



THE LINK

TO THE LAWRENCE COMMUNITY

APRIL 2024

Download our new district app!

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The New
LTPS
Mobile
App



Lawrence Twp. Public Schools



The LTPS mobile app is a free tool that will help you stay informed about what's happening in our schools throughout the year. Access important phone numbers, view news stories, grades, calendars, lunch menus and more!

It's Time to Register for Kindergarten!

Kindergarten Registration



Kindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open. Students must be five years old on or before October 1 in order to enroll in Kindergarten for September 2024. Registration will close on August 2, 2024. Visit [ltps.org/registration](https://www.ltps.org/registration), email registration@ltps.org, or call (609) 671-5453 to get the process started!



Lawrence Township Expands Preschool Under New State Aid

LTPS projected to serve nearly 500 new preschoolers by the end of five-year rollout

Lawrence Township Public Schools is thrilled to unveil a significant expansion of its preschool program, marking a milestone achievement fueled by the successful application for Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) funding from the New Jersey Department of Education. This initiative, driven by the collective mission of the Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Robyn Klim, is designed to ensure the success of all Lawrence children by providing high-quality, universal preschool at no cost to families.

“This preschool expansion is a wonderful example of Lawrence Township Public Schools’ commitment to equity and access for all students,” emphasized Dr. Klim. “The aim is to remove barriers and provide equal opportunities for families, an effort that aligns with our strategic plan.”

The expansion was set into motion with the opening of the first new class on February 20, a revamping of the existing Cardinal Kids program into a five-day a week, full-day preschool program hosted at Lawrence High School. This expansion not only caters to a larger demographic of three and four-year-olds but also opens the doors for more high school students to enroll in the popular “Early Childhood Growth and Development” course. This course, serving as a real-world “laboratory” setting, enables students to apply theoretical knowledge and plays a pivotal role in cultivating a pipeline of future educators.

Dr. Robyn Klim, Superintendent of Lawrence Township Public Schools, expressed enthusiasm about the long-term impact of the Cardinal Kids program at LHS, stating, “Our oldest and youngest students in the district will have the opportunity to learn and grow from one another.” For more information about the LTPS preschool program, please visit www.ltps.org/preschool.



LTPS Administrator and Board of Ed Awarded Top Recognitions for Supporting Music Education

The Lawrence Township Public Schools Board of Education received the 2024 New Jersey Music Educators Association’s (NJMEA) Outstanding School Board of the Year, and Eldridge Park Elementary School Principal Mrs. Amy Amiet earned the 2024 NJMEA School Administrator of the Year Award. Mrs. Amiet has served as the district Music Supervisor since 2019. Both Mrs. Amiet and the LTPS Board of Education attended the awards ceremony in Atlantic City on February 23 to accept their awards. Lawrence Township Public Schools is fortunate to have administrators like Mrs. Amiet and a Board

of Education who value and support music education. Congratulations to the LTPS Board of Education and Mrs. Amiet for their well-deserved recognition, showcasing their commitment to fostering a vibrant music education environment within our district.





Lawrence Township Public Schools Explores Evidence Based Restructuring for Optimal Educational Development

Lawrence Township Public Schools is exploring a strategic restructuring of grade level distributions to create a more developmentally and academically appropriate environment for all of our students. This evidence based initiative involves a five-year vision to transition to grade bands of third through fifth, and sixth through eighth, aligning our district with the State Department of Education recommended model. Research consistently shows that this grade level distribution better aligns with the cognitive and social-emotional development of students, providing an environment where they can thrive academically and developmentally. Lawrence Township Public Schools recognizes the importance of these transitional years and believes that this structure better prepares our students for the academic challenges ahead. Furthermore, by embracing true “upper elementary” and “middle school” models as opposed to the current hybrid, quasi-middle school approach, we address our families’ wish to keep our kids “young” by housing our students in an elementary building longer.

This move also enhances the educational experience by providing additional resources, specialized facilities, and extra-curricular opportunities that are developmentally appropriate for each age group, such as intramural and school sports for our sixth graders, as well as banding the mandatory state tested grades together. The district is excited about the positive impact this restructuring will have on students, fostering a seamless educational journey that nurtures their growth and development. Lawrence Township Public Schools is embracing these changes with a vision of fostering an educational environment where every child can thrive.

This plan is in the infancy stages and the community can expect a five-year operational plan to be furnished this fall.

Upcoming Fundraising for Alcohol and Drug Free Post Graduation Party for Lawrence Grads

Please come out and support Project Graduation on April 6th at “JashN 2024,” a family-friendly celebration of Indian culture and diversity in honor of the upcoming Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. The fun evening includes art, music, dance, a fashion show, delicious food, raffles, a 50-50 and more!

If you can't make JashN 2024, fear not. You have a second chance to support Project Graduation at our 3rd Annual Casino Night, an adult only event on April 20th at the Lawrenceville Armory on Eggerts Crossing Road. Enjoy light refreshments, a silent auction, a 50/50, a tricky tray and a cash bar. You don't need to know how to play casino table games to attend. The professional casino dealers at each table will teach you all there is to know to not only have fun, but also to ‘win’ big!

Proceeds from these two events go to the LHS Project Graduation, a special all night post-graduation celebration at Lawrence High School where the entire school is converted into a giant party zone with games, food, DJ/karaoke, raffle prizes, special show, and more. Proudly boasting a participation rate of over 80% from Lawrence High School seniors in previous years, Project Graduation has maintained a flawless safety record since its inception in 1989. “The success of Project Graduation depends on the support of the community,” urged Jayshree Kalwachwala, the Project’s organizer. “Together, we can make this a safe and memorable graduation experience for our seniors.”

For more information or to buy tickets, please email LTPSPProjectGraduation@gmail.com or visit lhsprojectgraduation.org



Lawrence Township Public Schools Celebrates Diversity at Black History Month

On February 24, Lawrence Township Public Schools proudly hosted “Black Resilience: Upward and Onward,” an educational and inclusive celebration that paid homage to the resilience and achievements of the black community. The day of culture, joy, remembrance, and celebration featured dynamic keynote speaker Rev. Charles Boyer, cultural tasting, the Trailblazer Awards, musical performances from district ensembles, and over 30 vendors! The free event was hosted by the LHS Arts and Humanities Academy and sponsored by the Lawrence Township Education Association (LTEA).



Exciting News and Events from Lawrence Township Education Foundation (LTEF)



Giglio Named New Executive Director

The Lawrence Township Education Foundation (LTEF) announces Bonne O'Flanagan Giglio as its next Executive Director. Giglio will be responsible for fund- and friend-raising, event planning, grant management, communications, and administrative functions of the LTEF. "The mission of LTEF is particularly close to my heart," shared Giglio. "As a parent of children at Lawrence Intermediate School and Lawrence Middle School, I am keenly aware of the rigorous academic program our school district provides and I understand the amazing experience our students receive when our community comes together to support our schools. I look forward to increasing community involvement to fund programs that will have a substantial and lasting impact on us all."



Slackwood STEAM Center Wins NJSBA School Leader Award

The Slackwood STEAM Center is a recipient of the New Jersey School Boards Association's Annual School Leader Award for recognized program! Huge kudos to Principal Jeanne Muzi and all the Slackwood educators who have worked so hard on the STEM/STEAM initiatives, and the LTEF, who saw the potential, funded and supported Slackwood so the STEAM Center could transform from a dream to reality!



TICKETS NOW ON SALE



Lawrence Has Talent - April 11

The LTEF is excited to announce Lawrence Has Talent, a new community wide event coming to Lawrence Township on April 11, 2024! Lawrence Has Talent will be a unique showcase of 15 amateur acts of all ages from within the Lawrence community. The acts range from singers, dancers, guitarist, pianists, drummers and a Chinese yo-yo performance. This will be the must-see family event of the year and guaranteed to be a sell-out success. Tickets can be purchased at: <https://events.humanitix.com/lawrence-has-talent>. All profits from this event will go toward our mission of enhancing educational excellence for every student in every Lawrence Township public school. Please contact director@ltefnj.org with any questions. For additional information or to donate, visit www.ltefnj.org.



Spring Grants Awarded to LTPS Teachers

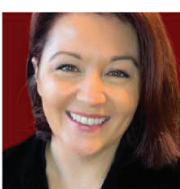
The Lawrence Township Education Foundation (LTEF) is pleased to announce it has awarded \$26,632 in support of 14 innovative programs throughout the Lawrence Township Public Schools for its Spring 2024 grant cycle. From new books to music therapy classes to outdoor classroom expansion, the LTEF is committed to supporting excellence in education.

Since 1992, the LTEF has awarded more than 1,100 grants for new programs and projects throughout the seven Lawrence Township Public Schools. These grants support diverse learning styles, stimulate critical and creative thinking, bring new technologies to our schools, and allow teachers to engage in meaningful professional development. During the 2022-2023 school year, the LTEF provided \$136,000 for 48 grants spanning all schools in the district. Grants were provided in the following areas: Arts & Cultural Enrichment, Classroom Tech & Resources, Equity & Inclusion, and STEM training & programming.

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Middle School Principal Mindy Milavsky Awarded NJ Visionary Principal of the Year

Congratulations to Lawrence Middle School Principal Dr. Mindy Milavsky for being selected as NJPSA's Visionary Principal of the Year (Secondary) as well as being selected for the NASSP National Distinguished Principal of the Year. Dr. Milavsky has spent her entire professional career as an educator, first as a teacher, then as the assistant principal at Lawrence High School, and for the past eleven years as the principal at Lawrence Middle School.

At LMS, Dr. Milavsky has focused on students' social emotional well-being, character education, and leadership and community building. Implementing the NJDOE Social and Emotional Learning Competencies, Milavsky's goal was to create a school community where everyone feels a sense of belonging. The three-house system she put in place supports the students' feelings of belonging, helping them meet their goals and enriching the students' educational experiences. Through school-wide mantras, assembly programs, and curriculum changes, Dr. Milavsky has made "LMS Nation" a place where students and staff work together to grow and learn. Dr. Milavsky is a true advocate for her students, and sets the highest standards for her school community.



LTPS Educates Community at Safety and Security Summit

LTPS hosted a Parent and Community Summit regarding safety and security in schools and online. More than 200 community members came out to hear from Special Agent Marc Leshnow, from the U.S. Secret Service present about online safety and digital citizenship, including cyberbullying, inappropriate online content, sex trafficking, privacy, and practical tips for keeping kids safer online. Other presenters that evening included Amy Argiriou from the Mercer Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction and Bob Sensi from the NJ Department of Education Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning. An exit survey after the event revealed that 100% of respondents would like to see more presentations like this (and gave good suggestions on topics), so stay tuned!

Here are some key points from the event to help keep our students and our community safe:

- Monitor what students are doing online, on their cell phones, and in their rooms
- Limit screen time
- Involve students in school/community related activities
- Keep open lines of communication with the school (teachers, counselors, staff, and administration)
- Encourage your child to report unusual or concerning behavior

LTPS Strategic Plan Aspirations and Goals

ASPIRATION 1 Wellness

1. All students are provided the health and wellness support they need to be ready to engage in learning.
2. All students and staff feel that they belong.
3. All staff are appreciated and valued as professionals.

ASPIRATION 2 Student Achievement

4. All students read at grade level by the end of Grade 3.
5. All students are prepared to take Algebra in Grade 8.
6. All students have defined personal goals and a personalized learning pathway.

ASPIRATION 3 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

7. The performance disparity between racial, ethnic, and gender groups will be eradicated.
8. Staff diversity will mirror student diversity.

Robyn A. Klim, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Rajneet Pimmi Goomer
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Tom Eldridge
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

Sean M. Fry
Director of Personnel

Vanessa Bekarciak
Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

Clifton J. Thompson, III
Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Jennifer Baldassari
Communications & Operations Manager
info@ltps.org



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www.ltps.org



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#ltps1

Online Backpack

As part of the district's "greening" initiatives, we continue to successfully promote the use of the Online Backpack on the district website. Information from non-profit entities is entered as it is received. Check the site often.

