



LINDENWOLD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

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

August 2026

Dear Lion Families,

We are all very excited to welcome you to the 2026–2027 school year! We cannot wait to welcome our students back into our buildings. There is something special about the first days of a new school year. Seeing familiar faces, meeting new Lions, and hearing our hallways come back to life are some of the best parts of school. We hope your family has enjoyed a restful summer and is looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Our Lion team has been busy all summer improving our facilities, enhancing our curriculum, planning new student opportunities, and getting everything ready for our students' return. As always, our goal is to make every school a safe, welcoming, and joyful place where students feel connected, supported, and ready to learn.

What to Expect When Students Return—Fall 2026

As you get ready for the first day, here is a quick look at where students will be learning, who will be leading each school, and the regular school-day hours:

Early Childhood Center (ECC)

Grades: Preschool, Kindergarten, Grade 1

Principal: Mr. Jeffrey Patterson

PK: 9:40 a.m.–3:40 p.m.

K & 1: 9:05 a.m.–3:40 p.m.

School 4

Grades: 2–3

Principal: Dr. Sandra Preyor

8:35 a.m.–3:10 p.m.

School 5

Grades: 4–5

Principal: Ms. Amber Callow

8:25 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Lindenwold Middle School (LMS)

Grades: 6–8

Principal: Mr. Joe Tabasco

7:40 a.m.–2:25 p.m.

Lindenwold High School (LHS)

Grades: 9–12

Principal: Mr. Fred Geardino

7:15 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Summer Construction and Facility Improvements

While our students have been enjoying summer, our District teams and our construction partners have been hard at work completing important projects designed to improve safety, accessibility, functionality, and the overall learning environment.

High School

- Installation of new HVAC systems to improve comfort and efficiency.
- Renovation of the main office to enhance visitor safety, security, and visibility.
- Replacement of aging windows throughout the building.
- Construction of a new grounds storage building to better support facilities operations.

School 4

- HVAC system renovations providing air conditioning to 100% of the building.
- Roof replacement for the entire building.
- Classroom flooring upgrades and interior painting to refresh learning spaces and hallways.

Middle School

- Replacement of the building elevator to improve accessibility and reliability.

Early Childhood Center (ECC)

- Sidewalk improvements designed to enhance pedestrian safety and improve traffic safety in the parking lot.

School 5

- Sitework improvements focused on increasing parking lot safety while enhancing the appearance and curb appeal of the building.
- Classroom flooring upgrades and interior painting to refresh learning spaces and hallways.

One milestone we are especially happy to celebrate: with the completion of the School 4 HVAC project, 100% of our school buildings are now fully air-conditioned. Reaching this point has taken years of thoughtful planning and fiscally responsible budgeting, and we are grateful for the patience and support of our families, staff, Board of Education, and community. We cannot wait for students to return and enjoy these refreshed spaces!

Please Update Your Realtime Parent Portal Information

We want to be able to reach you when it matters. Please take a few minutes before the first day of school to review the phone numbers, email addresses, and other contact information saved in the Realtime Parent Portal. Our schools primarily communicate with families by email, text, and phone.

Please also make sure you have reliable emergency contacts listed and individuals who are able and willing to assist when called. If your child becomes ill, or if the school contacts you because of a social-emotional, behavioral, or physical health concern, you or an authorized emergency contact must be able to respond and, when needed, pick up your child within 60 minutes of notification. A timely response helps us care for all students safely and effectively.

Most Significant Change for 2026–2027: New Jersey Bell-to-Bell Device Law OFF AND AWAY—BELL TO BELL

Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, New Jersey law requires school districts to develop policy to prohibit students from using personal internet connected communication devices for non-academic purposes during the school day.

For Lindenwold students, the expectation is simple: **personal devices must be powered off and stored away during the school day.** This includes cell phones and smartphones, personal tablets or laptops, Bluetooth earbuds or headphones, and smart watches.

We know this will be an adjustment, and we appreciate families partnering with us as students build a new routine. The purpose is not to take technology away, but rather to protect the school day for learning, student relationships, safety, and student well-being.

At this time, the District has not chosen mandatory phone pouches, centrally located required phone-locker systems, or a system requiring every student to install an application on a personal device. We plan to begin with the most flexible and familiar storage options for students: backpacks and personal lockers.

The key is easy to remember: devices are powered off and stored away. As LHS reminds us, cell phones are “Off & Away.” At LMS, we are going to promote “going old school!”

Family communication will remain available. If there is a family emergency and you need to reach your child, please call the school main office, and we will make sure the message gets to them. Students who need to contact a parent or guardian may do so through a designated school office or an established communication support plan.

In a true school emergency, when a security process is enacted, staff will direct students when they may access and power on their cell phones. Accurate, fact-based communication is especially important during an emergency, and the District has multiple systems in place to reach families quickly. This is an important reason to make sure your Realtime contact information is current and accurate. Please be sure to log in and update your Realtime Parent Portal.

USDA Community Eligibility Program - New This Year!

We are excited to announce that we will participate in the USDA Community Eligibility Program (CEP) beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. This means that **all students** will receive free meals regardless of eligibility. However, it is still very important to complete a meal application **in order to be eligible for summer EBT cards** from the state and for the District to continue to receive necessary state funding to run all programs. Support staff will be available at all Open House events to assist with completing an application. All families that complete an application at an Open House event will be entered into a raffle to win a \$100 Amazon gift card!

HIB & STOPit Anonymous Reporting

Every student deserves to feel safe and supported at school. New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act requires schools to implement prevention strategies in addition to ensuring every allegation of reported bullying is reported, investigated, and responded to in compliance of the of harassment, intimidation, and bullying HIB law. Any individual may report a potential HIB: teacher, student, an administrator, family or community member.

Lindenwold also uses the STOPit anonymous reporting system, giving students and families another safe way to report any and all allegations of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, potential threats, or other safety concerns. All reports are directly sent to District administration. Please remind your children that asking for help is always the right thing to do - whether they speak with a trusted adult, use STOPit, or come to you for help contacting the school. We encourage everyone (students, staff, families, and community members) to follow the See it; Say it motto. We want every Lion to know that their voice matters.

School Supplies

ECC, School 4, and School 5: The District does not have a required school supply list for elementary

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students. We will provide the classroom supplies students need, including folders, crayons, pencils, and other everyday materials. Families may wish to purchase a backpack and lunch box. We also receive donated backpacks that can be shared with students. If your child needs a bookbag, please contact your child's school. We are happy to help.

LHS: The District does not require a single secondary supply list, although individual teachers may request particular items in summer mailings, course information, or on their individual websites.

Important Dates to Know

Bus Passes

Bus passes will be mailed the week of August 31, 2026, to students eligible for bus transportation. They will also be available in the Realtime Parent Portal before the start of the school year.

September 8

6th Grade Orientation: 3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

September 9

Preschool Early Childhood Center Open House: 6:00 p.m.

September 10

Kindergarten & 1st Grade Early Childhood Center Open House: 6:00 p.m.

September 11

Grade 9 Orientation: 9:45 a.m.

September 14

First day of school for all students.

September 17

LHS Open House / Twilight Open House

September 22

School 4 (Grades 2 & 3) Open House

September 23

School 5 (Grades 4 & 5) Back-to-School Open House

September 24

LMS (Grades 7–8) Open House

Remember: Our first student school day is Monday, September 14, 2026.

We are counting down the days until our Lions are back with us! Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping us start the year with excitement, consistency, and a shared commitment to our students. We are looking forward to seeing our classrooms full, our hallways busy, and our school community together again. Here's to a joyful, successful 2026–2027 school year!

Sincerely,



Dr. Kristin P. O'Neil
Superintendent of Schools