



BALDWIN-WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

R. A. Lutz Elementary School

3454 Pleasantvue Drive • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15227-4334
Telephone: 412-885-7535 • FAX: 412-885-6641 www.bwschools.net

Welcome Back to School!

August 7, 2026

Dear R. A. Lutz Elementary Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! Whether you are returning to R.A. Lutz Elementary or joining us for the first time, we are so happy you're part of our school community. It is a privilege to continue serving as your principal alongside our dedicated assistant principals, Mrs. Adrienne Vallus and Mr. Noah Wolf. Together, we're looking forward to another year of learning, laughter, growth, and memorable experiences for our students.

As we enter the second year of our district's vision of **Unlocking Potential, Empowering Learners, Inspiring Futures**, we remain committed to creating engaging learning experiences where every student feels challenged, supported, and inspired to grow. Guided by our Journey of a Highlander competencies, we'll continue refining instruction, enhancing student support systems, and creating meaningful opportunities for students to discover their strengths, find their voice, and build lasting connections. Our goal remains in ensuring every Highlander feels valued, recognized, and excited to come to school each day.

One tradition we're especially excited to continue is our Highlander House System. Our Houses provide opportunities to build friendships, celebrate one another, participate in experiences that encourage empathy, collaboration, leadership, and service, while also embracing the unique values and traditions of their House. Returning students will continue their House journey this year, while our incoming third graders have the exciting opportunity to participate in Sorting Day this September as they officially become members of one of our eight Houses.

We're also excited to be hosting **Curriculum Nights** for parents and guardians in September which will provide dedicated time to meet teachers and learn about classroom routines, curriculum, and expectations. In November, we'll welcome students and families back into the building for Open House, where students can proudly share their classrooms, learning, and accomplishments. See below for dates and times and more details to come later in August.

Below this message, you'll find additional information on arrival and dismissal procedures, as well as a brief welcome from our assistant principals. As a reminder, the **first day of school for all Grade 3-5 students is Wednesday, August 26, 2026**. Homeroom and bus assignments will be available for families on **Wednesday, August 19, 2026**. The weeks ahead are filled with anticipation, excitement, and new beginnings. We are grateful for the trust you place in us each day and look forward to partnering with you throughout the school year.

Warm regards,

Laurel Rader
Principal
R. A. Lutz Elementary School
lrader@bwschools.net



Messages from LES Assistant Principals

Welcome back to school! I am so excited to see all of our returning and new students, and begin a great year together! We have so many wonderful experiences and opportunities planned for the year ahead, and I cannot wait to get started! I look forward to being a support for all students to ensure a successful year ahead! Please reach out if I can be of assistance! See you soon!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Vallus
Assistant Principal
R. A. Lutz Elementary School
avallus@bwschools.net

I'm really looking forward to reconnecting with our returning students and welcoming some fresh new faces to the LES crew! Being part of your child's journey at LES is something that is really important to me—though you'll also see me bringing plenty of energy, encouragement, and the occasional cheesy joke along the way. If you need anything, I'm just an email or call away. Wishing you a smooth, sunny, and memorable end to summer.

Sincerely,
Mr. Wolf
Assistant Principal
R. A. Lutz Elementary School
nwolf@bwschools.net



(From left: Mrs. Vallus, Mrs. Rader, and Mr. Wolf)



Pikmykid information, which is used for car riders and walkers, will be coming soon. **If you plan for your child to be a frequent car rider and/or walker, please complete [this form](#).**

Car Rider Arrival: 8:30-8:40 AM

All traffic will enter through the gate at the end of Norine Drive. The gate opens at 8:10 AM. **DO NOT ARRIVE PRIOR TO 8:10 AM** as there is no on street parking available.

During arrival, **all traffic will form a single file line** and school staff will assist students in unloading and entering the school.



Car Rider Dismissal: 3:25-3:45

Student dismissal begins at 3:25 PM. All traffic will enter through the gate at the end of Norine Drive, which opens at 3:00 PM. **DO NOT ARRIVE PRIOR TO 3 PM** as there is no on street parking available. During dismissal, **all traffic will form two lines**. School staff will assist in directing traffic and assist students in getting to their vehicles.



Student Walkers: Arrival 8:30-8:40

Student arrival begins at 8:30 AM, at which time the doors to the school will open. When students walk to school, please use the sidewalks on Pleasantvue Drive and follow the sidewalks to the main entrance of the school.



Student Walkers: Dismissal 3:40-3:45

For the safety of all, students that walk home will be dismissed at 3:40 PM. Students will be checked out by staff at the main entrance, and then students will follow the sidewalks in front of the school and onto Pleasantvue Drive

Reminder: If you plan for your child to be a frequent car rider and/or walker, please complete [this form](#).