



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

124 Willow Drive, Little Silver, NJ 07739

Dr. Carolyn M. Kossack
Superintendent of Schools

Tel: 732-741-2188
Fax: 732-741-3644

August 25, 2016

Dear Parents,

As the summer is nearing its end, I want to extend a warm *Welcome Back* to all as we begin the 2016-2017 school year. To say that things have been busy here this summer is an understatement! Our teachers return next Thursday, September 1st, for two days of professional development before welcoming your children back on Tuesday, September 6th.

We've had a busy summer in terms of staffing. We have many new hires including:

Point Road

- Danielle Berkeley – Instructional Assistant (pending BOE approval on August 25th)
- Madelynn Cappiello – Part-time Basic Skills Instruction
- Ryan Hilla – Health & Physical Education
- Brinn Lust – 2nd grade maternity leave replacement for Annamarie Clapp (pending BOE approval)
- Chelsea Schimpf – 1st grade maternity leave replacement for Jill Lindner
- Emma Schweizer-Baptist – Music Teacher
- Sheritta Dupree – Instructional Assistant (pending BOE approval)
- Mary Kathleen Lane – Instructional Assistant (pending BOE approval)

Markham Place

- Kate Carpenter – 5th grade Special Education/ICR teacher
- Gabriella Esposito – 7th grade Special Education/Math/ ICR teacher
- Emily Hermsen – 5th grade teacher
- Christine Marascio – Instructional Assistant
- Bridget Monaghan – Instructional Assistant
- Dana Noon – 5th grade Special Education/Resource Room teacher
- Rhyan Sharkey - 6th grade English Language Arts maternity leave replacement for Lauren Maynes
- Sherilyn Szesko - 6th grade Math

We are pleased to have hired such a high caliber group of individuals who will enable the Little Silver School district to maintain our quality programs. Please be aware of the fact that *all* of our teachers, new hires and existing staff, meet the criteria for being *Highly Qualified* for the content they teach.

The Little Silver Board of Education was happy to renew our contract with our food service provider, *Simplified Culinary*. Students will be able to purchase lunch beginning the first day of school using their existing accounts, provided you have funds in those accounts. For parents who are new to the district; the Little Silver School District offers MySchoolBucks®! This is an online payment service providing a quick and easy way to add money to your child's meal account using a credit/debit card or electronic check. You can also view recent purchases, check balances, and set up low-balance alerts for FREE! Go to www.MySchoolBucks.com and register for a free account. You will receive a confirmation email with a link to activate your account. Add your children using their school name and birth date. *You will have the opportunity to review any fees and cancel if you choose, before you are charged.* If you have any questions, contact MySchoolBucks directly at parentsupport@myschoolbucks.com or call 1-855-832-5226. Visit www.MySchoolBucks.com and click on Help/FAQ's.



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

124 Willow Drive, Little Silver, NJ 07739

Dr. Carolyn M. Kossack
Superintendent of Schools

Tel: 732-741-2188
Fax: 732-741-3644

For parents who are new to the district, our alert notification system is powered by a company called **CodeRED** Emergency Communications Network. If you have not already enrolled, you must do so ASAP as this letter was only *mailed* to new parents to the district. (See directions for registering below.) All communication is typically digital. Our district is striving to eliminate paper communication as best we can. You will receive some opening day information, but the alert system will be used to notify you when I have posted letters to parents on the district's webpage or when the principals have placed something in the students' digital backpacks. **CodeRed** will be used to inform you of all emergency situations as well as non-emergency related events. **PHONE CALLS WILL BE USED ONLY FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.** It is highly recommended that you register for school and district information as these levels of communication will be via text messaging or emails.

If you are already a registered user with the **CodeRED** provider, you need not re-register. Parents who are new residents can sign up for **CodeRED**, free of charge, at the school district's website. Go to <http://www.littlesilverschools.org> and click on **Parents** on the menu bar. Click on **LSS Alerts CODERed** on the drop-down. Follow the online enrollment instructions and establish a password as a new user. Once you log onto the site PLEASE TAKE NOTE of the final section called ACCOUNT SPECIFICS. This is the section where you would choose the groups in which you want to be included (i.e. Point Road, Markham Place, and grade level alerts). I would recommend that you sign up for grade level alerts as some notifications are grade specific.

As a means to inform parents of district-related information and events, in addition to **CodeRed**, we utilize several forms of communication that we encourage you to utilize:

- The district website, which recently had a facelift, <http://www.littlesilverschools.org> includes:
 - ✓ Letters from the Superintendent
 - ✓ Department & program information
 - ✓ School information
 - ✓ Board of Education information including all policies, and forms that parents are required to sign at the beginning of the year (under the BOE you will find all policies, regulations and forms that pertain to Acceptable Use Policy Agreements, School Provided Technology, Pupil Use of Privately-owned Technology, Highly Qualified Teacher letter, Parent/Guardian consent form regarding publication of student photos, and Board of Education Policy acknowledgement form)
 - ✓ The district calendar is a Google calendar that can be easily downloaded
 - ✓ School websites including digital backpack
 - ✓ Little Silver Schools Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Little-Silver-Schools/1397790480449479?fref=tss>
- Little Silver School District's Twitter feed (@LittleSilverSch) <https://twitter.com/LittleSilverSch>
- Point Road Twitter feed (@PointRoad2) <https://twitter.com/PointRoad2>
- Markham Place Twitter feed (@Warrior_News) https://twitter.com/Warrior_News

New this year, Markham Place will dismiss students at 3:05 PM. This is five (5) minutes later than last year.

Traffic patterns by the Point Road School are always challenging. Last spring, the Borough added an additional Crossing Guard in front of the Point Road School. This helped to alleviate some of the traffic issues. Parents are always encouraged to:

- Use the student drop-off location on the Seven Bridges Road side of the Point Road School
- Drop off on Lippincott Road and have your children cross with the crossing guard
- Walk or bike to school with your child



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

124 Willow Drive, Little Silver, NJ 07739

Dr. Carolyn M. Kossack
Superintendent of Schools

Tel: 732-741-2188
Fax: 732-741-3644

As the new school year approaches, I grow increasingly more excited. We have much to appreciate within our “little” district this year. Through the ongoing support of the Education Foundation of Little Silver (EFLS), there are many classrooms being outfitted with surface pros and SMART TVs. The EFLS purchased another 164 Chromebooks for our students as well as supported some other teacher grants. Your local tax dollars, coupled with the generosity of the EFLS, has enabled us to continue to put the latest technology in the hands of our teachers and students.

Similarly, the unyielding support of our PTO is amazing! The Little Silver PTO supports numerous activities and programs which further enrich your children’s education. They provide Cultural Arts programs for both schools; support teacher grant applications (which enable our teachers to purchase a variety of materials to support instruction); and sponsor all of the field day and carnival barbecues, just to name a few. Most importantly, the PTO is always willing to support district initiatives in a variety of ways such as purchasing classroom libraries. The Little Silver PTO publishes a digital newsletter called Constant Contact. Parents are encouraged to subscribe.

Again, I thank both the EFLS and the PTO for their continued support of our schools and programs, and I encourage you to get involved in either or both of these outstanding organizations.

I am eager to begin the 2016-2017 school year, and I thank you for serving as our partners in education. In an effort to promote home/school partnerships, the New Jersey Department of Education has published a brief *Checklist for Student Success* including things parents can ask and do to help their children thrive at school. The resource can be found at: <http://www2.ed.gov/documents/family-community/parent-checklist.pdf>

The first day of school is always an exciting time for students and staff. When the district enhanced our security protocols several years ago, we established new opening day procedures. Parents should say goodbye to their children outside of the school and staff members will help escort the children to their new classrooms. At Point Road, New Student Orientation is on Thursday, September 1st at 3:00 PM. Therefore, new students will have had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the building and their new classrooms a few days prior to the start of school. For new students to Markham Place, New Student Orientation is Wednesday, August 24th at 11:00 AM. Again, new students will have had an opportunity to maneuver through the school prior to the first day.

I look forward to seeing all our students on **Tuesday, September 6th**. Welcome back!

Sincerely,

Superintendent of Schools