



## LINDENWOLD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING • 801 EGG HARBOR ROAD • LINDENWOLD, NJ 08021

**KRISTIN P. O'NEIL, ED.D.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

August 2025

Dear Lion Families,

We're excited to begin another school year and hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer. Over the past few months, our District has been hard at work completing several building and construction projects to enhance our learning environments. We extend our sincere thanks to the dedicated tradesmen and tradeswomen, our facility and custodial staff, architects, engineers, township officials, and our Board of Education for their ongoing support and commitment. Their efforts have made these improvements possible for the benefit of our students, staff, and the entire community. Here's to a successful and inspiring school year ahead!

### **Exciting Facilities Updates for Summer 2025:**

- Our Early Childhood Center WILL open for our Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade students this September 2025.
- School 5 experienced HVAC work and now is fully air-conditioned! School 5 also received a new roof, updated fire alarm systems, and a new generator!
- LMS benefitted from all newly updated bathrooms, new floors throughout the building, new roof, new generator and a facelift of many areas!
- Our LMS temporary classroom units have been removed from the front lawn of our Middle School.
- LHS installed some new student lockers, added new flooring in designated areas, and refreshed existing instructional spaces.
- The District will continue to expand our security camera system capacity throughout our district during the 2025 – 2026 school year, too.

### **Looking Ahead to September 2025:**

When we open our doors in September 2025, our school district will look and feel very different—in the best possible way. We are thrilled to announce the opening of our brand-new, state-of-the-art Early Childhood Center (ECC). This incredible new facility will allow our youngest learners to begin their educational journey together in one unified, nurturing space, helping us build a strong sense of community from the very start.

In addition to the ECC, several exciting structural changes will take place to better serve our students and support our staff:

- **5th grade will return to the elementary school**, fostering a more developmentally aligned learning experience.
- Our **Dual Language program will expand** in the elementary levels, doubling the number of students we serve and enriching their educational experience
- **Teachers within the same grade level will be more closely aligned** and communicate with one another more frequently which encourages collaboration, consistency, and shared expertise.
- **Student experiences will be more equitable** across each grade level.
- **Staffing will be optimized** to help us navigate the national teacher shortage more strategically and sustainably.
- **Class sizes will be reduced** in several grade levels supporting more individualized attention and academic growth.

These strategic changes represent a bold step forward in our mission to provide a high-quality, equitable education for all students. We can't wait to welcome our families into this next chapter!

### **Here is what you should expect when your children return to school in the Fall 2025:**

- **Early Childhood Center (ECC):** Grades Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st Grade  
Principal: Mr. Jeffrey Patterson  
PK (9:40 am – 3:40 pm) / K & 1 (9:05 am – 3:40 pm)

**Our Town – Our Children – Our Future**

- **School 4:** 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade  
Principal: Dr. Martinez-Preyor  
8:35 am – 3:10 pm
- **LMS:** 6th Grade - 8th Grade  
Principal: Mr. Joe Tabasco  
7:40 am – 2:25 pm

- **School 5:** 4th Grade, 5th Grade  
Principal: Ms. Dana Lawrence  
8:25 am – 3:00 pm
- **LHS:** 9th Grade – 12th Grade  
Principal: Mr. Fred Geardino  
7:15 am – 2:00 pm

It is our hope that these actions, specifically in the older grades, will assist all staff in the management of student discipline. We are also hopeful that uniting our students as one community from the very beginning will help them to embrace our self-regulation, social-emotional teachings together from the very start.

You, our Lindenwold families, have indicated you want us to focus on how students engage with one another. While we acknowledge we cannot do this alone, we are prepared to partner with you to uphold our students to the highest of standards of student behavior. We have worked hard to embrace more restorative Codes of Conduct while embedding student accountable measures, and we have worked with consultants to expand our efforts with the Positive Behavior Supports Model as well as our Multiple Tiered Support Services Model for student behaviors. The District will be carefully monitoring our data to examine the impact of all of our efforts. Obviously, we are extremely hopeful. Regardless, we are committed to share our data with you throughout the school year as we partner in examining the impact.

Finally, this is a reminder that students will be required to wear their IDs every day on their lanyards in grades 4 – 12. As you prepare for the school year, it is important to communicate that information with your child.

### **Back-to-School Information:**

Back-to-School Information has been shared in our [Summer Lion’s Roar Newsletter](#). It is very important that we have your most current contact information saved in the Parent Portal as our District communications are: emailed, texted, and telephoned. In addition, we post all District information on our social media pages and [on our website](#) under the Parents Tab. All newsletters can be translated into your preferred language by clicking on the “TRANSLATE” button on the top of the newsletter. Our District Calendar and important beginning of the year dates are included on the [District Website Calendar](#).

### **Electronic Devices (Cell Phones, Smart Watches, AirPods, etc.):**

We need your support in reinforcing our expectations regarding electronic and wireless devices, which have become increasingly disruptive and raise safety concerns both in Lindenwold and in schools across the country. Your partnership is vital in promoting a focused and respectful learning environment.

- **Grades PK–8:**  
Students may not have personal electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, smart watches, AirPods) visible or in use during the school day, beginning the moment they step onto school property. Devices must remain off and stored in backpacks or lockers.
- Students will receive one directive to put their device away. After that, the device will be confiscated, secured in the main office, and returned only to a parent or guardian. **Devices will not be returned directly to students.**
- Refusal to turn over a device will be considered insubordination. If you prefer not to support this process, we ask that all devices be kept at home. By allowing your child to bring a device to school, you agree to follow these expectations.

### **Grades 9 – 12:**

- LHS will follow a more student-guided protocol. For more information, please access the following documents on the Lindenwold High School website.

[2025 – 2026 LHS Wireless Device Procedure \(English\)](#)  
[2025 – 2026 LHS Wireless Device Procedure \(Spanish\)](#)

**Grades PK–12:**

Students are not permitted to make personal phone calls during the school day without administrative approval. Parents may not use Facetime or other video-call features to contact their child during the actual school day as students are not permitted to answer it. Not only are there Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) concerns, students should not have their phones accessible. In addition, students may not use personal devices to record or photograph others during the school day. Only designated staff or trained student photographers may take school-related group photos for approved purposes, such as school events, educational experiences, or district positive PR communications. Any student who records or shares photos/videos of others for entertainment, to communicate a threat, for or for the purposes of bullying, harassment, or humiliation will face disciplinary action per the Code of Conduct. These actions can cause emotional and even physical harm and will not be tolerated. We appreciate your partnership in helping us create a safe, respectful, and distraction-free school environment.

**Important Dates to Know**

**Summer Letters Mailed:** You should receive your mailing during the week of **August 20th**. (If you have not received your mailing by **TUESDAY AUG. 26<sup>th</sup>**, please contact your child’s school.)

**Bus Passes:** Bus passes will be available in the Parent Portal no later than **August 26, 2025**. If you are unable to view your child’s bus pass or log into the Parent Portal by **September 2nd**, please contact your child’s school.

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
ECC Community Grand Opening (4:30 pm)

**September 16<sup>th</sup>**  
School 4 (Grades 2 & 3) Open House

**September 4<sup>th</sup>:**  
Preschool Back-to-School/Open House (6pm)

**September 23rd**  
School 5 (Grades 4 & 5) Back-to-School Open House

**September 4<sup>th</sup>:**  
Preschool Back-to-School/Open House (6pm)

**September 24th:**  
LMS Back-to-School Open House

**September 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Grade 9 Orientation (9:45 am)

**September 25th:**  
LHS Back-to-School Open House  
Twilight Back-to-School Open House

**September 8<sup>th</sup>**  
First day of school for all students

**September 11<sup>th</sup>**  
ECC (Grades K & 1) Open House

We are all looking forward to an exciting and fantastic 2025 – 2026! We missed our students and look forward to seeing them soon!

Sincerely,



Dr. Kristin P. O’Neil  
Superintendent