

Little Falls Township School District 2026-2027 Parent Handbook



LITTLE FALLS
■ TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS ■

One Team...One District...One Vision

WELCOME STATEMENT

Dear Parents:

With this copy of the Little Falls Township Public School District Handbook, we hope to make the 2026-2027 school year a most pleasant and productive one for both you and your child(ren). Included are pertinent regulations, program descriptions, LFEF & PTA information and other materials with which we hope you will become familiar. The Little Falls School District meets the needs of the students from the time they enter Kindergarten until they graduate Eighth Grade. Our teachers and administrators are sincerely interested in the welfare and progress of each individual student. These are your schools. Learn as much as you can about our curriculum, programs, and school activities. We encourage you to avail yourselves of the various channels of communication set up to keep you informed about your schools. We encourage you to:

- Keep in frequent contact with your child(ren)'s teachers
- Attend as many school programs and activities as possible
- Come to Board of Education meetings
- Become an active member of the LFEF and School PTA's
- Visit our School District Website on a frequent basis, www.lfschools.org

Please feel free to contact your child(ren)'s Teachers or Principal, the Superintendent, or the Board of Education about any school matter. Support and help us. Together we can make a difference!

Best wishes for a safe and rewarding school year for your family,
The Little Falls Board of Education

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The Little Falls Board of Education, in compliance with all federal and state laws, rules and regulations related to equal education and employment opportunity, is committed to a policy of non-discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, or socio economic status. The district's approved Equal Education Opportunity Plans are available at the office of:

Melissa Sanzari-Stevens
Affirmative Action Officer
School #1 32 Stevens Avenue
Little Falls, NJ 07424
Telephone: 973-256-7371

Any student, parent or employee may file a grievance relative to Affirmative Action guidelines (contact the Affirmative Action Officer for detailed procedures). Anyone who is subjected to unwelcome physical advances or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature should contact the Affirmative Action Officer.

LITTLE FALLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Rachel R. Capizzi, President
Mrs. Nicole Smith, Vice President
Mrs. Janine Barone
Mrs. Desiree DiBuono
Mrs. Patricia Lijoi
Mr. Michael Tullo
Mrs. Shannon Zurbruegg

A listing of all public meetings is found on the district website.

ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Tracey L. Marinelli, Superintendent/Director of Curriculum
Mrs. Luci Cruz, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools/HR
Ms. Andrea Marchesani, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melissa Sanzari-Stevens, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Ms. Ariana Avdija, Bookkeeper/Payroll
Ms. Julie Eckert, Purchasing & Accounts Payable Coordinator
Mrs. Lynette Fata, Administrative Assistant to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mrs. Dana Sprague, Principal- School #1 - 973-256-1033
Mrs. Emma DeFeo, Principal's Secretary- Fax: 973-256-0225

Mrs. Jill Castaldo, Principal- School #2 - 973- 256-1386
Mrs. Jessica Nucum, Principal's Secretary- Fax: 973-256-1610

Mrs. Nicole Boyce, Principal/ District Testing Coordinator School #3- 973-812-9512
Ms. Julia Marchesani, Principal's Secretary- Fax: 973-256-6542

Mrs. Elba Castrovinci, Director of Special Services - 973-812-9512 x3405
Ms. Amy Wright, Special Services Secretary- Fax: 973-256-6542

School District Website: www.lfschools.org

STATISTICS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The Little Falls Township School District consists of three district schools comprising grades Kindergarten through Eighth Grade as well as serving eligible Pre-K students. Little Falls students in Grades Nine through Twelve attend Passaic Valley Regional High School which is located in Little Falls. The high school is under the jurisdiction of the Passaic Valley Regional High School Board of Education representing the communities of Little Falls, Totowa, and Woodland Park. Mr. Bracken Healy is the Superintendent of Schools and can be reached by calling the main office number, 973-890-2500.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

The Little Falls School System consists of three schools, School No. 2 which houses Grades K-2, as well as the Preschool Handicapped Class and the Inclusive Preschool, School No. 3 which houses Grades 3-4, and School No. 1, which houses Grades 5-8.

BELL SCHEDULE - SCHOOL NO. 1

Grades 5, 6, 7, 8

** Breakfast is served from 8:00-8:15AM

8:00	<i>Drop-Off time on the playground may begin</i>
8:10	Entry Bell (Doors Open)
8:15-9:06	Block 1 (Students entering after 8:15 MUST report to the Main Office entrance & signed in.)
9:06-9:23	Morning Announcements/SEL
9:26-10:17	Block 2
10:20-11:11	Block 3 (LUNCH 7)
11:14-12:05	Block 4 (LUNCH 8)
12:08-12:59	Block 5 (LUNCH 6)
1:02-1:53	Block 6 (LUNCH 5)
1:56-2:47	Block 7
2:47-2:50	Dismissal

BELL SCHEDULE - SCHOOL NO. 2

Grades K, 1, 2

8:50-9:10	Rolling Drop Off
9:10-9:50	Period 1
9:50-10:30	Period 2
10:30-11:10	Period 3
11:10-11:50	WIN
11:50-12:35	Period 4
12:35-1:20	Period 5
1:20-2:05	Period 6
2:05-2:45	Period 7
2:45-3:25	Period 8
3:25-3:30	Dismissal

Preschool Schedule AM

9:10 AM	Arrival
11:40 AM	Dismissal

Preschool Schedule PM

1:00 PM	Arrival
3:30 PM	Dismissal

Full Day Preschool

9:10 AM	Arrival
3:30 PM	Dismissal

BELL SCHEDULE - SCHOOL NO. 3

Grades 3 & 4

8:30-8:50	Rolling Drop Off
8:50-9:35	Period 1
9:35-10:05	Period 2 WIN
10:05-10:48	Period 3
10:48-11:31	Period 4
11:31-12:14	Period 5
12:14-12:59	Period 6: 3rd Grade Lunch and Recess
12:59-1:44	Period 7: 4th Grade Lunch and Recess
1:44-2:27	Period 8
2:27-3:10	Period 9
3:10	Dismissal

PRESCHOOL DISABILITIES PROGRAM

Little Falls resident parents/guardians who notice any special problems in their child's development, including: fine and gross motor development, speech and language development, acquisition of age-appropriate cognitive skills, or other significant developmental delays, should contact the Special Services Office at 973-812-9512 x3405 to request a Child Study Team evaluation. The Child Study Team, parents, and other teaching staff members, as required by law, will meet to determine whether an evaluation is warranted, and if warranted, determine the nature and scope of the evaluation, according to the requirements of New Jersey Administrative Code 6A-:14. If, upon conclusion of the evaluation, an eligibility determination is made, an appropriate educational program is provided by the Little Falls School District. These services are available to preschool children who will be turning three, through five years of age.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS: AGE

A child may be enrolled in Kindergarten who will be five years of age on or before October 1 of that school year. Proof of age shall be presented for examination at the time a child is enrolled.

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS NOT PICKED UP ON TIME (or NOT PICKED up from the Bus Stop)

1. Students will report to the main office.
2. The student will remain in the main office with the school secretary or administrator until picked up.
3. The school secretary or administrator will call the parent and notify them that their child must be picked up. If the child is not picked up within ten minutes after dismissal, they will be brought to after care and will be required to pay the \$30 drop in fee at the time of pick up.
4. A mandatory meeting with the building principal and/or business administrator will take place after the third late pickup.

ABSENCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Little Falls Schools conduct a mandatory "ABSENCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM" designed to make it more efficient and easier to report your child's absence. This program provides parents/guardians with the ability to report student absences via the Realtime Parent Portal.

In order to facilitate this process, cooperation between the school Absence Verification Officers and parents is necessary. The safety benefits of the program will be lost if parents do not follow the guidelines and report the absence(s) at the appropriate time. This program is not a truancy program. It is a safety procedure and we urge all parents to give us their cooperation by submitting the absence(s) promptly and conscientiously. For your convenience, the guidelines for our Absence Verification Program are noted below. **Please keep these instructions for future reference.**

LITTLE FALLS SCHOOLS ABSENCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

***Please note: All absences must be reported by 9:30 am and a reason for the absence(s) must be entered in the "notes" section.**

1. To utilize this feature, please log into your Parent Portal > Menu > Daily Attendance. You may access the Parent Portal using our website www.lfschools.org > Parents > Parent Portal or by clicking the attached link: [Parent Portal](#)
2. After submission, you will receive an email confirming the reported absence. A note is still required upon return of your child to school as attendance verification. Please be reminded that absences must be reported by the parent or legal guardian, as student reporting continues to be unacceptable.

If you have not reported via the Parent Portal and your child is absent, Mrs. Abboud, Mrs. O'Jeda, or Mrs. Perrota, our Absence Verification Officers, will then call you via your contact information to verify the absence. We will continue to call until 10:00 am. If we

LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DISMISSAL - see Policy 5230

It is necessary that a pupil be in attendance throughout the school day in order to benefit fully from the educational program of the district. The Board of Education recognizes, however, that from time to time compelling circumstances will require that a pupil be late to school or dismissed before the end of the school day. A pupil may be excused during the school session for good cause acceptable to the principal, and approved by him/her on receipt of a signed request from the parent or guardian. The excuse requests shall be kept on file in the principal's office. Any pupil who is reporting late to school must report to the principal's office. Chronic lateness of an unacceptable nature will result in disciplinary consequences. No pupil shall be permitted to leave the school before the close of the school day unless met in the school office by a parent or a person authorized by the parents to act on his/her behalf.

All children arriving tardy to school (after the school day begins) MUST be escorted into the building and signed in for the day.

PHOTO ID IS MANDATORY for early pickup.

5200- ATTENDANCE

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25, every parent, guardian, or other person having control and custody of a child between the ages of six and sixteen shall cause the child to regularly attend school. The Board of Education requires students enrolled in the school district attend school regularly in accordance with the laws of the State.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 and for the purposes of this Policy and Regulation 5200, a student's absence from school will be excused, or unexcused, that counts toward truancy.

Students that are absent from school for any reason are responsible for the completion of assignments missed because of their absence. A student who is absent from school for observing a religious holiday shall not be deprived of any award, eligibility, or opportunity to compete for any award, or deprived of the right to take an alternate test or examination that was missed because of the absence provided there is a written excuse of such absence signed by the parent.

Prolonged or repeated absences, excused or unexcused, from school or from class, deprive students of the educational and classroom experiences deemed essential to learning and may result in retention at grade level or loss of credit or removal from a course that would count toward the high school diploma in accordance with policies of this Board.

Students shall be subjected to the school district's response for unexcused absences that count toward truancy during the school year as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)4 and Regulation 5200.

Unexcused absences from school or from classes within the school day may subject a student to consequences that may include the denial of a student's participation in co-curricular activities and/or athletic competition. Repeated absences from school interfere with efforts of this Board and its staff in the maintenance of good order and the continuity of classroom instruction and such absences may result in the removal of the student from a class, course of study, or social privileges.

cannot verify the whereabouts of your child by this time, we will contact the Little Falls Police Department to report that your child is missing and ask them to investigate.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING (HIB)

HIB Coordinator: Lindsey Enchelmaier	Please Contact BOE Office	973-256-7371
HIB Specialist School #1: Emily Conti	Please Contact School No. 3 Main Office	973-812-9512
HIB Specialist School #2: Jessica Prawetz	Please Contact School No. 1 Main Office	973-256-1033
HIB Specialist School #3: Martha Kochanowski	Please Contact School No. 2 Main Office	973-256-1386

TRANSPORTATION - see Policy 8600

The Board will provide transportation to and from school for elementary school pupils who live more than two (2) miles from their public school of attendance. The Board will transport disabled pupils in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:46-1 et seq. and Policy No. 8670.

BUS RULES FOR TRANSPORTED STUDENTS

- *Be on time for your bus (Note: on time is 10 minutes prior to your scheduled bus stop time).
- *Wait at the designated stop – stay out of the street and please respect people’s property.
- *Only approach the bus when it comes to a complete stop.
- *Buckle your seatbelt – **IT’S THE LAW.**
- *Remain seated while the bus is in motion and during loading and discharging of other student passengers.
- *Keep your head, arms and belongings inside the bus at all times.
- *Eating, drinking, and cell phone use is prohibited on the school bus.
- *Respect the bus property and equipment.
- *Do not distract the bus driver by loud noises or horseplay.
- *If you must cross the road, do so at least 10 feet in front of the bus quickly and orderly, and only after checking traffic from both directions and while the red school bus lights are flashing.
- ***Students are not permitted to be dropped off or picked up at any bus stop other than their assigned bus stop.**
- ***Bus stops are assigned based on the closest stop to the student’s home address. Requests for alternate bus stops will not be accommodated.**
- ***Important: For students in Grades K through 4 an adult must be present to pick up at the bus stop at the designated time by the doors of the bus. Under no circumstances can the bus drivers leave children unattended at a bus stop, wait at a bus stop, and/or return to a bus stop. Failure to comply will result in the suspension of and/or removal from transportation privileges, as well as being charged \$30 for a Drop-In Fee for The Hive After Care Program. *Students in Grade 4 will be permitted to walk home with written consent provided by the parent/guardian.**
- *Failure to adhere to bus rules may result in disciplinary action by the School Principal which may include suspension of transportation privileges.

The Superintendent shall calculate and monitor the average daily attendance rate for the district and for each school in the district. Whenever the average daily attendance rate does not meet the New Jersey Department of Education requirements the Superintendent or designee shall develop a district improvement plan to improve student attendance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.2.

GENERAL RULE INFRACTIONS

The following rule infractions shall result in one, or any combination of the disciplinary actions listed below being taken, depending upon the frequency and/or degree of the infraction. ***Specific behaviors, consequences, and remediation can be found in Little Falls Pride Guide.***

Rule infractions:

- * Tardiness
- * Use of profane language
- * Class disruption
- * Defiant and insubordinate behavior
- * Lunchroom misbehavior
- * Playground misbehavior
- * Bus misbehavior
- * Throwing snowballs or other objects
- * Disturbing school neighbors
- * Other inappropriate behavior deemed serious enough by the principal

Disciplinary Actions:

- * Counseling/discipline session with teacher
- * Teacher or counselor notifying the parent/guardian
- * Counseling/discipline session with the building principal
- * Building principal notifying the parent/guardian
- * Loss of recess
- * Hornet Reflection Center
- * Other actions deemed warranted by the building principal
- * Loss of social privileges

SCHOOL SUSPENSION

The following infractions can result in out-of-school suspension for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days:

- * Repeated "General Rule Infractions"
- * Possession, use or distribution of any controlled dangerous substance prohibited by law; alcoholic beverages; any prescription or patent drug except those for which permission to use has been authorized by a licensed physician and approved by the parent or guardian.
- * Striking or threatening a teacher, school employee or fellow student
- * Stealing
- * Fighting
- * Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property
- * Turning in a false fire alarm or calling in a bomb threat
- * Using or having possession of a dangerous weapon or fireworks
- * Smoking
- * Truancy
- * Cutting of class

SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS GRADES Pre K- 2

P.L. 2016, Chapter 45, signed into law, September 16, 2016, places limits on out-of-school suspensions and expulsions beginning the 2016-2017 school year in school districts and charter schools as follows:

Students in Grades **K-2** shall not be expelled from school, except as provided pursuant to the “Zero Tolerance for Guns Act,” P.L. 1995. **K-2** students shall not receive an out-of-school suspension, except when the suspension is based on conduct that is of a violent or sexual nature and endangers others. Students in preschool shall not be suspended and shall not be expelled, except as provided pursuant to the “Zero Tolerance for Guns Act,” P.L. 1995.

Note: An out-of-school suspended student is prohibited from attending classes or school sponsored activities and may not appear on school grounds. These rules and the District code of conduct provide a framework for expected and appropriate behavior for ALL of our students. Teachers will review and model the school rules as they establish classroom rules at the start of the school year. In addition the children will be asked to sign a behavior contract, pledging to do their best to follow these rules. Be sure to review these rules at home with your child at different times during the school year. The goal is to help the children understand and internalize the high expectations we ALL hold for behavior and academic work. All faculty and staff will ensure that these rules are followed in the classrooms, hallways, cafeteria and playground of Little Falls School No 2. We appreciate the support we get from home as we work together to help our young students learn and display appropriate social and learning behaviors. Our goal is to maintain the safe, calm and caring feeling of the school at all times.

PUPIL PROGRESS REPORTS

The Board of Education believes that the cooperation of school and home is a vital ingredient to the growth and education of the total child. The Board recognizes its responsibility to keep parents informed of pupil welfare and progress in school.

The Little Falls Schools provide a system of reporting pupil progress which shall include report cards and parent conferences with teachers in Grades Kindergarten through Eight.

The teaching staff will ensure that both the pupil and parents/guardians receive ample warning of a pending grade of "failure."

Report cards will be sent home at various intervals during the school year, consisting of three of four marking periods depending upon the school your child is in.

HOMEWORK/INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

The Little Falls School District acknowledges the need to maintain skills acquired during the instructional day. Therefore, students are highly encouraged to participate in flexible homework practice. Please note that these assignments are not mandatory nor will they be graded.

The emphasis in practice assignments should be placed on the value of the assignment for the individual child with due consideration to:

1. Strengthening basic skills
2. Extending classroom learning
3. Stimulating and furthering interests
4. Reinforcing independent study skills
5. Developing initiative, responsibility and self-direction

STUDENT RECORDS

The policy of the Board of Education as authorized by NJSA 18A:36-19; NJAC 6:3.1-2.6 allows parents and legal guardians access to pupil records. If you would like to review your child's school records, please call your child's principal to arrange a mutually convenient appointment. Child Study Team records are kept in the Office of the Supervisor of Special Services with copies secured in other appropriate locations in School #1, School #2, and School #3.

CHILD STUDY TEAM

In accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code 6:14 et. seq. (N.J.A.C. 6:14), the Child Study Team (CST) is composed of a school social worker, school psychologist, learning disabilities teacher/consultant and as appropriate, a speech/language specialist. The role of the CST is twofold: first, to work with teachers and parents in providing instructional strategies and techniques to help all children learn and second, to evaluate students and assess their need for special education services according to the regulations set forth in N.J.A.C. 6:214 et. seq. when necessary. All CST folders are secured in the Director of Special Services Office in School No.3.

Parents/Guardians wishing to review their child's CST folder or request a copy of N.J.A.C.

6:14 ET. Seq. may do so by contacting the Director of Special Services.

IMMUNIZATION

New Jersey Minimum Immunization Requirements for Kindergarten - Grade 12

N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 Immunization of Pupils in School

Guide for checking compliance

Step 1: Each child attending/enrolling must present documentation of immunizations or valid medical or religious exemption to vaccines. In order to allow a child to enter school, he/she must have at least one dose of each age-appropriate required vaccine.

Step 2: Determine the child's present grade level.

Step 3: Compare the child's record with the requirements listed on the chart below.

Grade	DTaP	IPV	MMR	Varicella	Hep. B	Men.	Tdap
K-1st	4 doses with one on or after the 4th birthday	A total of 3 doses with one of these doses given on or after the 4th birthday	2 doses	1 dose	3 doses	None	None
2nd-5th	3 doses	3 doses	2 doses	1 dose	3 doses	None	None
6th grade and higher	3 doses	3 doses	2 doses	1 dose required	3 doses	1 dose required for children at least 10 years of age.	1 dose for children at least 10 years of age.

**taken from NJHEALTH New Jersey Department of Health POLICY*

SPECIAL SERVICES

The Little Falls Township Public Schools offer a wide array of special services, Preschool through Grade 8, which are individualized to meet the varied needs of one or more segments of the school population.

PRESCHOOL DISABLED PROGRAM

Children who turn three years of age, and who exhibit developmental delays and/or speech/language difficulties, may be eligible for preschool special education services. Information concerning this program may be obtained from the Director of Special Services.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Some students enter the Little Falls Schools with a limited English proficiency. All students are carefully screened upon reporting for school and those multilingual learners (MLs) found to be in need of services will receive them from an ML teacher.

LITTLE FALLS MULTI TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (LFMTSS)

The LFMTSS is a tiered system of supports. Our district has established a coordinated system in each school building for the delivery of intervention and referral services also formerly known as Basic Skills or intervention period. The LFMTSS provides support for students who are experiencing learning, behavior or social concerns; and assists educators and parents who have difficulties in addressing students' learning, behavior, or social-emotional needs. Instruction to remediate skills is tailored to each individual child's needs. Programs may be offered in the following ways: before and after school, during the school day, differentiated within the classroom, and/or pull out or push in.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEPAC)

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is coordinated by the Director of Special Services, and will meet throughout the year to discuss issues related to special needs students. Guest speakers, panel discussions and meetings will serve to educate and provide valuable information to group members. The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is open to all parents and teachers. Announcements will be mailed home with dates and topics.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

The Gifted and Talented Program provides identified students with a broad range of learning experiences and opportunities in all subject matters in order to build a well rounded student. Gifted students are those with exceptional talent who perform or show the potential for performing at extraordinarily high levels of accomplishment when compared with others their age. Assessments are conducted at the end of 3rd and 6th grade to evaluate each student's eligibility and determine individual's program entry and exit. Our Gifted and Talented Curriculum is a living curriculum that is often determined by the learner and their interests and special talents that is then tailored to the needs of the students. The Gifted and Talented students work with the VEX Robotics, NAO Robot programming, STEAM activities, computer coding, mock trials, picture book writing, the list is endless and knows no boundaries. If the students have an interest we provide the tools and resources for them to grow and explore. The students also take part in activities and events such as the Law Fair, the Buehler Challenger and Science Center, Symposium for the Arts, Montclair University outreach program as well as participating in Passaic County Gifted and Talented events. The events are part of the Passaic County Gifted and Talented Consortium where they compete in such things as Quiz Bowls, Battle of the Books, Geography Bees, Math Day, Technology Day and STEAM Days.

HOME INSTRUCTION

Home Instruction will be provided to those students whose absences for an illness exceed ten consecutive school days. A doctor's note stating the approximate duration of the illness must accompany all requests for this service.

Home Instruction will be provided for a minimum of five hours per week and up to 10 hours for a classified student, generally distributed over a three day period of time. A certified teacher will deliver these services in cooperation with the classroom teacher who will provide materials. Parents/Guardians should contact the Director of Special Services should the service become necessary.

SERVICES UNDER SECTION 504

Section 504 is part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which applies to all persons with a disability. A student who may potentially qualify for a 504 plan must have a mental, or physical impairment, which substantially limits one or more of a student's major life activities. Common examples include, but are not limited to, such things as communicable diseases (HIV,TB), medical conditions (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, asthma, allergies, diabetes,heart disease, seizure disorders, traumatic brain injury, etc.), temporary medical conditions due to illness or accident, and psychological disorders.

If you believe that your child may need special accommodations or services in the regular classroom in order to participate in the day-to-day school program, the District will consider the medical diagnosis, and evaluate the student's condition and reach a determination as to whether the student is eligible under the 504 Guidelines. Students do not need to be classified in order to receive services, as Section 504 falls under the responsibility of the regular education program. If you have any questions regarding Section 504 services or procedures, please contact your child's building principal.

STANDARDIZED TESTING PROGRAM

In order to evaluate our curriculum and the success of our students in achieving our program goals, it is necessary to administer various standardized tests during the school year. The listing of particular tests, grade levels, and times of year for administration can be found on the district calendar section on the website. It is important that all students be involved in the testing programs, and parents are asked to schedule medical and dental appointments, etc. around these dates since these tests are usually administered over a number of days. All testing program results are evaluated and the results are used to help improve our general school program. They are also used to evaluate individual pupil needs and growth. Individual results of these tests will be shared with parents during the school year.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

The Little Falls Public Schools provide a Family Life Education Curriculum in Grades K-8. This curriculum is sequential in structure and utilizes materials found in the Health and Science Programs.

Parents/Guardians not wishing to have their child participate may contact the respective building principal. Parents wishing to view the materials incorporated in the Family Life Curriculum may do so by contacting the office of their child's principal.

SCHOOL CLOSING

During inclement weather schools may be closed for the day. In case of school closings due to inclement weather, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Automated phone message
2. Posted on District website www.lfschools.org
3. Posted on District social media sites

In case of any other unusual emergency which would require the closing of schools, we will use the Realtime Notification System.

EARLY CLOSING DURING SCHOOL DAY

In case of an unusual emergency (hazardous weather conditions, heating problems, etc.), it might be necessary to send your child home from school early. This would only take place on a rare occasion, if needed. You should advise your child of a procedure to follow during these emergencies. Also, please complete the form sent home by the school listing addresses and phone numbers etc. of individuals that should be contacted. Arrangements of this nature are the responsibility of the parent since bus assignments and stops will remain the same. Please be certain that the emergency procedures you review with your child are consistent with the information provided on the form mentioned above. Review procedures periodically. If there are any changes in the information, please notify the school. In the event of an emergency closing during the day, we will use the Realtime Notification System. Therefore, there should be no need for parents to call the school. To receive this call you must fill out the form which will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

There will be no PM preschool if there is an early closing due to inclement weather.

DELAYED OPENING PROCEDURE

1. If there are ice and/or snow conditions which are considered hazardous to such an extent as to seriously hinder the opening of school, parents and staff will be notified of a 90 minute delayed opening in the same manner as a school closing.
2. In a delayed opening situation, all staff should report one and a half hours (90 minutes) later than their regularly scheduled time. School buses will arrive at stops approximately one and a half hours (90 minutes) later than their regularly scheduled time.
3. If a delayed opening is scheduled and there is no significant improvement in weather conditions, the announcement to delay the opening of school may be changed to the closing of school through the usual channels which include the phone chain and radio announcements.
3. There will be **no Preschool AM** class during a delayed opening.
4. If a delayed opening occurs and weather conditions deteriorate while school is in session, procedures for an early closing may be implemented.
5. **Please note:** If school is open and the parent/guardian elects to keep his/her child home at their own discretion, he/she should follow all the normal procedures for reporting absenteeism. When a student returns to school following any lateness or absence, a note must be sent to the child's homeroom teacher explaining the reason for lateness or absence.

DRIVING PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS

SCHOOL NO. 1

School No.1 playground drop-off may begin no earlier than 8:00am. The School No. 1 **ENTRY BELL will sound at 8:10am.** The **FIRST BLOCK BELL will sound at 8:15am.** Any student entering beyond the 8:15am bell is considered tardy and **must be signed into the main office by a parent/guardian.** All drop-offs must be made on either Stanley Street, Ridge Avenue, or Walnut Street. For safety purposes, students should not be dropped off on Stevens Avenue after 8:00am.

SCHOOL NO. 2

1. **Rolling Drop off** is from 8:50am-9:10am, parents may park in the **parent parking lot** located on **De Young Drive.** **Please walk your child to their assigned door as they will enter there.** **If parking on Morningside Circle and utilizing the path for drop off students will also enter through their assigned door.**
2. **Car Line Drop Off- Upper Parking Lot 8:50am-9:10am.** Students must be seated in the backseat of the passenger side of the car. All students must wait for their car door to be opened by a staff member.
3. **Preschool AM Drop Off** is at **9:10am.** Students are to be escorted to their designated entrance door by a parent/guardian.
4. **Preschool PM Drop Off** is at **1:00pm.** Students are to be escorted to their designated entrance door by a parent/guardian.
3. Observe the **NO PARKING OR STANDING** signs along school property on Long Hill Road and **NEVER** pick up or drop off children on this busy street.
4. **Never** leave your child across the street from the school entrance where he/she would have to cross Long Hill Road.
5. When parking to drop off or pick up students, parents must use the **parent parking lot located on De Young Drive.**
6. When parking on side streets please do **NOT block resident's** driveways and be respectful of their surrounding property.

SCHOOL NO. 3

Families are welcome to drop-off their child at the Garrabrant Avenue gate between 8:30am-8:50am. **Do not drop your child off prior to 8:30am.** This is a drive-up and it is helpful if your child is seated on the passenger side of the car so they may get out as safely as possible. For pick-up at dismissal, please park your car along the surrounding streets and come to the playground to pick up your child. When parking on side streets please **DO NOT block** resident's driveways and be respectful of their surrounding property.

FIELD TRIPS

The Little Falls Schools utilize field trips as a valuable extension of its curriculum. Field trips are carefully planned and integrated with the curriculum. Such trips supplement and enrich classroom instruction by providing experiences in an environment outside the classroom. Pupils on field trips remain under the supervision of the Board of Education and are subject to its rules and regulations. Students are not excused from school on class trip days. Permission slips are sent home relative to each trip. These permission slips must be signed by the parent/guardian before the pupil is permitted to participate in the field trip experience.

PUPIL RIGHT TO PRIVACY

The Board of Education recognizes that a pupil's right to privacy may not be violated by unreasonable search and seizure and directs that no pupil be searched without reason or in an unreasonable manner. In order to protect your child and to assure his/her well-being, the school authorities reserve the right to search students' lockers, desks, etc., as per Little Falls Board of Education Policy. While we do not anticipate the need to conduct searches, it is important for students and parents to be aware that lockers, desks, etc., are, in fact, school property and not the property of the individual student.

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

New students entering the school district must have a physical exam done not more than 365 days prior to entry into the district. Tuberculosis testing may also be done as in accordance with New Jersey State law.

The Little Falls School District recommends the importance of a physical examination at least once during each of the student’s developmental stages:

Early childhood (Preschool through Grade 3)

Pre-adolescence (Grades 4 through 6)

Adolescence (Grades 7 through 12)

A school employee trained in scoliosis screening shall examine every pupil between the ages of 10 and 18 biannually for scoliosis. As part of the health service program, all pupils will be screened for vision, hearing and BP. All health needs identified during the examinations are reported to the parents or guardians.

DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board of Education recognizes that each pupil's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The Board will not interfere with the right of pupils and their parents to make decisions regarding the pupil's appearance except when their choices affect the educational program of the schools.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to enforce school regulations prohibiting pupil dress or grooming practices which:

- 1. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the pupil himself/herself or to others in the school.
- 2. Materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program.
- 3. Cause excessive wear or damage on school property.
- 4. Prevent the pupil from achieving his/her educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

Pupils in an unsatisfactory state of personal hygiene, or in an unsatisfactory or distracting condition of dress, grooming or cleanliness, shall be seen by the principal. Several specific rules relating to dress and grooming are:

- 1. Pupils may wear shorts; however, shorts, skirts or dresses must not be shorter than three inches above the knee. Short shorts, knee gym shorts, spandex shorts, cut-off sweats and cut-off shorts are prohibited.
- 2. Cut-off shirts are prohibited and midriiffs may not be exposed. Mesh shirts without any appropriate shirt under
- 3. Clogs, flip-flops or other shoes without backs or securing straps are prohibited as they are potentially dangerous. (Crocs must be worn in “sports mode”, with the strap securing the heel of the foot.)
- 4. Undergarments must be covered at all times.

The principal will notify a pupil's parent/guardian in such cases as he/she deems necessary when inappropriate dress and/or grooming occurs. Parents will be asked to bring in alternative clothing in such cases.

USE OF MEDICATIONS

The Board of Education disclaims any and all responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of the illness of any pupil. At the same time, the Board recognizes that a pupil's attendance may be contingent upon the timely administration of medication duly prescribed by a physician. The Board will permit the dispensation of medication in school only when the pupil's health and continuing attendance in school so require and when the medication is administered in accordance with Board of Education Policy.

For purposes of Board of Education Policy, "medication" means any prescription drug or prescribed over-the-counter medicine and includes, but is not limited to, aspirin and cough drops. No medication will be administered to pupils in school except by the school nurse, another registered nurse, or the pupil's parent. Medication must be delivered to the school nurse in its original labeled container by the pupil's parent and must be accompanied by the parent's written request for its administration and by the physician's written and signed statement of the medication's name, the purpose of its administration to the specific pupil for whom it is intended, its proper timing and dosage, its possible side effects, and the time when its use will be discontinued. Medication no longer required must be promptly removed by the parent. An exception is made for pupils with asthma or another potentially life threatening illness, who shall be allowed to self-administer medication when a nurse is not physically present at the scene provided permission for such administration is on file in the office of the school nurse and that it complies with the conditions for granting permission contained in Board of Education regulations.

USE OF SCHOOLS

School facilities of this district will be made available for community purposes, provided that any such use does not interfere with the educational program of the schools or be detrimental to the community as a whole. The sole authority for granting this permission rests with the Board of Education through the Superintendent of Schools.

The procedure for securing the use of school buildings is as follows:

1. Obtain application blanks at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools.
2. Submit completed application to the Superintendent of Schools.
3. Any matter of special fees, conditions or instructions not covered by the application will be stated at the time the application is approved.
4. Certificate of Insurance required.
5. All groups requesting to use district facilities will be notified of the district's decision in writing.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

A. Procedural Requirement

Any complaints regarding a teacher made to any school authority by any parent, student, or other person which does, or may, influence evaluation of a teacher shall be processed according to the procedure outlined below.

B. Meeting with Principal

The complainant will be directed to make contact with the Principal of the school who shall meet with the teacher to apprise the teacher of the full nature of the complaint and they shall attempt to resolve the matter informally.

C. Procedure

Step 1

In the event a complaint is unresolved to the satisfaction of all parties, the teacher may request a conference with the complainant and the Principal to attempt to resolve the complaint.

Step 2

Any complaint unresolved at Step 1 may be submitted in writing by the complainant or the teacher to the building principal who shall forthwith forward a copy to the Superintendent. Upon receipt of the written complaint, the Superintendent shall confer with all parties.

Step 3

If the Superintendent is unable to resolve a complaint to the satisfaction of all parties concerned, at the request of the complainant or the teacher, he shall forward the results of his investigation along with his recommendation, in writing, to the Board of Education and a copy to all parties concerned. Upon receipt of the findings and recommendations of the Superintendent, and before action thereon, the Board shall afford the parties the opportunity to meet with the proper Board committee and show cause as to why the recommendations of the Superintendent should not be followed. Copies of the action taken by the Committee of the Board shall be forwarded to all Parties.

D. Special Education

Nothing in this procedure should be interpreted to preclude any person, on the part of a handicapped student, from pursuing resolution as described in NJAC Title 6:28-2.6 and 2.7 at any point in the intervention process.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY RULES

SCHOOL NO. 1

Adult supervision is provided during each lunch recess period. Pupils should seek out their supervisors in time of need. A nurse is on duty during each lunch/recess period.

- * Pupils are not permitted to leave the fenced-in area designated for recess and physical education activities.

If it is necessary for a pupil to go outside to get a ball or toy, the pupil should notify the supervisor on duty. The supervisor will designate who is to get the ball and the supervisor will supervise that child.

- * No forms of “contact sports”, "wrestling" or "keep away" are allowed.

- * The playground equipment should be used properly. Students should take turns utilizing each station.

- * When on the playground, students are not to go outside the fenced area.

- * Kicking balls on the playground area closest to the school windows is prohibited.

- *The grass area is to be shared among students playing organized games like football, soccer, kickball, etc.

- * Use of profanity and fighting are prohibited and pupils participating in either shall be disciplined by the principal.

SCHOOL NO. 2

Teachers and aides are to report to the playground promptly on the dates and times assigned at the beginning of the school year.

- * Under no circumstances may a child climb on or over a fence.

- * Balls outside the play area must be brought to the attention of the teacher on duty.

Children are to stay in the play yard unless otherwise permitted by the teacher on duty.

- * Only the homeroom assigned to the large play equipment may use it.

- * Only students with appropriate shoes will be allowed on the playground equipment, no open toe or open back shoes will be permitted.

- * All playground equipment must be used according to the rules shared with our students by the School No. 2 Staff.

- * No wrestling, football, touch football or other games involving rough physical contact are allowed. Fighting or the use of profanity will result in the loss of play yard privileges and shall be reported to the principal.

- * No snowball throwing or snowball rolling is permitted. Students should stay off any snow on the play area.

- * Children will keep their coats on unless the teacher on duty expressly allows otherwise.

- * Other than school purchased equipment, only jump ropes or soft sponge balls may be brought from home, with no exceptions. Other equipment will be confiscated.

- * Students are never allowed on the grassed areas if it is wet or snow covered.

- * Students who are in flagrant or consistent violation of the rules are to be reported to the principal.

SCHOOL NO. 3

Students are expected to follow the basic rules stated by the lunch supervisors and clearly reviewed at the beginning of the school year with each class.

- *Teachers and aides are to report to the playground promptly on the dates and times assigned at the beginning of the school year.

- * Under no circumstances may a child climb on or over a fence.

- * Balls outside the play area must be brought to the attention of the teacher on duty.

Children are to stay in the play yard unless otherwise permitted by the teacher on duty.

- * All playground equipment must be used according to the rules shared with our students by the School No. 3 Staff.

- * No wrestling, football, touch football or other games involving rough physical contact are allowed. Fighting or the use of profanity will result in the loss of play yard privileges and shall be reported to the principal.

- * No snowball throwing or snowball rolling is permitted. Students should stay off any snow on the play area.

- * Children will keep their coats on unless the teacher on duty expressly allows otherwise.

- * Other than school purchased equipment, only jump ropes or soft sponge balls may be brought from home, with no exceptions. Other equipment will be confiscated.

- * Students are never allowed on the grassed areas if it is wet or snow covered.

- *Reflective practices will be implemented to help students make good choices while promoting a safe, respectful, and positive environment during lunch and recess.

- * Students who are in flagrant or consistent violation of the rules are to be reported to the principal.

- *Students will leave and enter the building through their appropriate grade level doors at all times.

PARENTAL CONFERENCES

Opportunities for Parental Conferences are scheduled during the course of the school year.

If you wish to have a conference with a teacher at other times, please write a note to the teacher to arrange a date and time. Do not just "drop in" during the day as this is an interruption of the educational process. In addition, teachers require appropriate preparation for conferences in order to give the most accurate appraisal possible of the student and the work he/she is doing.

LOST AND FOUND

A Lost and Found Box is maintained at each school. Students should check the box frequently for lost or misplaced articles. Unclaimed articles will be donated to charitable organizations. This is done just before Winter Recess, Spring Recess, and at the close of the school year.

CHECK THIS BOX OFTEN!

FIRE and SAFETY DRILLS

	Fire Drills and Safety Drills are held twice a month. These drills are held at various times and under varying conditions. Sometimes exits will be purposely blocked to test student and teacher reactions. Our students are taught to leave the building quickly, quietly, and safely. Communication of drills will be sent via email once the drill is over. MISCELLANEOUS Visitors are required to report to the School Office to secure a visitor badge by way of providing a photo identification. Articles to be delivered to children during the school day should be left in the designated area outside of the office. In this way we avoid class interruptions and help ensure safety and security.
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LITTLE FALLS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026-2027

8/31-Staff In-Service/Open House Grades 3 & 5

9/1-First Day of School - Single Session Day

9/4-Schools Closed

9/7-Schools Closed - Labor Day

9/22-Back to School Night - Single Session Day

10/12-Schools Closed - Columbus Day

10/23-Single Session Day - Staff In-Service

10/30-Single Session Day

11/3-Schools Closed - Staff PD

11/5-11/6-Schools Closed - NJEA Teacher Convention

11/25-Single Session Day - Thanksgiving Recess

11/26-11/27-Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Recess

12/23-Single Session Day - Winter Recess

12/24-12/31-Schools Closed - Winter Recess

1/1-Schools Closed - Winter Recess

1/4-School Reopens

1/18-Single Session Day - Martin Luther King Day

1/27-1/28-Single Session Day - Student Led Conferences

1/28-Single Session Day - Student Led Conferences

2/12-Single Session Day

2/15-Schools Closed - Mid Winter Recess

2/16-Schools Closed - Staff PD

3/9-Schools Closed - Staff PD

3/25-Single Session Day

3/26-Schools Closed - Spring Recess

3/29-3/31-Schools Closed - Spring Recess

4/1-4/2-Schools Closed - Spring Recess

5/28-Single Session Day

5/31-Schools Closed - Memorial Day

6/15-6/16-Single Session Day - Staff In-Service

6/17-Single Session Day - Last Day for Staff and Students

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If your address or telephone number should change during the year, please notify the Principal's Office of your child's school.

If you find it necessary to withdraw your child during the school year, please send a note or call the School Office Secretary to arrange for a transfer card. This card will grant your child admittance to his/her new school.

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR PTA BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

SCHOOL #1

President - Sabrina Aversa

1st Vice-President - Heather Burrell

2nd Vice President - Debbie Trapanese

Corresponding Secretary - Colleen Larionoff

Recording Secretary - Nenzly Zambrano

Treasurer - Lisa Batelli

SCHOOL #2/#3

President-Keegan Avino

1st Vice President- Jessica Costa

2nd Vice President- Alexis Ariemma

Recording Secretary- Rita Pessoa

Corresponding Secretary-Samantha Runtevski

Treasurer- Wendy Zuluaga

Bylaws-Erin Wilks

NEW
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROCEDURES

AI in the Classroom: What Parents Need to Know

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes more common in daily life, the Little Falls School District is taking steps to thoughtfully and responsibly introduce AI tools in our classrooms. Our goal is to support students in becoming ethical, informed, and capable digital citizens — while keeping learning developmentally appropriate and focused on human thinking.

Why AI?
We believe that:

- AI is a tool — not a replacement for learning.
- Students should learn how to use AI responsibly and ethically.
- Teachers will use AI to enhance instruction, not replace it.

How AI Will Be Used (by Grade Level)

Grades PreK–2

- Teacher-guided only (e.g., storytelling or exploring fun questions)
- Students will learn what AI is and how it works in a safe, age-appropriate way

Grades 3–5

- Used to organize ideas, research, or brainstorm — with strong teacher guidance
Students will still build essential writing, reading, and math skills without AI doing the work

Grades 6–8

- May use AI tools for summarizing, refining writing, and research support
- Students will be taught to fact-check, cite AI properly, and think critically about what AI says

NO SMOKING/VAPING ZONE
In order to be in compliance with state mandates, smoking/vaping is not allowed anywhere on school grounds. This policy was adopted by the Board of Education. Thank you for not smoking!

VOTING INFORMATION
At the annual school election, voters choose members of the nine-member Board of Education. To be eligible to vote, residents must be at least 18 years old on the date of election and citizens of the United States. Residents must have been living in the state and county for 30 days, and must have registered at least 30 days before the election. Anyone registered to vote in general elections may also vote in school elections. Absentee ballots may be obtained from the Office of the County Clerk, 401 Grand Street, Paterson, NJ 07505. We encourage you to vote in the next school election.

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM
The Board believes that all reasonable means should be employed to keep the public informed on matters of importance regarding district policies, finances, programs, personnel and operations. As such, the Board sends this Parent Handbook/Calendar home to inform parents of some of the routine regulations that apply to all students, as well as providing you a copy of the annual calendar of school events. It will be supplemented by a District Newsletter prepared by the Superintendent's Office which will be distributed on a monthly basis.

POLICIES
Below, please find a list of policies that are an important component of our vision. These policies can be found on our district website under the “Board of Education” tab at the top and then “BOE Bylaws and Policies” to the left. Our policies are designed to ensure an orderly environment, where students, staff, and those who are part of our academic community can be emotionally and physically safe. A comprehensive list of all policies is available on our website as well.

What’s Not Allowed

Students may not use AI to:

- Submit work that isn’t their own
- Rely on AI instead of learning important skills
- Create or share false, harmful, or inappropriate content
- Enter or share personal or private information

When Will AI Be Used?

Teachers will always tell students:

- Whether AI is allowed for an assignment
- How it may be used
- What the limits are

If a teacher doesn’t say AI is allowed, students should not use it for that assignment.

Parent Involvement: This plan in its totality is available on the district website. If you have questions or do not want your child using AI in the classroom, contact your child’s principal.

Keeping It Safe and Fair

- All AI tools will be reviewed and approved by the district.
- Only district-approved tools will appear on the official list.
- Teachers may request permission to use other tools if they align with district policies.

If Rules Are Broken

- Consequences will be age-appropriate and in line with district policy.
Students and families have the right to discuss and appeal any academic dishonesty decisions.

We’re In This Together! This is a learning journey for everyone — students, staff, and families. AI will be used thoughtfully to support creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking, while keeping the core focus on real learning and real human growth.

If you have questions, please reach out to your school’s principal or refer to Policy 2365. We appreciate your partnership as we prepare our learners for the world ahead!

Policy Number	POLICY NAME
<u>2361</u>	<u>Acceptable Use of Computer Network/Computers and Resources</u>
<u>2365</u>	<u>Acceptable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence</u>
<u>2260</u>	<u>Affirmative Action Program for School and Classroom Practices</u>
<u>5612</u>	<u>Assaults on District Board of Education Members or Employees</u>
<u>5200</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
<u>2423</u>	<u>Bilingual and ESL Education</u>
<u>6230</u>	<u>Budget Hearing</u>
<u>1523</u>	<u>Comprehensive Equity Plan</u>
<u>3126</u>	<u>District Mentoring Program</u>
<u>2610</u>	<u>Educational Program Evaluation</u>
<u>3283</u>	<u>Electronic Communications Between Teaching Staff Members and Students</u>
<u>4283</u>	<u>Electronic Communications Between Support Staff Members and Students</u>
<u>7441</u>	<u>Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds</u>
<u>5500</u>	<u>Expectations for Pupil Conduct</u>
<u>5512</u>	<u>Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying</u>
<u>2422</u>	<u>Comprehensive Health and Physical Education</u>
<u>5230</u>	<u>Late Arrival & Early Dismissal</u>
<u>5331</u>	<u>Management of Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools</u>
<u>8690</u>	<u>Monitoring Devices on School Vehicles</u>
<u>2415</u>	<u>Every Student Succeeds Act</u>
<u>8760</u>	<u>Pupil Accident Insurance</u>
<u>8330</u>	<u>Student Records</u>

<u>8601</u>	<u>Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal</u>
<u>2415.05</u>	<u>Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing, or Treatment</u>
<u>1510</u>	<u>Americans with Disabilities Act</u>
<u>5613</u>	<u>Removal of Students for Assaults with Weapons Offenses</u>
<u>5611</u>	<u>Removal of Students for Firearms Offenses</u>
<u>8540</u>	<u>School Nutrition Programs</u>
<u>7422</u>	<u>School Integrated Pest Management Plan</u>
<u>5751</u>	<u>Sexual Harassment of Students</u>
<u>2460</u>	<u>Special Education</u>
<u>5600</u>	<u>Student Discipline/Code of Conduct</u>
<u>5350</u>	<u>Student Suicide Prevention</u>
<u>5530</u>	<u>Substance Abuse</u>
<u>2415.04</u>	<u>Title I - District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement</u>
<u>8600</u>	<u>Student Transportation</u>
<u>5516</u>	<u>Use of Electronic Communication Devices</u>
<u>8467</u>	<u>Weapons</u>