

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



Sara Martinez-Najera
LTHS/ grade 12

OCTOBER
2026

Student Enrollment as of September 30, 2026

SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT	ATTENDANCE
Mill Pond Elementary School	637	95%
Cedar Creek Elementary School	450	96%
Forked River Elementary School	449	96%
Lanoka Harbor Elementary School	436	96%
Lacey Township Middle School	817	96%
Lacey Township High School	1,024	95%
Special Education (Out-of-District)	33	
*OCVTS – M.A.T.E.S.	27	
*OCVTS – Performing Arts Academy	22	
*OCVTS – Academy Law & Public Safety	16	
TOTAL	3,911	

October 2026

Seniors of the Month

MADELINE J. SULLIVAN
LUKE J. MILLER

Unsung Hero

AILEEN CRUZ



Mill Pond News



Back to School Night Success

Mill Pond opened its doors to our parents at Back to School Night on September 22nd. We welcomed over 900 parents! Teachers proudly displayed student work, discussed classroom expectations, and gave them an overview of what to expect for the 26-27 school year. Many of our classes had parents involved in activities such as leaving messages on their tables and in their lockers.



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



Mrs. Iorio's Class



Ms. Maltese's Class

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.





Lots of Learning

Each day, our students are busy exploring new skills. From learning how to cut, making new friends on the recess field, using their imagination, taking turns reading to their friends, meeting the adults in the building and learning all about our feelings. We also love to acknowledge and say thank you to those that take care of us! Our students are engaged from the minute they arrive to the minute they leave! There is never a dull moment!




HAPPY
Halloween

Cedar Creek News

Students of the Month - September 2026

Dexter Arban
Cameron Ascough
Colin Bole
Greyson Dester
Melania Digiovanni
Kayla Fazio

Michael Fitts
Jameson Gomez
Grayson Hurley
Adam Jones
Jack Maslen
Savannah Micklos

Emily Papalia
Joshua Pine
Julian Ponce
Lucas Quinn
Brynley Schaal
Theodore Sheik

Piper Tompkins
Charlotte Torres
Donovan Velazquez
Scarlette Zinkoski
Gianna Zinn



THANK YOU!

We would like to thank our staff, students, and families for continuing to make this year such a great success! Everyone has done a wonderful job settling into the school year, and we are excited to see all the great things happening throughout Cedar Creek.

Read-a-Thon

Our annual Read-a-Thon will take place from October 12th through October 23rd. We look forward to encouraging our students to continue building their love of reading while participating in this fun schoolwide activity.



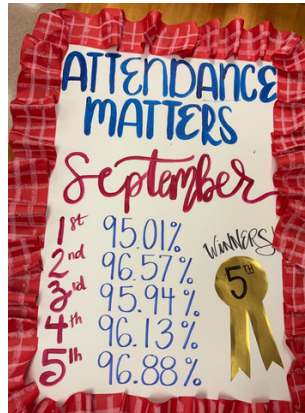
"Week of Respect"

We celebrated a wonderful Week of Respect, reinforcing the importance of kindness, responsibility, and treating others with respect throughout our school community.



September's Perfect Attendance Raffle Winners

We also recognized our September Perfect Attendance winners and celebrated our fifth-grade students for winning the monthly attendance competition with an impressive **96.88% attendance rate!** In addition, our Students of the Month were selected from each class. Congratulations to all of our winners for their outstanding achievements!



Navy Nation Summer Readers

We would like to congratulate all of our students who participated in our Summer Reading Program! ! Congratulations to the following students who reached the Navy Nation Level. Great job to all!

Emmalynn Craig
Nora Rice
Olivia Baldasari
Colton Gutierrez
Claire Manoski



Tablet Winner:
Colton Gutierrez



What's Happening!

October has been a busy and exciting month! We had a fantastic Book Fair, and our Peer Leaders organized a food bank collection to support those in our community. We also welcomed our local fire department, who visited our students to discuss fire safety and provide an exciting fire truck presentation.



Thank you to our staff, students, families, and CCS PTA for your continued support and for helping make Cedar Creek such a wonderful place to learn and grow!



Forked River News

Special Area Students of the Month



Art - Leyna Jacobs
Music - Logan Ferguson
PE - James Toner
Library - Logan Heins
Health - Dakota McAllister



“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. MacPherson, and our spirit committee hosted a fun spirit week to go along with the daily theme for each day of the Week of Respect!

Fire Prevention Week

During Fire Prevention Week, the students and staff enjoyed two excellent fire safety programs on Friday, October 9, 2026, presented by Firefighter 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 Chief Mozal, Firefighter 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.





Forked River School
Superstar Citizens of the Month
SEPTEMBER



Teacher	Student	Teacher	Student
Mrs. Bergman	Peneolpe Staples	Mrs. Latwis	Ariella Cornetto
Mrs. Camaligan	Jaxson Gorby	Mrs. Lavorgna	Talitha Gutierrez
Mrs. Collier	Katherine Aker	Mrs. Mooney	Cameron Torre
Mrs. Crepezzi	Briella De Luca	Mrs. Mulligan	Audrey Clemente
Mrs. DeNigris	Cassidy Korotky	Mrs. Nachman	Sydney Breitenbach
Mrs. Doherty	Chloe Diaz	Mrs. Schubiger	Gianna Mora Munoz
Mrs. Flynn	Brayden Kasper	Mrs. Tilton	Marcelo Koza
Mrs. Halliday	Ethan Kasper	Mrs. Weaver	Rylee Del Piano

Safety Patrol Students of the Month
SEPTEMBER

Violet Bahr
Zoey Ciallela
Avery Coogan
Emily Andrade
Kayla Carmona
Dylan Doherty
Ashlynn Bogert-Morrow
Vincent Brannick
Jackson Milo
Lillian Bieder
Bruce Reynolds
Harper Boos



Morning Announcers
SEPTEMBER

Avery Kagabines
Logan Heins



Community Service

The Forked River School Denim Day Committee is donating money raised to various scholarships for our upcoming graduating seniors and other local charities.

The Forked River School's Heroes Club, under the direction of their advisor Mrs. Nachman, 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.



Navy Nation Summer Readers

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
Lennox Carvalho
Maverick Drahos
Sawyer Drahos
Tylor Mooney
Adeline Strawder
Uras Tarakci



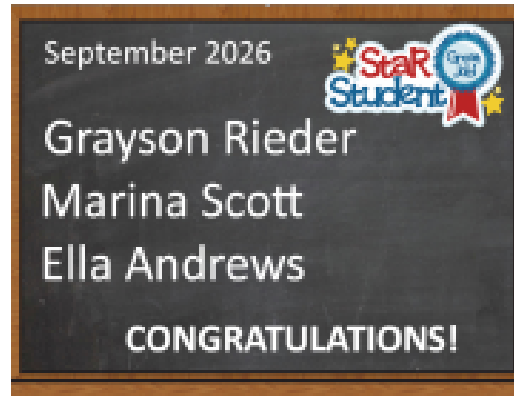
Tablet Winner: Sawyer Drahos



Lanoka Harbor News

Students of the Month

The following students have been selected as Lanoka Harbor's Students of the Month for September 2026. We chose these students 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.

Constitution Day

We celebrated Constitution Day on Thursday, September 17, 2026. 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!



Back to School Night

Lanoka's Back to School Night was held on September 17, 2026. Thank you to all who joined us for an informative evening. It was wonderful to see so many parents in attendance!

Navy Nation Summer Readers

This summer, Lanoka Harbor School students participated in the Summer Reading Program. The children tracked their reading hours on a reading log, which they brought to school to be checked on several 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
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 an Amazon tablet. This year's tablet winner was Lilly Kozlowski! Congratulations, Lily!

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

Navy Nation Winners:

Ciara Barker
Raymond Barker
Wesley DiDonato
Oliver Smida
Scarlett Zupan
Lilly Kozlowski
Ella Andrews
Madelyn Hamman
Charlotte Dotterweich
Emma Keelen
Liam Moran



Tablet Winner: Lilly Kozlowski



Middle School News

Student Council

The LTMS Student Council took an active leadership role during the Week of Respect, October 5–9, by organizing a school-wide Spirit Week and collaborating with the LTMS guidance counselors to promote kindness and respect throughout the building. During lunch periods, students completed PAWs reflecting on ways they have demonstrated and experienced respect, while Student Council leaders shared positive and uplifting messages during morning announcements. Student Council members are also actively preparing for the upcoming Back to School Bash in collaboration with the PTC by assisting with ticket sales, collecting donations, creating a playlist, and helping with preparations for the mid-October event. Looking ahead, the Student Council is beginning preparations for a November food drive and continues to demonstrate strong leadership and a commitment to fostering a positive and connected school community.



A special thank-you to our LTMS custodial staff for all that you do each day to keep our school clean, welcoming, and ready for learning. Your dedication, teamwork, and commitment to our students and staff do not go unnoticed. Your hard work and positive spirit help make LTMS the special place it is, and we truly appreciate everything you do to support our school community!





Middle School Clubs



Middle School Clubs are officially underway!

- The Yearbook Club will be meeting soon to begin planning this year's edition. Students will kick off the creative process by brainstorming ideas for the yearbook theme, cover, and overall design. We're excited to see their ideas come to life and look forward to creating another memorable yearbook!
- Chorus has been working in class and in lessons preparing for our winter concert. We have begun our after school rehearsals and have been working on vocal warm-ups and winter concert music.
- Drama club will be holding our informational meeting on October 14th. We will be discussing our upcoming show of Finding Nemo, Jr. Auditions and call backs will take place at the end of October.
- The LTMS National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) will be supporting the organization Starve Poverty through a school-wide food collection drive beginning next week. In addition, NJHS members will participate in a beach cleanup on October 24th, providing students with an opportunity to give back to the community and help care for the local environment.
- The LTMS Bands are off to an exciting start this school year! Our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade concert bands are working diligently to prepare a variety of music for the upcoming Winter Concert on December 10th. Students are developing their musical skills while building confidence, teamwork, and a strong sense of ensemble. Auditions for the Jazz Band will also be held soon as students look forward to another exciting season of performances. Throughout the year, the Jazz Band will have the opportunity to perform at the winter and spring concerts, the National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony, the Lacey Jazz Festival hosted by the high school Performing Arts Booster Association, and for our incoming 5th grade students when they visit LTMS in the spring. We are looking forward to another fantastic year of music and performances!



Scholastic Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success! Students had the opportunity to browse hundreds of books featuring favorite authors, characters, and series, with something for every reader to enjoy.

8th Grade Student of the Month September Kayleigh Rose

Kayleigh has consistently demonstrated what it means to be a dedicated, hardworking, and well-rounded student. She has achieved strong academic success while also showing tremendous commitment and enthusiasm through her involvement in athletics.

In the classroom, Kayleigh is an active and engaged participant. She contributes thoughtful ideas to discussions, stays focused on her learning, and consistently puts forth her best effort. She is also someone who is willing to go above and beyond when needed, and she sets a positive example for those around her.

Outside of the classroom, Kayleigh has demonstrated strong leadership through her involvement in athletics, including serving as a captain of her soccer team. Her ability to balance academics, athletics, and leadership responsibilities speaks to her dedication, responsibility, and determination.

Kayleigh is not only a high achiever, but she is also a student leader, a supportive teammate, and someone who can be counted on to step up when it matters. Her commitment to excellence and her positive influence on those around her make her truly deserving of this recognition.



8th Grade Student of the Month September Gavin Nagy

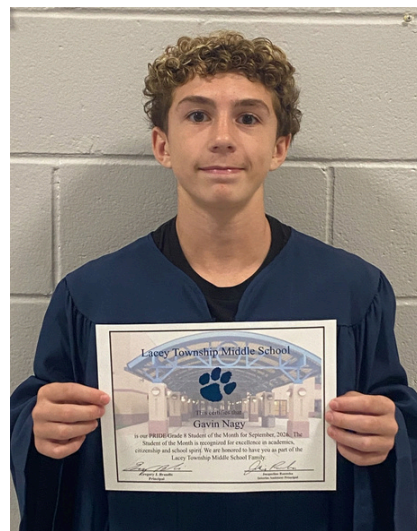
Gavin is an outstanding example of what it means to be a well-rounded student. He consistently shows honesty, kindness, and a positive attitude. He treats everyone around him with respect, takes on challenges with determination, and can always be counted on to give his very best effort.

What makes Gavin especially impressive is the way he balances his academic responsibilities with his commitment to wrestling. Gavin competes in multiple wrestling tournaments and proudly represents the Lacey Middle School wrestling team. Even with the time and dedication required for wrestling, he continues to maintain straight A's in the classroom.

His ability to manage his time, stay focused, and remain dedicated to both academics and athletics is truly impressive. Gavin understands the importance of hard work, and he demonstrates that commitment every day.

Whether Gavin is in the classroom, on the wrestling mat, or supporting the people around him, he consistently represents the qualities we hope to see in every student.

Congratulations, Gavin, on being named our 8th Grade Student of the Month. This recognition is very well deserved!



8th Grade Student of the Month October

Elizabeth Manresa

Elizabeth is a wonderful example of what it means to be an honor student at Lacey Middle School. For the past three years, she has consistently come to class with a positive attitude, a smile, and a strong willingness to learn and work hard. She takes her role in band seriously and has grown tremendously, both as a musician and as a quiet leader among her peers.

Elizabeth is diligent, respectful, conscientious, and always willing to help. She leads by example, stays focused, and is often one of the first students to help with classroom responsibilities. She also excels academically while managing a challenging schedule that includes Honors ELA, Algebra I, STEM Science, and Band.

Elizabeth's hard work, kindness, leadership, and dedication truly embody what it means to be an honor student. Congratulations, Elizabeth, on being named our 8th Grade Student of the Month



8th Grade Student of the Month October

Owen Scherer

Owen is a wonderful example of what it means to embody Lion's Pride. He consistently puts his best foot forward, approaching each day with positivity, determination, and an outstanding work ethic. Owen takes great pride in his work and is an insightful contributor to class discussions, often making thoughtful contributions that positively influence his peers.

Owen maintains strong grades while taking one of the most challenging schedules at LTMS, including Honors ELA, Geometry, and STEM Science. His honesty, kindness, and positive attitude shine throughout the day, and he gives 100% in everything he does. Owen's hard work, leadership, and dedication make him truly deserving of this recognition. Congratulations, Owen, on being named our 8th Grade Student of the Month!



Unsung Hero - September 2026

Delanie Toner - 7th Grade

Delanie has been a joy to have in class since the very first day of school. She is a dedicated student who consistently demonstrates kindness, respect, and a positive outlook. Whether in the classroom, the hallway, or on the court or field, Delanie is always friendly, helpful, and supportive of those around her. She has a wonderful sense of humor that brings extra smiles and laughter to our school community.

As a first-time field hockey player, Delanie embraced the sport with enthusiasm and a willingness to help in any capacity. On the basketball court, she is dedicated and always eager to help her teammates improve their skills. She is the kind of teammate who offers encouragement when others need a little pick-me-up and makes sure everyone feels supported. Delanie also gives her time to help with Unified Champions, showing genuine kindness and compassion toward others.

Delanie, thank you for being such a sincere, caring, and positive presence in our classroom and school community. Your willingness to lend a helping hand, encourage your classmates, and make others feel valued does not go unnoticed. You truly embody the spirit of an Unsung Hero. Keep being your amazing self, Delanie! Congratulations on this well-deserved award!



Unsung Hero - October 2026

Riley McChesney - 7th Grade

It is with great pleasure that we recognize Riley for the Unsung Hero Award. Riley consistently exemplifies respect, responsibility, kindness, and an outstanding work ethic. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and leads by example through her actions, never seeking recognition or the spotlight.

What makes Riley especially deserving of this honor is her dedication to helping others, even beyond the school community. As a seventh grader, she helps teach karate to children as young as four years old, demonstrating remarkable patience, leadership, and maturity beyond her years.

Riley embodies the true meaning of an unsung hero. She does what is right simply because it is the right thing to do, making a positive difference in the lives of those around her without expecting anything in return. Though she would never seek recognition for her efforts, her kindness, character, and quiet leadership make her truly deserving of this award.



High School News



NASCAR

LTHS junior **Matthew Kovacs** on his first career NASCAR victory! Matthew captured his first NASCAR Sportsman Modified feature win at Wall Stadium during his rookie season. Congratulations and best of luck for the rest of the season! Please use this [LINK](#) for the Lacey Patch article.



STEPS Program

Maria Kowalewski & Mariana Marzacco of The Woman's Club of Lacey present the Steps Program \$700 for a classroom refrigerator.



LTHS Band

The LTHS Band kicked off their competition season with an impressive second-place finish at their first competition in Brick! The band also brought home awards for Best Music and Best Colorguard.

A special Congratulations, Mr. Montague was honored with the award for Best Director!

Great job to our talented LTHS Band members and staff!

Marching Band performance at Southern Regional HS [LINK](#)
Another awesome performance by the LTHS Marching Band! Congratulations on an outstanding performance at their recent competition at Southern Regional High School! The band earned 1st Place and increased its combined score by an incredible 7.5 points in just one week! What an amazing accomplishment and a testament to the hard work, dedication, and talent of our students and staff. Great job, LTHS Marching Band!



SENIOR OF THE MONTH

MADELINE J. SULLIVAN

Madeline is a thoughtful, dependable, and compassionate student who consistently puts the needs of others before herself. She leads by example, creating a welcoming and supportive environment for those around her. Whether working with her teammates, younger students, or peers in Student Government, Madeline is someone others can rely on for encouragement, guidance, and a positive attitude.

Madeline's leadership and dedication are reflected in the many ways she contributes to our school community. She has served in Student Government, including as Executive Treasurer and currently as President of the Executive Board, where she helps plan school events and works to make them enjoyable experiences for everyone. As captain of the Women's Lacrosse team, she has continued to demonstrate that leadership is about more than a title. She supports her teammates, mentors younger players, and works to create an environment where everyone feels included.

Her commitment to learning and personal growth is equally impressive. Through Science Research, Madeline has earned multiple recognitions for her work, including second place for her research and model on the Ulnar Collateral Ligament and an invitation to compete at the Jersey Shore Science Fair. She has also developed strong problem-solving and engineering skills through Engineering and Design.

While these accomplishments are certainly noteworthy, what stands out most about Madeline is the character behind them. She is someone who works hard, follows through on her commitments, and genuinely cares about the people around her. Her kindness, maturity, and willingness to support others make her a positive influence in our school community and a deserving Senior of the Month.

SENIOR OF THE MONTH

LUKE J. MILLER

Luke is a kind, genuine, and outgoing student who has made a positive impact on the Lacey Township High School community throughout his high school career. Anyone who knows Luke has been consistently impressed by the way he treats others with sincerity, respect, and kindness. He has a natural ability to make those around him feel comfortable and welcomed, and his positive attitude is evident in his interactions with both peers and adults.

Luke has demonstrated a strong commitment to his school and the activities he has been involved in. He dedicated four years to both Lacrosse and the Lacey Township High School Wrestling Program, demonstrating perseverance, teamwork, and a willingness to challenge himself. His commitment to athletics is a reflection of his strong work ethic and his ability to remain dedicated even when faced with demanding challenges.

While Luke's accomplishments are certainly noteworthy, what makes him deserving of Senior of the Month is the character behind them. He is someone who is genuinely caring, approachable, and respectful. He brings a sense of positivity to the people around him and has shown that being a good teammate, friend, student, and community member is just as important as personal achievement.

Luke has demonstrated the values of commitment, perseverance, teamwork, responsibility, and kindness throughout his years at Lacey Township High School. He should be proud of the positive impression he has made on those around him and the person he has become. He is a deserving Senior of the Month and a wonderful example of the character and spirit we hope to see in our students.

UNSUNG HERO

AILEEN CRUZ

The October's Unsung Hero is Aileen Cruz. Aileen is a hardworking and dedicated student who is always willing to lend a helping hand. She is involved in the Leadership Academy, Reading Committee, Interact Club, Close Up Club, Peer Mediation, and track, where she continues to demonstrate leadership and commitment.

Aileen always radiates positivity and treats everyone with kindness, making those around her feel welcomed and supported. Whether she is helping with an event, encouraging a friend, or simply brightening up someone's day, she is always willing to step up. Her strong work ethic and genuine care for others make her an important part of the Lacey Township High School community. Congratulations Aileen!