



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, 2017

Dear Parents,

As the summer is nearing its end, I want to extend a warm *Welcome Back* to all as we begin the 2017-2018 school year. This summer has been extremely busy! Our teachers return next Friday, September 1st, for three days of professional development before welcoming your children back on Thursday, September 7th.

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

Administration

- Suzanne Lazzari – Director of Special Services

Point Road

- Jenna Domenico - 1st Grade maternity leave replacement for Jill Lindner
- Jennifer Giannone – Instructional Assistant
- Nikki Johnson – 2nd grade leave replacement for Lindsey Ince
- Cate Moore – Part-time Interventionist
- Natalie Sheehan – Instructional Assistant
- Suzanne Wietzke – Instructional Assistant

Markham Place

- Gary Azarian – Part-time Instructional Assistant
- Danielle Berkeley – Teacher of Multiply Disabled Class
- Julie Cohen – Instructional Assistant
- Sheree Colacichi – Instructional Assistant
- Rachel Hamm – School Secretary
- Nancy Kasprack – School Clerk
- Stephan Mirando - Spanish maternity leave position for Amy Becker
- Jessica Phan – STEM/Enrichment Teacher
- Lauren Seise – Spanish teacher
- Alyssa Simpson – Spec.Ed. maternity leave replacement for Kelly Ribiero

We are pleased to have hired such a high caliber group of individuals who will support the Little Silver School district's 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 and add your children using their school name and birth date. *You will have the opportunity to review any fees and cancel if you choose.* 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 in the district. (See directions for registering below.) All communication is typically digital. Our district is primarily **green**. We rarely send paper notices home. You will receive some opening day information, but this year, for the first time, you will be asked to digitally acknowledge receipt of the information.

Our 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 employ:

- The district website, <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 link 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

School Hours:

Point Road: 8:05 AM – 2:55 PM

Markham Place: 8:07 AM – 3:05 PM



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

Traffic patterns by the Point Road School are always challenging. 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

I am very excited to start this school year. 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 donated about \$100,000 to support technology 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 2017-2018 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. This is a gentle reminder that 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 Wednesday, September 6th at 3:00 PM. Therefore, new students will have had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the building and their new classrooms the day prior to the start of school. For new students to Markham Place, New Student Orientation will be Wednesday, August 30th at 11:00 AM. New students to Markham Place will have the opportunity to maneuver through the school prior to the first day.

I look forward to seeing all our students on **Thursday, September 7th**. Welcome back!

Sincerely,

Superintendent of Schools