



LINDENWOLD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

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

October 29, 2022

Dear LMS Families,

Our staff is really in need of your help. Raising students in this day and age definitely takes a collective effort – especially when they are middle-school-aged / pre-teens.

Please take time to review the recent student behavior concerns outlined below. On behalf of the District Staff, I am requesting your help in reminding our students of their responsibility to demonstrate appropriate behaviors in school and on school buses at all times.

Recent student behavior:

The school has been notified that students in 7th and 8th grade are no longer permitted to patronize the local Wawa Store near the Lindenwold Middle School without a supervising adult. Students will be denied access if not accompanied by an adult. Much to our community's dismay, LMS students have been caught stealing food and drinks. Students are "shoving" these items into their book bags and running out of the store.

As such, the Lindenwold Police Department has requested we make all of our LMS families of this exclusion. We are working cooperatively with Wawa and law enforcement. We expect to review the video footage soon to assist with student identification.

Students are also choosing not to follow safety rules and are choosing to disrespect our bus drivers while riding our school buses. As a result of recent student behaviors, this message will serve as the District's formal LMS behavior warning. It is important to realize bus riding is a privilege, and inappropriate behavior, which includes disrespecting our bus drivers, will result in suspension from the school bus.

Even if students are suspended from the school bus, they are still required to attend school. It will be up to the parent / guardian to provide transportation to and from school during this period of time. School absences will be considered truant absences during their suspension.

Guest Behavior Concerns:

In addition, we have recently had to address guests who have chosen to use threatening, abusive and profane language toward our school staff, our bus drivers, and our contracted service provider (First Student). Engaging in this manner will never yield the result one is trying to achieve. Under no circumstances will we permit individuals to threaten or abuse our staff, our

bus drivers, or our contracted business partners. This behavior will be addressed by our District very seriously.

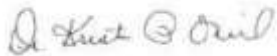
We all understand the emotions parents and guardians feel when they have concerns related to their child. Many of us are parents, too. However, the way to address such concerns is as follows:

1. Contact the school to schedule an appointment to meet or speak to a teacher or administrator.
2. If you are unhappy with that result, please then contact the next person in the chain of command: Teacher or Counselor or Staff Member to Principal and then the Superintendent.

I assure you we will work with you to address your concerns and you will be treated with respect in return.

Thank you very much for your support in these difficult and stressful times. It definitely takes a village. Together we can continue to make our community the best it can be!

Sincerely,



Dr. Kristin P. O'Neil
Superintendent