each class period will be used for academic purposes. (If your child has a diagnosed medical condition that might necessitate leaving class, please contact our school nurse so she may inform your child's teachers.)

Restricted Calls – Phone calls into classrooms interrupt teaching and learning, so we will not call into classrooms during class time. (If you must reach your child during the school day, please contact our main office and we will help you.)

Announcements – We will use morning and afternoon announcements to inform students. However, we will not use the public address system during the school day unless there is an emergency requiring us to invoke our school crisis plan.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Success in school starts with regular attendance and learning is interrupted when students are absent for any reason. Our Student Handbook includes specific information about excusable absences and truancy. Please contact us if your child will be absent from school.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

We serve breakfast and lunch every school day. The cost of breakfast is \$1.00 for students, and breakfast is free for students qualifying for free or reduced lunch. Lunch prices are \$2.25 for students and reduced lunch is 40 cents. (Extra milk costs 50 cents.) Menus can be found on our web site at <http://lincoln.portlandschools.org>.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

There are numerous opportunities for students to become involved in activities, and we encourage all students to participate in at least one school activity. Unless otherwise noted, activities are open to all students in all grade levels.

Art Club



Jazz Band

Drama Club

Math Team



Newspaper Club



Yearbook

Fall Sports:

Cross Country

Field Hockey (Girls)

Football (Boys 7 & 8)

Soccer

Winter Sports:

Basketball

Indoor Track

Swimming (district team)

Wrestling (district team)

Spring Sports:

Baseball (Boys 7 & 8)

Outdoor Track

Softball (Girls)

Tennis

Student athletes are required to have a current physical exam to participate in practice or games. The physical exam must have been completed within the past two years and the two-year period must include the entire sports season of the sport(s) the student is playing.

DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

- It is strongly recommended that you drop-off and pick-up your child in front of the building on Stevens Avenue. (Turning into the parking lot or driveway will likely result in being delayed by other vehicles.)
- Unless your child is meeting with a teacher before school, it is best to **arrive after 8:00**.
- Busses drop-off and pick-up students at the rear of the building on Leland Street. (Avoid Leland Street directly behind the building before and after school to avoid being delayed by stopped busses.)

BICYCLES

Students should walk their bikes while on school grounds and lock their bikes to one of the bike racks located at the rear of the building. Please make sure your child has a sturdy lock if s/he rides a bike to school.

BUS INFORMATION

Portland School Committee policy for transportation of students establishes the distance of greater than two (2) miles from home to school for middle school students eligible for bus service (exceptions include Sagamore Village and Forest Avenue to Lincoln). Each student eligible to ride the bus according to the information above will receive in the mail in August a postcard with specific bus information. Please note also that we have a late bus (3:30) to the Riverton and outer Brighton Ave/Sagamore area Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, beginning Tuesday, September 8th. **There is no late bus on Wednesdays and Fridays.** Eligible bus students may ride the late bus only if they have stayed after school for a supervised activity (e.g. participation in make-up work, school activities, detention) and can only board the late bus with a pass written by the teacher or coach with whom they stayed after school.

DISMISSING YOUR CHILD DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

When picking up your child please follow the steps below for a smooth process:

- Send your child to school with a note to be dismissed and ask him/her to bring it to the main office first thing in the morning;
- Make sure you are listed on the emergency card
(If you are not on the emergency card we cannot release the child to you without written permission from the child's guardian. We will also call to confirm the note);
- Be prepared to show picture identification;
- It does take us some time to get the student from class so please build that into your timeframe.

BACK TO SCHOOL SKATE PARTY

Lincoln Middle School invites you to attend our Back to School Skate Party at Happy Wheels Skate Center on Thursday, September 17th at 5:00-7:00. Happy Wheels Skate Center is located at 331 Warren Avenue in Portland. The cost is \$5 per person and includes skate rentals. Proceeds will support our physical education program. We need a minimum of 75 people, so please tell your friends and family.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

We have partnered with Portland Recreation to offer an after school program that provides an opportunity for Lincoln students to participate in structured and well-supervised activities. The goal of the program is to promote the physical, mental, social and emotional development of each teen by providing high-quality programs. You should have received an application in the mail by now and you can **contact Portland Recreation at 756-8275** for additional information. Registration is now open and we need a minimum of 30 daily participants registered by Friday, August 21, 2009 in order for this program to run. A fee waiver is available for eligible families.

DENNY'S AFFINITY PROGRAM

You will find a Denny's Affinity Card included with this newsletter. Denny's, including locations on Congress Street and Brighton Avenue, has offered this discount card that will take 15% off your check and donate 5% to Lincoln. Please take advantage of this generous offer from Denny's to help our families and school!

STUDENT HANDBOOK

The student handbook contains valuable information about our school and will be reviewed with students during the first few days of school. The following excerpts from the Lincoln Middle School Student Handbook are provided to help students and parents prepare for a successful school year.



Dress Code

All students are expected to be clean and dress and groom themselves neatly in clothes that are suitable for school activities. Dressing in a manner that poses health or safety risks, or causes substantial disruption of the educational process is not allowed. Students should keep in mind that safe participation in some courses, such as personal fitness and engineering technology, requires appropriate attire.

Students wearing unacceptable clothing will be asked to change. When necessary, a parent will be called to provide alternative clothing for a child whose attire is deemed inappropriate. The following items are some, but not all examples of inappropriate school wear:

- Clothing that exposes underwear;
- Garments or jewelry with reference to inappropriate language or behavior or that promote use of alcohol, drugs or other illegal substances;
- Chains, wallet chains, or any other jewelry that may be used as a weapon;
- Hats, visors, headbands, bandanas, kerchiefs, dew rags, earmuffs, or any other headdress, unless worn specifically for religious purposes;
- See-through, backless or bare-midriff tops;
- Shirts with shoulder straps less than two inches wide or strapless tops;
- Shorts, skirts, or skorts shorter than 3 inches from the top of the knee; or
- Tight fitting or revealing apparel, such as low cut tops.

Personal Fitness Dress Code

For safety and hygiene reasons, students should dress in appropriate clothes for physical exercise. The appropriate dress code for all students in personal fitness will be as follows:

- Jogging suit, yoga pants, sweat pants, or appropriate shorts (mid-thigh or longer);
- T-shirt or sweatshirt; and
- Sneakers (open toed shoes, such as sandals or flip-flops, and boots are not allowed).

Compliance with other standards described in the Student Handbook for dress code (see above) is also expected.

Electronic Devices

Students are strongly discouraged from bringing electronic devices to school, such as cell phones, iPods, pagers, MP3 players, CD players, Game Boys, PlayStations, etc. All personal electronic devices must be turned off and put away, and students are not allowed to use these devices during the school day. Students who do not cooperate when asked to turn off and put away electronic devices risk disciplinary consequences, including confiscation of their electronic items. Students are not allowed to possess laser pointers at school and they will be confiscated. Additionally, we do not have the resources to find, repair or replace any item that is lost, stolen or damaged. ***The best practice is to leave these items at home.***



PARENT, TEACHER, FRIENDS ORGANIZATION (PTFO)

The Lincoln Middle School PTFO sponsors fundraising activities to support teaching and learning. Parents and other community members organize student-friendly events such as school dances and bake sales to fund mini-grants written by our teachers. Our PTFO welcomes and encourages your participation. The date of our first meeting will be announced soon.

SHAW'S RECEIPT REWARD PROGRAM

Everybody has to shop for food, but what if food shopping meant you could also help raise money for our school?

Shaw's Receipt Rewards Program is a unique fundraiser that returns 1% of purchases to Lincoln Middle School! Please bring Shaw's register receipts from family, friends, relatives, neighbors, anyone who shops at a Shaw's or Star Market to our main office.

LINCOLN'S FALL FUNDRAISER

Lincoln Middle School will partner with Great American Opportunities for our annual fall fundraiser. This is an important fundraiser for Lincoln since profits are designated to help fund student learning activities. Students are asked to share with family, friends and neighbors they know only. No approaching strangers, please! Be on the look out for more information mid-September and thank you for your support.



FLU VACCINES AVAILABLE AT NO COST

The Maine Center for Disease Control (MECDC) and the Department of Education (DOE) are making seasonal flu vaccine available at no cost to all school children. Protecting our students against the flu will keep them in school learning and also provide some protection for staff and parents as they will not be getting the flu from protected students. **Vaccinations will be available at Lincoln on Wednesday, October 14th.** Information and permission slips will be distributed as soon as they are available.

FOOD ALLERGIES



Food allergies have become more and more prevalent in all our nation's schools and Lincoln Middle School is no exception. A number of our students have allergies to nuts, including many snack items and other products that have been manufactured in a facility that also processes nuts or peanuts.

In response to those who may have life threatening allergies, Lincoln has designated an area in our cafeteria that is peanut/nut free. While it is true that our lunch program does not knowingly provide products with nuts or peanut products, many students without allergies may bring lunches from home and wish to have lunch at the designated tables. Please check the ingredients you send from home carefully to be certain they are free of nuts or peanuts. Some classrooms may have an occasional planned activity involving food. *It is very important that you first check with the classroom teacher if you send food to share with others.* Please contact our school nurse at 874-8145 if you have any health related questions.



Parents are invited to Lincoln Middle School's Fall Open House.

Join us to visit your child's classrooms and to learn from his/her teachers about:

- ◆ What your child will be learning
- ◆ Teacher expectations regarding a safe and orderly environment for all students
- ◆ How parents and teachers will communicate with each other regarding progress

Please gather in your child's house area at 6:30.

Multilingual TRANSLATION

If you need help with translating the information in this guide into another language, please call the Office of Multilingual and Multicultural Programs at 874-8135.

Haddii aad rabid wararka ku qaran buugan in loo bedelo al-Somali, Fadlan la xiriir xafiiska Barnaamijka Luqadaha Kala Duwan, yatelefoonkooda waa: 874-8135.

Si usted necesita ayuda con la traducción de esta guía en otros idiomas, por favor llame a la oficina de los Programas Multilingüe y Multiculturales (Multilingual and Multicultural Programs) al 874-8135.

Ako vam treba pomoć s informacijama u ovom vodiču na srpsko-hrvatskom jeziku, molimo vas da nazovete ured za visejezične i visekulturne programe na tel 874-8135.

إذا كنت تحتاج إلى المساعدة بهذه المعلومات التي في هذا الدليل أو المرشد باللغة العربية، الرجاء الاتصال بـ مكتب برامج اللغات والثقافات المتعددة على خط الهاتف رقم (874-8135)

Если Вам нужна информация в этом руководстве на Русском языке, пожалуйста звоните в Офис Многоязыковых и Многокультурных Программ по телефону 874-8135.

Nếu quý vị cần giúp đỡ về những tin tức trong cuốn chỉ dẫn này, xin hãy gọi văn phòng Multilingual & Multicultural tại số 874-8135.

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