

The Abraham Lincoln Elementary School



Parent Handbook 2020-2021

Abraham Lincoln Elementary School
300 Chelmsford Street, Lowell, MA 01851

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Web Site: <http://lincoln.lowell.k12.ma.us>

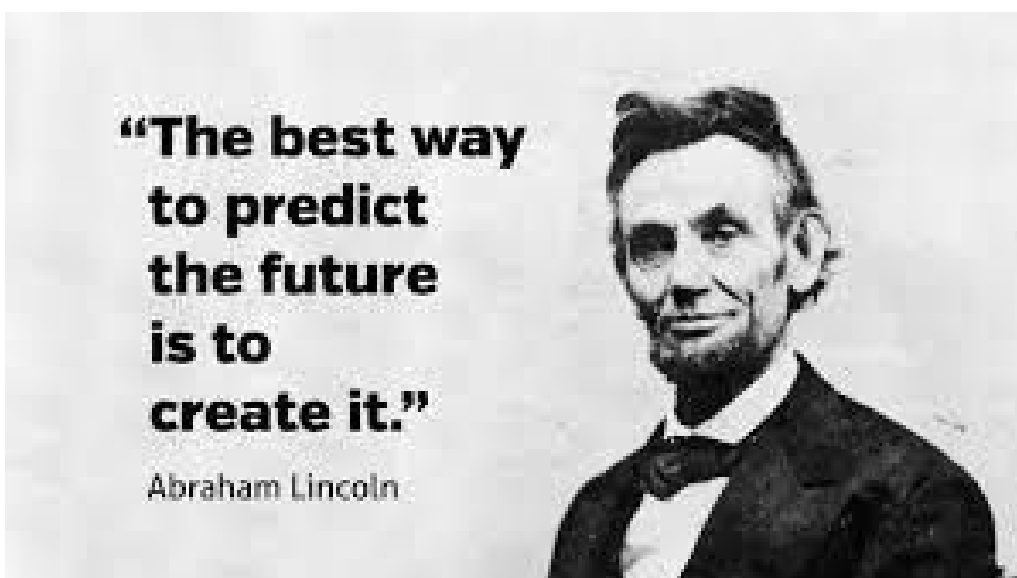
Principal: Mrs. Coleman
gcoleman@lowell.k12.ma.us

Assistant Principal: Mr. Vicente
fvicente@lowell.k12.ma.us

Please follow us on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/lpsdlincoln/>
Twitter @<https://twitter.com/LincolnLPSD>

This handbook was written for the Lincoln School in hopes that the information contained within will be useful to our Lincoln Families, as we work together to achieve a successful, challenging, and rewarding school year. It is only through our work together as parents, guardians, teachers and staff that we can ensure that each and every Lincoln School Student reaches their fullest potential!

We need everyone’s collaboration to make our Lincoln School Vision a reality. We look forward to working together as a Lincoln School Team this year!



Lincoln School Policies & Procedures

Morning Arrival Routine: **UPDATED to Reflect COVID PROCEDURE**

Our school doors will continue to open at 8:00 am. **Please do not drop off children earlier than 8:30am.** Students in **grades K-4** will receive and eat their breakfast in the classrooms. **Students should be at school by 8:30am.** They will be marked tardy if not in their classrooms by 8:45. Instruction starts at 8:45, students may continue to eat quickly at their desks if they come in late-we do not delay our instructional start.

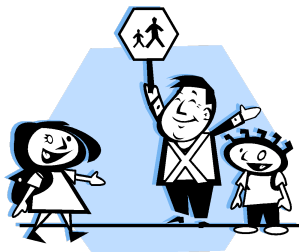
When dropping off your child by vehicle, please follow the expectations stated below:

Traffic Patterns and Morning Drop Off

Please read this information carefully to ensure the safety of all of our Lincoln School students.



Parents should use the **Short Street** entrance to the parking lot and **drive slowly** and carefully through the driveway to the end of the staff parking lot. At the **fire hydrant and traffic cones**, parents should stop their car and wait until 8:30 to allow students out of the vehicles. Although this has been a drop and go in previous years, due to COVID-19, we have no supervision for large quantities of students. Staff, including Mr. Vicente, and/or Principal Coleman will supervise this as we **MUST** adhere to social distancing.



This holding area for drop off is for the morning arrival ONLY. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY as our LOT gets FULL.
No cars will be allowed in the staff parking area during the afternoon dismissal, except for our PK families. PK families will receive a pass that will need to be displayed on the dashboard of your vehicle.



Afternoon Dismissal – For the safety of all parents and students, the walkers are dismissed after all of the buses have departed school grounds. Once bus students are dismissed, students in grades 1-4 will exit the building through the same way they entered. Parents are expected to be on time. As there is **no access** to the school parking lot at dismissal due to the number of small vans and busses that utilize the rear parking lot-please plan accordingly so that you are **ON TIME** to pick up your student.

Before/After-school Care Options

Children may not be dropped off before 8:30 am and must be picked up at 2:50pm. Please find before or after school care for your children if necessary. We have included a list of potential resources for you to explore.

For child care resource and referral information you can contact:

Child Care Circuit – 978-686-4288
Merrimack Valley Hub – MyHub.com

Child Care Programs available in the Lowell Area (list is not comprehensive):

Lincoln School 21 st Century Program	978- 937-2846 (starts appx. Oct.)
Acre Family Day Care	978-937-5899
Boys and Girls Club	978-683-2747
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Program	978-454-6200
Community Day Care	978-686-4098
Community Teamwork Inc.	978-454-5400
Girls Inc.	978-454-7825
YMCA	978-454-7825

Attendance at the Lincoln School

Attendance Expectations - Every student is required to attend school **each** day. Attendance is essential for a child's success in school. Attendance concerns including tardies, and dismissals will be addressed by administration with families. Letters, phone calls, school meetings; district attendance hearings; and home visits are among the interventions the Lincoln School will implement to help improve your child's school attendance. Excessive absences may result in **retention**.

***Vacations are NOT excused absences. Students absent for 15 or more consecutive days will be withdrawn and will have to go to the Family Resource Center to re-register.**



Important Information Continued...

Early Dismissal - Early dismissal from school is highly discouraged. Early dismissal affects ALL students' learning because

of the disruption to instructional time. If an early dismissal is absolutely necessary, **a written note MUST be submitted to the office stating the reason, date and time of the dismissal, as well as a contact number, on the morning of the dismissal.**

Dismissals by telephone are rarely accepted and are for emergencies and must be verified by Mrs.

Coleman or Mr. Vicente. ***REMINDER: Please have your ID available for dismissals!**



Late Arrivals – Students should be at school on time every day. School starts at 8:30am. Students who arrive after this time will miss important instruction time. ***Late students (8:45) must sign into the office.** If they had an appointment please provide documentation. **Excessive tardies/absences can result in retention. Attendance Matters!**

No School/Delayed Opening (Snow Days) – In addition to receiving a Connect Ed Call informing you of unexpected delays or cancellations of school, you can access this information via radio stations (WCAP 980 AM; WBZ 1030 AM; WRKO 680 AM); television stations (4,5,7, FOX 25 and Lowell Ed TV Channel 22), and web sites (www.lowell.k12.ma.us and www.thebostonchannel.com).

Early Release Days– Several times a year, the Lincoln School dismisses students at 12:50pm so that staff can engage in professional development. Please refer to the LPS calendar in the LPS district website or the Principal's monthly newsletter. Please plan in advance for these changes in the school schedule to ensure that your child is picked up on time.

Safety Drills – Fire drills, Soft Lock-downs, Hard Lock-downs, Options Based Response drills and other safety drills are practiced regularly at the Lincoln. Please speak with your children about the importance of appropriate behavior during all safety drills.

Dress Code



Dress Code at the Lincoln School - It is expected that all students will be clean and appropriately attired while in school. Clothes that tend to disrupt the class or contribute to a health or safety hazard in class are prohibited. Students are not allowed to wear the clothing listed below:

- Extremely short skirts or shorts
 - Shirts or blouses with bare midriffs
 - Halter necks or tube tops
 - Jewelry that could cause injury, or is distracting for them
 - Gang related clothing
 - Any other clothing that is deemed inappropriate by the Lincoln School Principal and/or Assistant Principal
 - Elementary aged students should not wear make-up to school, fake fingernails that impact their ability to type or distract them from learning.
- **ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR SNEAKERS ON GYM DAY.**



**MASKS MUST BE WORN BY STUDENTS AND STAFF-
NO GAITORS/BANDANAS ALLOWED.**

Wellness Policy - Due to food allergies and our desire to promote good health through sound nutrition, supplying food for birthdays and holidays is prohibited. There are a few exceptions throughout the school year, and parents will be notified when they occur. All students are recognized on their birthdays. Their names are read over the loud speaker during morning announcements and they receive a birthday pencil and bookmark.

****WATER BOTTLES ARE ALLOWED-BUT CAN'T BE REFILLED AT SCHOOL, as the WATER FOUNTAINS ARE CLOSED due to COVID-19******



Non-School Related Items – Bringing toys, money, phones, video games, and other electronics is prohibited. They detract from learning and often create unnecessary social problems. In addition, the school will not be responsible if they are lost or damaged. These items will be held by administration until they are picked up by a member of the family.



Discipline Framework

The Responsive Classroom Approach - The Lincoln School has embraced the philosophy of the Responsive Classroom. The goal of the Responsive Classroom is to create a school environment that supports the creation of self-control and community and allows both students and staff to invest in their learning. This does not mean that there will not be consequences for student actions. We do use a progressive disciplinary approach.

The Responsive Classroom Approach is informed by the work of many educational theorists as well as the experiences of exemplary classroom teachers. There are seven basic principles underlying this approach:

1. The social curriculum is important as is academic rigor.
2. How children learn is as important as what they learn: process and content go hand in hand.
3. The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.
4. There is a set of social skills children need in order to be successful academically and socially: cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control.

5. Knowing the children we teach – individually, culturally, and developmentally – is as important as knowing the content we teach.
6. Knowing the families of the children we teach and inviting their participation is essential to children’s education.
7. How the adults at school work together is as important as individual competence: lasting change begins with the adult community.

Morning Meeting - One of the major components of *The Responsive Classroom* is the Morning Meeting. The “Morning Meeting” is up to a fifteen minute meeting at the beginning of each day, shorter in older grades. It builds community, creates a positive climate for learning, reinforces academic and social skills, and gives children daily practice in respectful communication. Each day every student at the Lincoln School participates in this important part of the day.



At the Lincoln School we recite our CARES Pledge, it is as follows. It is important to have consistent language with which to share and teach students how to be socially responsible for their actions. It is as follows:

1. I can be a cooperative classmate.

This means that I can work together in a positive way to reach goals with my classmates. For example, “I can be a cooperative classmate when I help my classmate finish our project on time.”

2. I can be an active problem solver.

This means that I am involved and participate in finding the solution to a problem. For example, “I can be an active problem solver when I share my ideas with my teacher and classmates.”

3. I can be responsible and respectful.

Being responsible means that I can be trusted or counted on to do a job, make a decision, or take care of something. For example, “I can be responsible when I follow the teacher’s directions to line up quietly in the hall.”

Being respectful means that I treat a person in a way that I want to be treated. For example, “I can be respectful when I show the teacher that I am listening to her.”

4. I can express care and concern.

This means that I put thought and effort into my choices and how I treat others as well as property. This means that I have consideration and understanding for the feelings of others. For example, “I can express care and concern by asking a friend if he is alright when he is crying.”

5. I can be a safe choice maker.

This means that I can make choices to make sure that people are not hurt and property is not damaged. For example, “I can be a safe choice maker by carefully passing the scissors to my friend the way I have been taught by my teacher.”

*These program components may not work for all Lincoln students, thus individualized plans and approaches will be considered/used to meet their individualized needs.

Discipline Referrals to the Office - Most classroom discipline issues will be handled by your child’s classroom teacher. In the rare circumstance that a student needs to be sent to the office, parents/guardians will be notified by phone, email or an in person meeting to discuss the incident and the action taken at the administrative level.

Detentions – Detentions may be given during, before and/or after school.

If a student disrupts instruction, he/she may be assigned to detention.

Before/After-school detention may be assigned by the teachers, Assistant Principal or Principal. Parents will be notified before the student serves the detention and the student will be required to make up his/her lost instructional time while serving this School Detention.

Bus Expectations – Students are expected to comply with and obey all safety rules on the bus, including **WEARING FACE MASKS** and **NOT changing SEATS** to adhere to social distancing. **There will be consequences up to and including suspension** from the bus for inappropriate or unsafe behavior. Please review the Bus Safety Form at the end of the Handbook.

Bullying – The Lincoln School takes all incidents of bullying very seriously. Please refer to the Lowell Public School District Policy on Harassment and Bullying in the LPS District Handbook for detailed information. The Lincoln School specifically takes a preventative approach through Responsive Classroom and the Lincoln CARES Program. We aim to instill values of caring, active problem solving, respect and responsibility, empathy, and safety in our students. *If you have a concern about your child being bullied, please contact Mr. Vicente, Mrs. Beland and we will provide you with a bullying form to help us start looking into the problem.*

Racial and Social Justice Issues: At the Lincoln school we fundamentally value and believe in the principles that are uniqueness’ make our learning community stronger. We WILL NOT TOLERATE or condone ANY form or racial or social injustice commentary or remarks from any of our staff members or students. Any such instances will be thoroughly investigated and will be met with SEVERE consequences.

Partnering with Families



New Student Intake/Data Collection Update –

1. New students joining the Lincoln school at the beginning or during the school year will be assigned to their classrooms by administration .
2. All new students will be offered a tour of the school building
3. The School Secretary will work with parents to collect cumulative records.
4. The School Nurse will work with parents to collect health records/history.
5. The School Social Worker will work with parents to gather social emotional history and other pertinent information to the students needs.
6. Parents of new students will receive a handbook, school calendar, newsletter and any important forms to complete.

Homework – All students in grades K-4 will have homework assigned. However, due to COVID-19 and our Remote Learning. We do not believe students should have traditional homework. If any additional assignments occur, they will be in the form of Projects so as to embed creativity, the arts, sharing and public speaking. This will also allow for expression of content knowledge through Project Based Learning Opportunities. Reading is critical to all areas of academic development and the expectation is that they **READ EVERY** night. Thank you for your support with this.

Family Nights – **POLICY CHANGE: DUE TO COVID-19:**

Unfortunately, at this time, any events will be held “virtually”. Once we are back to traditional learning platforms we will once again offer events beyond the school day to connect and build our community.

Visiting the Lincoln School and Volunteer Opportunities - **POLICY CHANGE DUE TO COVID-19**

At this time, NO visitors are welcome to the school. We need to maintain social distancing and keep copious records for contact tracing. Once our health data warrants changes, we will once again welcome back all opportunities to engage in the school and with our students’.

Critical Information Every Lincoln School Student Should Know –

For your child’s safety, please be sure that your child is aware of the following information:



- 1.His/her own full legal name.
- 2.The name of his/her parent(s)/guardian(s).
- 3.His/her house number and street name.
- 4.His/her telephone number.
- 5.Where his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) work or can be reached in an emergency.
- 6.How he/she gets home from school each day (bus, walk, car, etc.)

Please notify the school office if any critical information changes after the beginning of school. It is very important that we have the most up-to-date information regarding all students.

Student Services

Counseling at the Lincoln School –

The Lincoln School Social Worker is Mrs. Beland. She is trained to help our students with social skills, conflict resolutions, behavior struggles, attendance concerns and any other problem that may impact a student’s school progress. Mrs. Beland is available to speak with parents and/or guardians about any problem that may arise that could affect a student’s success in school and also to provide resources to parents. To speak to Mrs. Beland, please call the Lincoln School Office.



Parent Liaison – The Lincoln School Parent Liaison is Mrs. Lambourne. Mrs. Lambourne is at our school part time and works to plan school events, community and parent outreach. Mrs. Lambourne is available to speak with parents and guardians about their involvement at the Lincoln School.

Operation Nourish – In partnership with the Merrimack Valley Food Bank, families who need assistance providing healthy meals are given food twice a month to help sustain them on the weekends and during school vacations. Please contact Mrs. Beland or your child’s teacher if you would like to partake of this service.

Catie’s Closet – The Lincoln School partnership with Catie’s Closet fosters support for our students via clothing, coats, backpacks, books and hygiene products. If your child is in need of clothing during the day, we have an entire closet from which we can meet your child’s needs. If your family is in need of clothing on a larger scale, you can request assistance through Mrs. Beland.



Bus Safety at the Lincoln School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is a reminder to all parents and students about bus safety and the rules for staying safe on the bus. Students must follow all Lincoln School Rules including **WEARING A MASK** and staying in their assigned seats-*respecting social distancing*.

- a. Students shall cooperate and make safe choices on the bus.
- b. Students shall show respect for themselves, the bus driver, and their classmates while on the bus.
- c. Students are responsible for their own belongings.
- d. If a challenge arises on the bus, students shall act as active problem solvers. Students should inform the bus driver, their parents, and the school if they need help solving a problem on the bus.

If a student does not follow these rules, the following are examples are what

may occur:

1. Phone call/email home
2. Bus write up-**MUST be signed** by Families and returned
3. Assigned bus seat
4. Parents billed for damages to bus, caused by their student.
5. Removal/suspended from bus

Attendance Policy:

Your child's education is the most important asset you have. **His/Her attendance is essential for his/her academic success. Appointments should be made Before/After school hours or on vacation weeks.** Absences considered to be excused if it is due to one or more of the following well-documented reasons:



are

Family Vacations are NOT excused. All efforts should be made to vacation when school is NOT in session. Remote learning attendance is taken daily, the same as in person learners, there are NOT different requirements. Any documentation may be sent, faxed or emailed to the school clerk.

- Illness with Doctor note Hospitalization with documentation
- Death of a family member
- Religious Holidays/Observations
- Incomplete or outdated immunization records
- Physician's statement attesting to a medical condition that prevents school attendance

Procedure when a student is absent:

1. Parents or Guardians will call the school at the start of the school day on the dates of absence and notify the school of the student's absence.
2. A student will bring a note from the parent or guardian containing the reason and date (s) of absence no later than the second day following the absence.
3. If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to see teachers and arrange to make up work missed within one week or in accordance with a plan designed by the teacher. If the schoolwork is not made up, the student may lose credit for incomplete work-students all have devices: so any assignment missed can be accessed through their LPS device.
4. If a student is excessively absent from school or has a pattern of extensive absenteeism the Principal or designee is authorized to request additional

documentation including doctor's notes.

School Withdrawals and Transfers

Parents/Guardians or an agency with legal custody, (i.e. Department of Children and Families) must ensure students who withdraw/transfer from the Lowell Public Schools are in fact enrolled in another school before a student is released from Lowell Public Schools.

1. Only Parents/Guardians or an agency with legal custody can request that a student be withdrawn/transferred from the Lowell Public Schools.
2. Parents/Guardians or an agency with legal custody must notify the school's office in advance or as early as possible concerning the withdrawal/transfer of a child to another school.
3. Parents/Guardians or an agency with legal custody must provide the school's office:
 - a. A completed/signed withdrawal/transfer form from the child's current school. (withdrawal/transfer forms can be picked up from the school the student is currently attending and must be completed and returned to the same school's office).
 - b. A completed/signed records release form. (record release forms can be picked up from the school the student is currently attending and must be completed and returned to the same school's office).
4. Parents/Guardians of students leaving the United States must provide official documentation to Lowell Public School that the student is leaving or has left the country (i.e. plane ticket, stamped Visa, consulate paperwork).

Lincoln School Dates at a Glance

2019-2020

Family Events

September 26th

“Virtual” Open House:

October 11th

School Walkathon

October 26th - October 30th

Scholastic Book Fair

October 29th

Spooky & Literacy Night- TBD-

December 11th

Holiday Spaghetti Dinner-TBD

December 17th

Lincoln Holiday Show-TBD

March 9th - 13th

Scholastic Book Fair

March 17th

St. Patrick’s Day Dance

April 7th

Art Show & Ice Cream Social

May 27th

Creegan Family Cultural Night

June 3rd

(Field day rain date: June 4th)

*****ALL EVENTS CANCELLED AT THIS TIME*****

***May be Virtual due to
COVID-19***

Parent & Teacher Conferences

PreK- 4

December 17th

Progress Report Conference

3:00-5:00pm

March 24th

Report Card Conference

3:00-5:00pm

Grades PreK-4

October 28th

Progress Report Conference

3:00-5:00pm

**One conference to discuss first progress report in Fall,
and one to discuss report card in Spring.*

Progress Reports

Kindergarten - 4: October 28th, March 3rd

Report Cards

K-4: December 21st, March 29th, June 16th

Fall Picture Day

October 3rd (unknown due to COVID-19)

November 14th Retakes

Early Release/Faculty Meetings

October 7th *Para’s

November 3rd (FULL DAY PD)

November 25th

December 9th

January 13th *Para’s

February 10th

March 10th

May 12th *Para’s

June 16th LAST DAY

*Unless indicated otherwise, all meetings will last
until 4:00pm.*