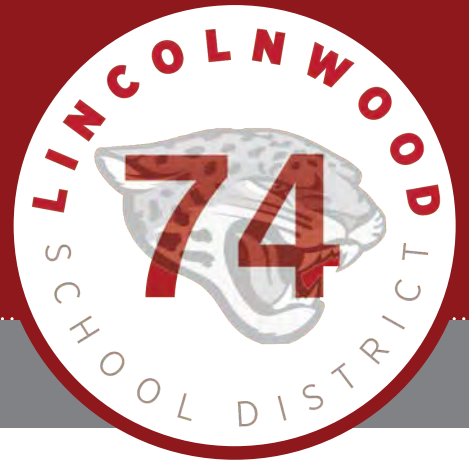


THE JAGUAR



WINTER 2021 EDITION

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Plan Development in a Pandemic

Dear Lincolnwood School District 74 Community,

Welcome to the winter edition of *The Jaguar*. Reading through this edition, you will gain an insight into education during a global pandemic. Personally, the pride in the Lincolnwood students, parents, staff, and community is plentiful. Lincolnwood School District 74 opened this school year on schedule, providing a learning option that best meets the needs for families across the District. Parents were able to choose either a remote learning or an in-person learning option. The remote option allows students to remain at home “remoting” into their classroom. The in-person option brings the children safely to the campus. Teachers have been teaching both options at the same time utilizing cameras and Zoom technology. None of this is perfect, however, I can assure you children are learning. They are learning “differently” and picking up many new skills along the way.

Each model of learning has pros and cons. The goal of opening the District was to provide parents with the option that suits their family’s needs. Some families have chosen different models for their children based on age and learning styles. As the District begins planning for the opening of the next school year we will continue to offer this same option for parents, however, we are working on a model that allows the staff to teach one model at a time, creating more efficient instructional strategies for students.

Together as one learning community,
Dr. Kimberly A. Nasshan, *Superintendent of Schools*



Building a Foundation & Adapting to Technology

News from the Curriculum and Instruction Department

Despite the many changes that have come to our lives in the past year because of the pandemic, the partnership amongst all the groups in Lincolnwood School District 74’s learning community has remained constant and strong. Teachers are routinely making adjustments to adapt the curriculum in all academic areas to meet the needs of students in both remote and in-person settings. Our students continue to complete work building the foundation of their literacy and mathematical skills, conducting experiments with virtual scientific tools, debating the context of historical figures, creating art, engaging in physical education, and honing their musical skills. Learning and relationship building are furthered by many students through participation in virtual after school clubs.

Prior to the pandemic, the role of technology was already impacting so many aspects of our daily life. Since March of 2020, the footprint of technology has grown, allowing our schools to reach those learning remotely and becoming the conduit by which many of us have maintained family and friendship circles. With the prevalence of technology, an entirely new set of learning competencies is essential for students to explore and develop. As you will read in an article in this edition of *The Jaguar*, Lincolnwood School District 74 addresses these skills through a comprehensive Digital Citizenship curriculum. Implemented at every grade level, the curriculum is largely based on materials from Common Sense Media (www.commonsense.org). Through a series of activities, discussions, and multimedia presentations, students are asked to consider what it means to create a positive “digital footprint,” appropriately author electronic communications such as emails and posts, maintain private data, evaluate Internet resources for credibility, and avoid negative social media interactions. Students are learning the fundamental tools to function productively and appropriately in their electronic space.

In a year with an unprecedented series of challenges, the support of the community has been tremendous. We hope that every family continues to be safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Dr. David L. Russo, *Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction*

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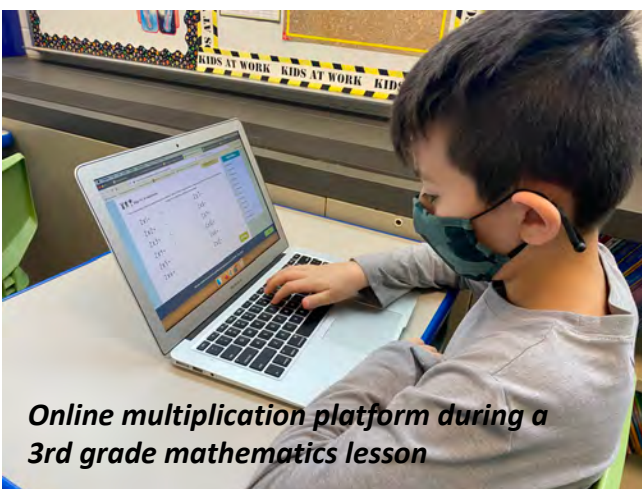
Digital Citizenship

A Guide to Creating a Positive Digital Footprint

Technology's role throughout the last 11 months has allowed individuals to collaborate, stay in touch, and complete work that would have otherwise been halted due to the pandemic. For students in Pre-K through 8th grade, the Digital Citizenship curriculum prepares them to safely use technology in a world where it is a part of our everyday lives. Most importantly, the curriculum covers the balance between screen time and the importance of unplugging from technology when appropriate.

Lincolnwood School District 74's three Instructional Technology Coaches equip teachers with resources for students to learn ways to "create a positive digital footprint." Digital Citizenship lessons are taught during students' reading and/or library blocks throughout the school day. These lessons are then applied to school assignments while students work on their iPads and/or computer devices. Todd Hall students also learn how to physically navigate technology and various devices.

The curriculum includes balancing media use, cyberbullying (how to recognize it and what to do when it is encountered), and digital literacy. Students engage in activities and discussion about the causes and effects of posting content on social media, how to safely use the Internet, knowing what information is OK to share and what to keep private, and being safe and respectful online when communicating with others.



Online multiplication platform during a 3rd grade mathematics lesson

While using the media, students are taught how to give credit to other people's original work (citing) and carefully reading articles while validating resources and finding facts.

"With so many opportunities to learn new information, create social connections, and consume entertainment through electronic sources; the District's Digital Citizenship curriculum provides students in all grade levels with experiences needed to develop skills to become safe, efficient, and positive in all aspects of their electronic lives." said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Dr. David Russo.

SD74 parents and community members can access a library of Digital Citizenship resources by visiting our website at www.sd74.org and clicking on "Technology Toolkit" under the "Family Resources" tab.



Rutledge Hall student completes math coursework collaborating with paper & technology

SD74's Digital Citizenship Curriculum Resources:

- Common Sense Media
- Google: Be Internet Awesome
- Google: iKeepSafe
- Raising Digital Natives
- Second Step
- Social Media Test Drive
- Brainpop & Brainpop Jr.

8th Grade Student Reflections

Learning During a Global Pandemic

On August 25, 2020, Lincolnwood School District 74 opened its school year with families choosing between remote learning and in-person learning. In-person learning was designed for a full-day, five days a week, learning experience. In the 2020-21 school year, in-person student attendance averaged around 60% and remote student attendance around 40%. Preliminary survey data for the 2021-22 school year shows 90% of families plan to return to in-person learning next year.

In this edition of *The Jaguar*, we asked a few students to reflect on what it has been like to be a Lincoln Hall student (in-person and remote) during the last 11 months.



Luka Cejovic



Nabiah Sheikh



Christian Guzman



Ellie Schejbal

“This year has definitely been interesting, to say the least. The fact that we have been able to walk into the school every morning when so many other students aren’t has been an incredible benefit to so many of us in so many ways. Being able to laugh, talk, and just see our friends and peers, not through Snapchat or FaceTime but in person has maintained a sense of normalcy in our lives that has made all the difference. The support our community has rallied has taken down so many of the barriers and frustrations that everyone has faced. There is no amount of Zoom meetings or FaceTime that could replicate the experience of hanging out with your friends and asking your teacher questions without waiting for them to notice you clicked the raise hand button and that’s what I love about the fact that we can come back.”
-Luka Cejovic

“I have absolutely loved coming to in person school everyday. It has helped me keep a good schedule, focus more, interact with peers, as well as bring a little bit of normalcy during this weird time. I feel that having the opportunity to come and work in person is amazing because being at home made me feel lazy and it just wasn’t working for me. It has also been a lot easier for me to interact and work with teachers for my assignments. I also tend to participate more and get more work done in person than when I was a remote learner.” -Nabiah Sheikh

“This school year has been a rough year because of the pandemic, but thankfully Lincoln Hall gives us the opportunity to either be in-person or online. As an in-person student, I would have to say that coming in-person helps me learn a lot better. We have all been online (at least once) and I can say that I feel I do better when I’m actually in school. I understand that some of us can’t come in for many reasons, but for me, coming into school has been a game changer for my learning this year.”-Christian Guzman

“I think as the pandemic continues for another day, I feel like staying positive is sometimes hard, but we know that teachers care for us. Some students out in the world aren’t in school, so having the privilege to remote learn with an iPad and to have this schedule where I’m actually in school is nice. You can have breakout rooms, so with any concerns or questions you can have a one on one talk with a teacher, which is also always so nice to have. Teachers have taught us ways and solutions to move around our own struggles. District 74 has made school fun during a pandemic. Even just the little things that teachers have done... it’s amazing. Even if remote learning is going to be “a thing” for the rest of the year, Lincoln Hall will make it great and make the world a better place during the pandemic.” -Ellie Schejbal

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8th Grade Student Reflections

Learning During a Global Pandemic



Peyton Hidaka



Matthew Martel



Maddy Jacobson



Leila Meseljevic



Jonathan Pop

“So far, this year hasn’t been the most normal for anyone, but sometimes with abnormal comes strange or even fun benefits. With this year being a hybrid learning year and with myself being a new student to Lincoln Hall *and* as an in-person learner, I’ve gotten to experience these benefits firsthand. I think my favorite benefit is that I get to meet some of my classmates in-person and get to know them so then I can make friends easier. Even if not all of my classmates are in person, I feel like I am lucky to have the opportunity to come in person since it helps eliminate most distractions. Lastly, I think that being in-person affected my socialization and learning a lot since it’s easier to be social in-person and at home learning was a little more difficult for me.” -Peyton Hidaka

“At Lincoln Hall, we all have the ability to go in-person. I believe going in-person is a great idea because we have more time to work on assignments. The teachers have been able to help us with our assignments. We’re able to ask questions; I made some new friends who are in my cohort. I can participate in the P.E activities and most of them are really fun when you have others to play like badminton, ping pong, and cup stacking. I personally would enjoy it more without wearing masks the entire time I’m here, but we get to have mask breaks throughout the day and if we finish work in class early. It’s a nice morale booster when we have one and a great motivator to finish my assignments early.” -Matthew Martel

“There are many things I like about remote learning. First, I get more time to get things done than being in school. We have time between classes, so now I can do the homework from the previous class and not have to worry about it later! I am less distracted at home; and I say this because when people aren't around to talk to me, I pay attention more. I also like staying in the comfort of my own home. For me, being remote is much easier.” -Jonathan Pop

“Why do I like online learning? I think that it is much safer. During a pandemic, I would much rather learn from home than potentially risk getting my family and I sick. My whole family is at home with me, my older brother's school is learning from home, and my mom works from home, so I'm able to be with them. When I was in school, I missed a lot of assignments and didn't get very good grades, but school has been much easier this year and it's not as hard to keep up with the work. “At home learning” is just simpler, I don't have to catch the bus or worry about my mom taking me, I am able to roll out of bed and get to my desk on time. That's why I like online learning.” -Maddy Jacobson

“COVID has taken a toll on everyone’s life right now. Although, during this time, Lincoln Hall has made school to be a safe and friendly place. Lincoln Hall is allowing us to have the opportunity to come to school which allows everyone to get face to face help with teachers, seeing friends in your cohort, and making friends with new classmates. At school, we are able to stay safe by only staying with our cohort, teachers moving through classes instead of students, wearing masks unless the class is on a mask break, and staying at least thirty feet apart from other cohorts. Coming to school has made a difference with learning because it is difficult not being able to see each of your teachers every day, but only half one day and the other half the other day. Nonetheless, Lincoln Hall has made going to school during COVID safe and a remarkable learning environment.” -Leila Meseljevic

Thank you to Christian, Luka, Peyton, Leila, Maddy, Matthew, Nabiah Jonathan, and Ellie who contributed their thoughtful reflections to this edition of *The Jaguar*. We wish you the best of luck as middle school comes to an end.

District Launches New Podcast "Living Lincolnwood"

On February 9, 2021, Lincolnwood School District 74 launched its first official podcast titled "Living Lincolnwood." The launch featured a library of two episodes: one student interview and one teacher interview. In Episode 1, student-athlete Emilia Bartholomew (8th grade) spoke with Dr. Dominick Lupo, Principal of Lincoln Hall, about her plans for the future and reflections on the many happy memories of being an SD74 student, the athletic teams, favorite classes, and more.



The podcast is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Anchor, Pocket Casts, Breaker, & RadioPublic.

In Episode 2, Lincoln Hall Physical Education Teacher and SD74 alum Beeta Azarnoosh (Lincoln Hall Class of 1999) joined Christina Audisho, Director of Community Relations, to reflect on returning back to your school as a teacher and teaching the next generation of children in Lincolnwood. Beeta discusses the role SD74 has played throughout her childhood and its lasting impact on her adult and professional life. *Episodes 1 & 2 are now available on the platforms listed above.*

Episodes for "Living Lincolnwood" will be launched alongside the District's bi-weekly *Tuesday Newday* newsletter schedule. At the start of each episode, introduction hosts Yianni Foutris (5th grade) and Bella Grais (4th grade) state: "You're listening to Lincolnwood School District 74's official podcast, "Living Lincolnwood." Tune in to hear 1 on 1 interviews covering the latest and greatest of what's happening at Todd Hall, Rutledge Hall, and Lincoln Hall. From classroom experiences to community conversations, "Living Lincolnwood" is your source for authentic and engaging Lincolnwood stories." The podcast will consist of 1 on 1 interviews with students, teachers, and community members. Hosts for each episode will rotate from students, teachers, and staff. Inaugural episodes are a first-step as part of a larger initiative to develop a student-led podcasting program.

Students participating in the podcast program learn the skill-sets surrounding the field of communications and broadcasting. Episodes are hosted in Lincoln Hall's newly designed Multimedia Broadcast Room, part of the Lincoln Hall Auditorium. Each episode begins with practicing the use of the podcast equipment (microphones) and tips for interview vocals and annunciation. Testing is completed prior to recording to ensure that both the host and interviewee are ready to begin the conversation.

Students will have the opportunity to interview one another about a variety of topics. Episode topics will range from curriculum, special events, extracurricular activities, and more. Students who have participated in the program have expressed interest in becoming hosts for future episodes. The District looks forward to reaching a point where students will sit together 1 on 1 and have meaningful, important, and in-depth conversations about timely topics.



Behind the scenes of Episode 1, featuring Emilia Bartholomew and Dr. Dominick Lupo

Download the SD74 Mobile App
Available on both Apple & Android devices.



Students Enjoy a Traditional Snow Day

On January 26, 2021, the District announced a traditional snow day for students. Families sent in photos of snow day activities.

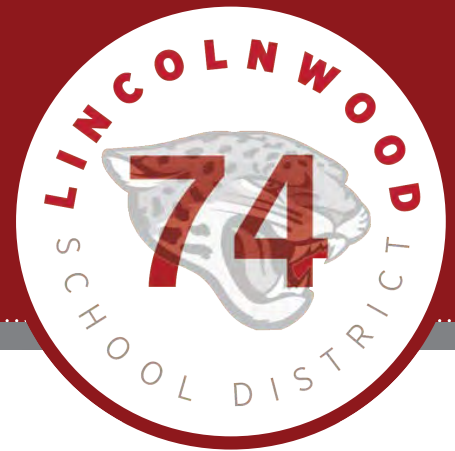


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SD74 will be offering a summer school session this year. Information will be posted at www.sd74.org in March 2021.



**SUMMER
ADVENTURES**