

Linden Hall Connect

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK!

Fall 2024 Edition



A Message From the Head of School



I am honored to share with you that Linden Hall has once again secured its place as a leader in education, being ranked the #1 all-girls high school in Pennsylvania!

Additionally, we are proud to announce that Linden Hall ranks within the top 3% of all private high schools in America and among the top 4% for STEM education nationwide. Locally, we continue to shine as the #1 high school in Lancaster County and the top school for STEM in the wider Lancaster area.

These accolades reflect the unwavering commitment of our exceptional teachers and the dedication of our students. Linden Hall's focus on academic rigor, innovation, and personal growth is further validated by receiving the highest honors from the College Board for our expansive course offerings and the outstanding performance of our students. These accomplishments highlight the unique, enriching environment that we strive to provide at Linden Hall.

This is an exciting time for our community as we continue to build on the strong foundation that makes Linden Hall such a special place for education and growth.

Looking ahead, I am hopeful that you can join us for our Vespers program either in person or via livestream. Information is available on our website.

Thank you for your continued support of Linden Hall and for being part of this remarkable journey.

Dr. Nan Wodarz

A handwritten signature of Dr. Nan Wodarz in blue ink.

Head of School

Convocation & Lotus Walk

We were excited to kick off the 2024–2025 school year with Convocation & Lotus Walk!

During Convocation, our students were warmly welcomed back to campus by Dr. Nan Wodarz, Head of School;



Mr. Chris Fultz, Director of Academic Affairs; Mr. Denny Foreman, School Chaplain; Mr. Chris Pula & Ms. Kara Oxenford, Senior Mentors; and Farah '26, Student Council President. Cassie '25, Nicole '27, and Ms. Heffner also treated attendees to beautiful musical performances.

The event highlight was our annual flag ceremony, which showcased the unique diversity of our international student body.



After Convocation, everyone gathered at the courtyard fountain for Lotus Walk. During this cherished tradition, students from all grades lined up and passed lotus flowers to our seniors, who placed them into the fountain. This symbolic gesture signifies the exchange and preservation of wisdom among our students as the year unfolds.

To conclude the afternoon, Dr. Nan rang the school bell, officially marking the beginning of the new school year.



We're thrilled to see what the 2024–2025 school year has in store and can't wait to witness the incredible things our students will achieve!



PA's #1 All-Girls School



**AP Honor Roll,
Platinum Distinction**

Ninth-grade Trip

Our annual ninth-grade trip kicked off in late September with a hike to Pulpit Rock in Hamburg. On the first day of the trip, students enjoyed an invigorating trek to a gorgeous mountain vista, a side-quest to explore an Appalachian Trail campsite, and catching frogs and salamanders in Furnace Creek.

The next two days of the trip continued the fun. First, students spent the day at Black Rock Retreat in Quarryville.



They first conducted a stream study, identifying various macro-invertebrates inhabiting the water and guessing the animals' health based on their tolerance to pollution. Then, it was time for the high ropes! Students supported each other by spotting and belaying on both the zip line and the high jump. The fun continued all evening with a campfire and an overnight stay at the retreat grounds. On the final day of the trip, the cohort enjoyed some low-rope activities before heading back to campus.

This year's ninth-grade trip truly set the stage for many great things to come this year, offering our newest high school students the opportunity to bond with one another and create memories that will remain with them for years to come.



Homecoming

Homecoming was a night of magic and memories, with our 10th-grade class transforming Honeycutt Hall into a Princess and the Frog-themed fairy tale wonderland. We were thrilled to welcome students from Church Farm School to join in the fun, making the night even more special.

But the party didn't stop there! While high school students danced the night away, our middle school students were lighting up the night at a Glow Party, complete with a dance-off, exciting games, and glow-in-the-dark fun.

What a perfect way to finish off Spirit Week! We are so proud of the Grade 10 students and everyone who made the night an unforgettable memory.



Gretna Day

One of Linden Hall's most beloved traditions is Gretna Day, which originated in October 1915 as an on-campus birthday celebration for Dr. Stengel, the school's principal at the time. By 1919, the event had evolved from a simple party to a surprise all-day getaway at Mt. Gretna, and by the 1930s, it had become a regular part of the school's schedule. Eventually, the date of the event began to vary, adding further excitement for students. Today, Gretna Day is a much-anticipated — and always unexpected — day off in October, filled with fun activities and outdoor adventures.

On Gretna Day, our girls are treated to a break from their classes and embark on a trip to the scenic town of Mt. Gretna. Activities are many and include hiking along scenic woodland trails and skating at the oldest continuously operating roller rink in the United States. This year, on Monday, October 21, the day kicked off with teachers announcing the day during their first period classes.

With t-shirts in hand and their activities chosen, students and faculty members headed to Mt. Gretna for a day of fun. After their return to campus, festivities continued with gaga ball, ultimate ball, sardines, board games, volleyball, and more. The celebration wrapped up with an all-school relay race on the soccer field, ensuring that everyone had memories to take home.



Gretna Day continues to be a cherished tradition that embodies the spirit of adventure, community, and joy at Linden Hall. From its early beginnings as a simple birthday celebration to the much-anticipated, surprise-filled day it is today, Gretna Day offers students a chance to bond, recharge, and create lasting memories together. As each year brings new activities and shared experiences, this beloved tradition remains a testament to our school's commitment to fostering camaraderie and making every moment unforgettable.



Keeping a Beat

In Language of Music, our 6th grade class has been exploring how to keep a steady beat while using Boomwhackers. These cylindrical tubes are each pitched to match a scale degree in the standard Major Scale. Students have enjoyed experimenting with striking different surfaces to produce maximum volume, hitting the Boomwhackers on the ground as well as various body parts. Mrs. Heffner has also been teaching the class the names of notes as well as solfege that correlates to pitches while sight-singing. This activity reinforced the study of rhythm, note names, and musical fluency. Students even rocked out to "Dance Monkey" and "Rolling in the Deep!"



Problem Solvers

In AP Calculus class, students have been collaborating in small groups to analyze and solve complex mathematical problems. After working together to find solutions, they presented their findings to the class, sparking dynamic discussions about both the problem-solving process and the strategies employed. At Linden Hall, mathematics is not just an individual pursuit — it's a collaborative experience that thrives on teamwork, critical thinking, and active engagement.



In the classroom

Academic Integrity

Since the beginning of the school year, students of all grades have been deeply immersed in our Foundations of Academic Integrity course during their Advisory sessions. Offered by the English Department, this course is uniquely designed to teach the fundamentals of MLA citation, the importance of academic honesty, and the avoidance of accidental and intentional plagiarism. These skills, of course, are not only crucial during students' high school careers but remain relevant throughout their academic and professional futures beyond Linden Hall.



Learning to Design

Mr. Foreman's middle school art students have begun studying the Elements of Design, learning the building blocks necessary to create art. Most recently, sixth and seventh graders have been learning the differences between contour and cross-contour lines. Their first classroom assignment was to draw an apple in contour lines using a 2-B pencil. A second apple was drawn using cross-contour lines to create dimension. Following the assignment, our young artists had the opportunity to re-create their model in color, and soon they will be creating their own color wheels!



Alumnae Reunion Weekend

Save the Date: April 11-13, 2025



Save the Date

Vespers

Thursday, Dec. 5 & Friday, Dec. 6 at 6:00 PM
Moravian Church
8 Church Square, Lititz, PA



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Fall Play Recap Featuring Dezi '26

Beginning on Halloween night, Linden Hall's Theater Department performed one of the classics of American comedy, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, in the Snively Theater.

Arsenic and Old Lace centers around two elderly sisters who are famous in their Brooklyn neighborhood for believing that charity begins at home. Unfortunately, however, their charity involves a unique recipe for elderberry wine that includes arsenic and cyanide. Joining in the



mayhem are the Brewster sisters' mentally challenged nephew who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt, a sadistic nephew who bears a resemblance to the Frankenstein monster, and a third nephew who discovers a body on the night of his engagement. Joseph Kesselring's tale of murder and mischief ran for three performances.

It is our pleasure to highlight Dezi '26, one of the play's stars, who brought to life the character of Martha Brewster. We spoke with Dezi to learn more about her theater experiences, past and present.

What makes Linden Hall Theater so special?

The biggest thing that stands out to me about theater at Linden Hall is the community. Everyone who participates in LH Theater shows passion and dedication, but most importantly we lift each other up and build a loving and safe space in the theater. While I've only been in two LH



productions so far, am confident that we can do anything we put our minds to because we stick together and work through it.

What were your theater experiences before arriving at Linden Hall?

I have been in a few productions with a local theater company in Denver, performing in both *Legally Blonde Jr.* and *13 Reasons Not to Be in a Play*. Additionally, I was in theater in middle school, doing work with various Shakespeare plays as well as *The Lion King Jr.*

What was your favorite part about this year's Fall Play?

I was so excited for everyone to find their characters in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. With lots of practice and rehearsal, our cohort was able to step out of our shells and blossom on stage to perform the hilarious farce that *Arsenic and Old Lace* is meant to be.

How do you plan to apply your theater skills after graduation?

I don't know where my life is going to take me, but I do know that all the experiences and memories I've gained from theater will be with me forever!

We are so proud of you, Dezi, and we can't wait to see the great things you continue to accomplish with Linden Hall Theater and beyond!

