

# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2025



# Student Enrollment as of September 2025

SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT	ATTENDANCE
Mill Pond Elementary School	600	94%
Cedar Creek Elementary School	440	96%
Forked River Elementary School	447	96%
Lanoka Harbor Elementary School	439	96%
Lacey Township Middle School	827	95%
Lacey Township High School	1,055	96%
Special Education (Out-of-District)	27	
*OCVTS – M.A.T.E.S.	28	
*OCVTS – Performing Arts Academy	25	
*OCVTS – Academy Law & Public Safety	16	
TOTAL	3,904	



*October 2025*

*Seniors of the Month*

**AVA J. FLANAGAN  
MICHAEL H. AUSTIN**

*Unsung Hero*

**JOHNATHAN GRAVEMAN**





# Mill Pond News

## Back to School Night Success

Mill Pond opened its doors to our parents at Back to School Night on September 25th. We welcomed over 800 parents! Teachers proudly displayed student work, discussed classroom expectations, and gave them an overview of what to expect for the 25-26 school year. Many of our classes had parents involved in activities as well as an interactive bulletin board. Families shared where their summer adventures took them.



## Welcome Lanoka Harbor Fire Department

Our students were so lucky to have our local fire volunteers spend the day with each class talking about fire safety. They talked about all the important parts of the fire truck and gave the students very important instructions to stay safe if there is a fire.

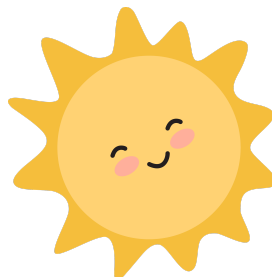


## Morning Announcements

Our kindergarten classes have taken over our morning announcements! Each week, we welcome one class into the main office. They lead the building everyday with The Pledge of Allegiance. The students end the announcements wishing everyone a great day! Great role models for our PreK students. #wearemillpond



Mrs. Heck's Class



Ms. Maltese's Class





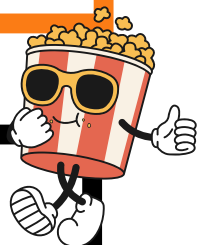
## Lots of Learning

Each day, our students are busy exploring new skills. From learning how to cut, using their imagination, taking turns reading to their friends, meeting the adults in the building and learning all about our feelings. Our students are engaged from the minute they arrive to the minute they leave! There is never a dull moment!



## PTA Outdoor Movie Night

Our PTA hosted a not so scary Halloween movie night for our Mill Pond families. With blankets, chairs, and bags of pop corn, everyone enjoyed watching a little Toy Story and Mickey & Friends. Thank you to the PTA for always organizing a fun time for all!



# Cedar Creek News

We have had a great start to the school year!

We would like to thank our PTA and our school community for their support and donations as we begin the school year. Our PTA has planned some great events, including an animal assembly and a Color Run, during the month of October!



## Week of Respect

Mrs. Friedman, our school counselor, taught lessons in each class during the Week of Respect. Students learned about the Golden Rule!



## Students of the Month September



Dexter Arban  
Daleah Barsch  
Elisabeth Cook  
Lia D'Avino  
Alexander Farnese  
Stevie Herewini-Appio  
Trevor Hoffman

Sophie Keogh  
Kane Lukowski  
Josia Mitchell  
Connor Oldham  
Leslie Pacheco  
Alice Padovani  
Wendy Padovani

James Papalia  
Liliana Pompei  
Cameron Quinn  
Emily Silvestri  
Ethan Silvestri  
Verona Tirondola  
Grayson Weiss





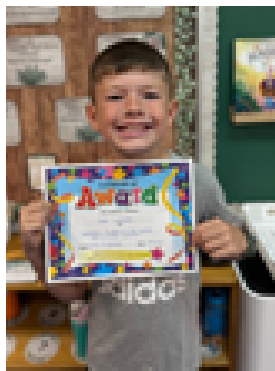


## Mrs. Mantegna's Class Digs Learning!

Mrs. Mantegna's class was digging for fossils during a science lesson! They had so much fun learning about the process of finding fossils!



## Fun and Learning at CCS



## Navy Nation Summer Reading

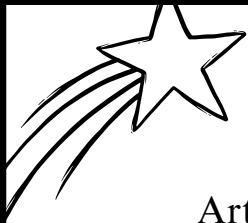


**Michael Baldasari**  
**Olivia Baldasari**  
**Emmalyn Craig**  
**Nathaniel Gee**  
**Logan Gershey**  
**Christopher Lanik**  
**Logan Magyar**  
**Claire Manoski**  
**Julian Manoski**  
**Sedona Zuniga**

**Logan Gershey** was this year's iPad winner!



# Forked River News



## Special Area Students of the Month

Art - **Mateo Galindo**

Music - **Shelby Babeu**

PE - **Jacob Staples**

Library - **Monroe Kotsifas**

World Language - **Isla Saunders**

### Fire Prevention Week

During Fire Prevention Week, the students and staff enjoyed two excellent fire safety programs on Friday, October 10, 2025, presented by Andy Castellani and members of the Forked River Volunteer Fire Company. Students learned important safety precautions and procedures and had the opportunity to explore some of the station's fire trucks. We would like to thank Fire Fighter Castellani, and all of the members of the Forked River Volunteer Fire Company, for their annual efforts to teach our students the importance of fire prevention and safety.



### “Week of Respect”

In honor of New Jersey's “Week of Respect,” our staff facilitated social skills lessons with our students in first through fifth grade. Lessons focused on developmentally-appropriate authentic children's literature and related activities themed to the topics of respecting diversity in relation to disabilities, culture, appearances, feelings, sportsmanship, family, and more. In addition, our guidance counselor, Mrs. Hintz, and our Spirit committee hosted a fun spirit week to go along with the daily theme for each day of the Week of Respect!







## Forked River School Superstar Citizens of the Month



Teacher	Student	Teacher	Student
Mrs. Bergman	<b>Chloe Robles-Tablas</b>	Mrs. Lavorgna	<b>Lincoln Kotsifas</b>
Mrs. Camaligan	<b>Avery Kagabines</b>	Mrs. Mooney	<b>Talitha Gutierrez</b>
Mrs. Coller	<b>Kayla Carmona</b>	Mrs. Mulligan	<b>Fin Shultz</b>
Mrs. Crepezzi	<b>Natalie Brown</b>	Mrs. Nachman	<b>Zachary Maxwell</b>
Mrs. DeNigris	<b>Luca Chiaravallo</b>	Mrs. Schubiger	<b>Xola Turner</b>
Mrs. Flynn	<b>Penelope Staples</b>	Mrs. Tilton	<b>Jace Burdette Johnson</b>
Mrs. Halliday	<b>Ela Monahan</b>	Mrs. Weaver	<b>Jaxson Gorby</b>
Mrs. Latwis	<b>Brielle Renn</b>		

### Safety Patrol Students of the Month

**Shelby Babeu**  
**Jace Burdette Johnson**  
**Jaxon Burlew**  
**Mattie Bonfanti**  
**Derek Cooke**  
**David Corano-Hernandez**  
**Arthur Berlinski**  
**Kylie Carskaddan**  
**Evelyn Christie**  
**Grace De La Rosa-Pena**



### September Morning Announcers

**Sophia Polichetti**  
**Victoria Santiago**



## Summer Reading Program

We would like to congratulate all of our students who participated in our Summer Reading Program! Research overwhelmingly points to the intellectual gains resulting from daily reading among our youth! Congratulations to the following students who reached the Navy Nation Level. Great job to all! **Madyson Barker** was this year's iPad winner!

**Madyson Barker**  
**Lennox Carvalho**  
**Evelyn Christie**  
**Monroe Kotsifas**  
**Weston Leadem**  
**Adeline Strawder**  
**Uras Taracki**  
**Greyson Wilson**  
**Olive Wright**



## LATEST NEWS

The Forked River School Denim Day Committee is donating money raised to various scholarships for our upcoming graduating seniors as well as a donation to a student in our neighboring district who is undergoing brain cancer treatment.

The Forked River School is currently collecting non-perishable food items for the Lacey Food Bank. All items donated to the Lacey Food Bank will benefit our community members in need for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

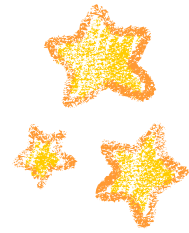
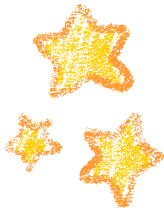
The students and staff at the Forked River School continue to collect aluminum pop-tabs from beverage cans for the benefit of Ronald McDonald House Charities, which provides "home away from home" housing for family members of children receiving extended hospital care.



# Lanoka Harbor News

## Students of the Month

The following students have been selected as Lanoka Harbor's Students of the Month for September 2025. These students were chosen for their outstanding work, dedication, and achievement.



## Patriot Day

September 11th has become an annual day at Lanoka Harbor School to remember, reflect, and honor those who were injured or died. We were also reminded that the American spirit still shines even in times of testing. The staff and students wore red, white, and blue in honor of the day.

## Constitution Day



Constitution Day was celebrated on September 17, 2025. During the month of September, students in all grades learned something about the Constitution and the United States Government. Some lessons included writing a classroom constitution, learning about the Preamble by singing along with Schoolhouse Rock, discussing the importance of the Bill of Rights, and ordering states by the date they ratified the Constitution. This important day is celebrated each year!

## Summer Reading Program

This summer Lanoka Harbor School students participated in the Summer Reading Program. The children kept track of the hours they read on a reading log, which they brought into school to be checked on several different days over the summer break. Students participating in the program earned a keychain and paw tags, which varied by color depending on the number of hours read.

4 hours – white paw / 8 hours – gray paw / 16 hours - cardinal paw / 32+ hours – navy paw

Those students who read 32 hours or more joined the Navy Nation of Summer Reading. The Navy Nation readers were also entered into a drawing to win a tablet. This year's winner was **Raymond Barker!**

Lanoka is proud of all students who participated in the program and would like to give special recognition to those students who achieved Navy Nation status. Great job, everyone!

**Ella Andrews  
Jameson Baillie  
Ciara Barker  
Raymond Barker  
Jayson Brewer  
Charles Conigliaro  
Wesley DiDonato  
Charlotte Dorry  
Charlotte Dotterweich  
Charlotte Habinowski  
Madelyn Hamman  
Austin Jesuele  
Emma Keelen**



**Lily Kozlowski  
Rosalia Larkin  
Anna Marcus  
Liam Moran  
Katelyn Pavao  
Mason Ricciuti  
Ryan Sager  
Liam Shaw  
Anthony Tretola  
Roman Tretola  
Leia Wilson  
Scarlett Zupan**







## Fire Prevention Week

Under the guidance of the Lanoka Harbor Volunteer Fire Company, Lanoka Harbor School students learned about fire safety as part of this year's Fire Prevention Awareness Week. Fourth and fifth-grade students participated in a fire safety poster contest and attended an assembly led by Fire Prevention Officer John Szafranski. Winners were selected from participants who created posters utilizing the theme: "Charge Into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home".

The winners were as follows:

### 4th Grade

1st Place - **Zoe Harvey** (certificate and \$25 Visa gift card)

2nd Place - **Emma Keelen** (certificate)

### 5th Grade

1st Place - **Addilyn Lauria** (certificate and \$25 Visa gift card)

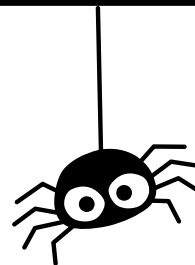
2nd Place - **Ryan Sager** (certificate)

The winning posters will be displayed at the Lanoka Harbor Fire Company's Open House on Thursday, October 9th.



## Back to School Night

Lanoka's Back to School Night was held on September 16, 2025. Thank you to all who joined us for an informative evening. It was wonderful to see so many parents in attendance!



# Middle School News



## Student Council

We're excited to announce that the first student council meeting of the new school year took place this September. It was a great opportunity for both returning and new members to connect and get to know each other through some fun icebreakers. Our agenda for the meeting was packed as we jumped right into planning for some important upcoming school events. A major focus was preparing for the Week of Respect, and we've already started working on activities to promote kindness and a positive school environment. We also had a fantastic time brainstorming and organizing our spirit days. Get ready for a week full of fun themes to show your school pride! Finally, members were hard at work on the much-anticipated Back to School Bash. Members helped sell tickets for the event, and we're confident it's going to be an unforgettable night. We're looking forward to an impactful year, and we can't wait to see all the great things our student council will accomplish!



## Drama / Chorus / Band

Drama Club will begin in October. We are getting ready for our introductory meeting, auditions and call backs. This year's production of Alice in Wonderland, Jr. is going to be amazing!

Chorus has begun working on our winter concert music during lessons and in after school rehearsals. We are looking forward to our winter concert in December!

The Lacey Township Bands are gearing up for a great year! The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade concert bands are hard at work on preparing seasonal music for the upcoming winter concert on December 11th, and auditions will soon be held for another great season of jazz band. In addition to playing at the winter and spring concerts, the jazz band will also perform at the National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony in the spring, the Lacey Jazz Festival, hosted by high school Performing Arts Booster Association, and as preliminary music as the 5th grade students come to visit LTMS in the spring.



## 1st School Dance

The first dance of the school year was Friday, September 26th - The Lacey Township Middle School Back to School Bash! Mr. Holmberg did a great job as DJ. Thank you to the LTMS PTC for providing snacks and drinks. Students had a great time!



## School News!

The Scholastic book fair was here and it went great! There were hundreds of book options, including the authors, characters and series the students love.

Middle School clubs have started! The Yearbook Club will hold its first meeting at the end of the month. Students will begin the creative process by discussing and brainstorming ideas for this year's theme and cover design. We're excited to get started and look forward to creating our best yearbook yet!

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to the LTMS custodial staff for your hard work and for making our school a wonderful place for our students to learn and grow. Your collaboration and kindness are truly what sets our school apart.



### 8th Grade Student of the Month Avianna Velasquez

Avianna is an exceptional young lady whose hard work, determination, and positive spirit make her a standout in all she does. She consistently takes pride in her work, always striving for excellence both in and out of the classroom. Her involvement in numerous activities speaks volumes about her dedication and leadership. From Junior National Honor Society and Student Council to her athletic commitments in field hockey and track, Avianna exemplifies what it means to be a well-rounded and committed student. Her academic performance is just as impressive, with exceptional grades in rigorous classes that reflect her discipline and drive. Congratulations to Avianna and her family.



### 8th Grade Student of the Month Griffin Holden

Griffin is a mature, hard-working, and dependable young man who consistently demonstrates excellence in all areas of school life. In the classroom, he is an outstanding student and a reliable partner, known for keeping his peers on task and organized. He participates actively in class discussions and always puts forth his best effort. Outside the classroom, Griffin is a dedicated member of the cross country team and plays a key role in the "Unofficial Technology Club," where he is highly respected for his tech skills. Griffin's positive attitude, strong work ethic, and willingness to help others make him an exceptional student and a valued member of the school community. Congratulations to Griffin and his family.

# High School News



## School News

The school year continues to progress positively, with students and staff demonstrating strong academic engagement across all areas.

Spirit Week was recently held, featuring excellent participation from both students and staff, fostering a sense of pride and community leading into this weekend's Homecoming Dance.

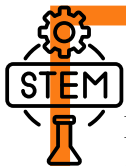
NJGPA fall testing has been successfully completed.

Fall athletic teams are concluding their regular seasons and preparing for postseason competition.

Students continue to impress with their academic effort, enthusiasm, and consistent adherence to the expectations outlined in the student handbook.

The fall play cast and crew are in rehearsal for next month's production, and the marching band recently concluded a successful competition season, earning an improved score at their final performance at Jackson High School.

On October 16, 2025 LTHS students took the PSAT and SAT exams. The PSAT (Preliminary SAT) exam serves as a valuable practice for the SAT and also gives 11th graders the opportunity to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program. The SAT, typically taken by 11th and 12th graders, is an important part of the college admissions process and is used by many colleges to assess students' academic readiness.



## STEM

Lacey Township High School has 96 STEM students who learn about science, technology, engineering, and math by doing fun, hands-on activities. Instead of just reading or writing, they build things, solve problems, and try out new ideas.

STEM helps students think creatively, work as a team, and apply what they learn to everyday life. We're proud of their curiosity and hard work!



## **SENIOR OF THE MONTH**

### **AVA J. FLANAGAN**

Lacey Township High School is proud to recognize Ava Flanagan as Senior of the Month. Ava reflects the true spirit of our school, demonstrating excellence in academics, athletics, leadership, and service.

Ava is a dedicated member of the STEM Academy, where her intellectual curiosity and perseverance have allowed her to thrive. She consistently demonstrates a strong passion for learning and a commitment to academic excellence, earning recognition from both her teachers and peers.

Beyond the classroom, Ava exemplifies leadership and service. As President of the National Honor Society, she has organized meaningful projects and inspired her peers to give back to the community. She has contributed over 100 hours of volunteer service, working with programs such as the Lacey Elks Antlers and Camp Invention, where her compassion, initiative, and ability to connect with others shine.

Ava also stands out as a talented multi-sport varsity athlete in soccer and basketball. She has been recognized as an Unsung Hero Award recipient and serves as captain of her club soccer team, Cedar Stars Ocean Academy. Her leadership on and off the field reflects her resilience, teamwork, and positivity.

What truly sets Ava apart is her character. She is described by peers and staff as dependable, empathetic, and motivated. Whether in the classroom, on the athletic field, or in the community, Ava leads with kindness and integrity. She balances her many commitments with grace and continues to inspire others with her drive and humility.

Ava Flanagan is an outstanding student, athlete, and leader whose contributions have left a lasting impact on Lacey Township High School. We are proud to honor her as Senior of the Month.

## **SENIOR OF THE MONTH**

### **MICHAEL H. AUSTIN**

Lacey Township High School proudly recognizes Michael Austin as Senior of the Month. Michael is an outstanding student whose dedication to academics, athletics, leadership and service sets him apart as a role model for his peers.

In the classroom, Michael consistently challenges himself with rigorous coursework and demonstrates a genuine passion for learning. His strong work ethic and determination have allowed him to excel across a wide range of subjects, reflecting both intellectual curiosity and perseverance. Teachers describe him as dependable, driven, and motivated to succeed at the highest level.

Beyond academics, Michael has made a lasting impact through his leadership and involvement in extracurricular activities. He plays an active role in student organizations and community programs, where he has helped organize events, support local families, and contribute to service projects that benefit both Lacey Township and the broader community. His commitment to giving back highlights his compassion, responsibility, and willingness to step up as a leader.

Michael is also a dedicated athlete, balancing the demands of academics and athletics with maturity and resilience. His contributions as both a player and leader on the volleyball court showcase his teamwork, perseverance, and ability to inspire those around him.

What truly distinguishes Michael is his character. Whether in the classroom, on the court, or in the community, he carries himself with integrity, kindness, and humility. He leads by example, consistently demonstrating that success comes not only from talent and hard work but also from respect and service to others.

Lacey Township High School is proud to honor Michael as Senior of the Month. His academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to helping others exemplify the values of our school community, and we are confident he will continue to achieve great things in the future.

## **UNSUNG HERO**

### **JOHNATHAN GRAVEMAN**

The Matthew Blum Unsung Hero Award is awarded to a person who has exemplified unselfish acts within his or her community.

For the month of October, our recipient of this award is someone who has always been an upstanding member of the LTHS student body. He has challenged himself with some of the most rigorous courses available in our school. His academics have earned him a spot in the prestigious National Honor Society in our school.

In Interact, he is a frequent volunteer in his community, dedicating his time to help those in need. He has also been a tremendous help as the manager of the boys volleyball team, dedicating his time towards creating an encouraging environment for all players. Aside from his incredible accomplishments, the most inspiring aspect of this student is his positive attitude. There is never a dull moment when you speak to this student, and he is certain to always have a smile on his face during the day. For these reasons, SGA is proud to announce that our October Unsung Hero is Johnathan Gravemen.

Congratulations, Johnny, and keep up the great work!