

Lake Hiawatha Elementary School

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Steve Figurelli, Principal

August 29, 2022

Dear Lake Hiawatha School Community,

I sincerely hope these past nine weeks have been filled with much joy, laughter, and fond memories of moments shared with your loved ones. Summer is truly a time to cherish family, friends, and all of the blessings life has offered each and every one of us. My adventures this summer have taken my family on a road trip to South Bend, IN and Chicago, IL; seen my wife and I celebrate our fourteenth anniversary and my son celebrate his eleventh birthday; and enjoy together countless bike rides, walks, days by the pool, and nights catching Pokémon! Our staff and I cannot wait to hear all about your family's adventures, too!

We eagerly anticipate opening our doors for the new school year on Tuesday, September 6, and welcoming our nearly 450 students back to LHS! We look forward to seeing their smiles and hearing their voices fill our hallways, classrooms, and hearts! The first day of school is so incredibly special for many reasons. On 9/6, we invite our K-5 students to gather and line up on our lower blacktop (on our basketball courts) beginning at 8:45am. Preschool students may gather and line up outside our preschool doors at 9am. Parents/Caregivers are also invited to share this special moment with their child(ren), as we reconnect with one another and our students meet their teachers! We will resume our standard procedures for arrival on Wednesday, 9/7, and each subsequent day thereafter.

Please join me in welcoming several new individuals to our Lake Hiawatha School family! Olivia Batraki and Brooke Tolley will serve as our two newest Kindergarten teachers; Leah Gaidos will serve as a new Grade 1 teacher; Amanda Rutter will serve as a new Grade 4 teacher; Marvin Rosario will serve as a new Grade 5 teacher; Christina Breznak will serve as our new Media Specialist; Madeline Brown will serve as our new GRO teacher; Emily Holmsen will serve as our new ESL teacher; Dena Viscuso will serve as our new BSI/Accelerated Math teacher; Caitlyn Greene will serve as an additional Speech-Language Pathologist; Melanie Jablonka will serve as an additional Occupational Therapist; Jessica Leone will serve as an additional LDTC; Skylar Honimar, Maheen Huq, Nadhiya Mysamy, Jennifer Otero-Averett, Elham Ramadan, Maria Teresa Reusch, and Anita Refolo-Laux will join us as paraprofessionals; and Marie Keegan, Edith Pensado, and Italy Ramirez will serve as Noontime Aides! We are delighted they are on our team, and each is dedicated to supporting and nurturing your child.

The safety and security of our students remains our greatest priority. In order to promote a more expeditious K-5 arrival and dismissal experience, we have modified our building practice for the upcoming school year. Please take some time to review the details and visuals on the following page. Preschool arrival and dismissal is unchanged. Further, all exterior doors will remain secured and locked throughout the school day. All visitors should report to our Main Entrance to scan and sign in through our visitor management system. Finally, additional district- and school-specific information is included in our [School Handbook](#), which may be found on the LHS website.

As we emerge from the immense challenges of these past two and a half years, we remain deeply committed to the academic growth and social and emotional well-being of each and every child. It is a responsibility we take seriously and we will continue to work tirelessly to help your child experience success. Our talented and devoted staff go to great lengths to make each classroom community feel like a family, and we are truly grateful for your partnership, support, and trust.

Warmly,

Steve Figurelli

Dream Big Today, Soar Proudly Tomorrow!

Arrival Visual For Families:

- Doors will open at 8:45am for K-5 students to report directly to their homerooms.
- All K-5 students will enter through our Main Entrance.
- Vehicles should follow all traffic safety rules. Our campus is one-way traffic in and out of the parking lot. We follow “Kiss-And-Drop” procedures. Please stay in the drop-off line, pull up as far as possible, and allow your child to exit the vehicle on the curbside.
- If parents/caregivers must exit the vehicle for any reason, please park in a legal parking space. *Please note: Yellow lines and/or signage mean “No Parking.”*
- All Preschool students will enter through our Preschool doors at 9am and 12:30pm.



Dismissal Visual For Families:

- Preschool students will dismiss at 11:30am and 3pm from our Preschool doors.
- Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will dismiss at 3:20pm from our Preschool doors.
- Students in Grades 2 - 5 will dismiss at 3:25pm from their assigned doors.
- Parents/Caregivers of students in Preschool through Grade 2 must be present to receive children via handoff from the classroom teacher.
- Vehicles should follow all traffic safety rules.



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