



# 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

May 19, 2020

Dear Parents,

We have a bit more than four weeks remaining in this school year. I recognize that “the unknown” is anxiety producing. I will try to address horizon issues to the best of my ability, as school leaders are still awaiting guidance from the State on several issues.

**Graduation:** We are well underway planning for a virtual graduation ceremony that will closely mirror the traditional Little Silver ceremony. Mr. Platt will be sending out a letter to parents of 8th grade graduates with a specific schedule for picture-taking that will take place on **Tuesday, June 2nd**. This will be the only day for picture taking! We have devised a safe plan that has been coordinated with the Little Silver Police, the local Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the Mayor, and the Town Council liaison to OEM. Mr. Platt will outline a definitive schedule whereby two families at a time will pull into the horseshoe drive of the Markham Place School, enter the building from two separate doors, pick up the diploma, have pictures taken, and then exit the school allowing the next two cars to enter and repeat the process. If 8th grade lawn signs are completed, they will be distributed that day as well. If not, they will be distributed shortly thereafter. Police will be assisting with traffic. School personnel will be assisting with directing families. Families will be asked to DRIVE to the Markham Place School so we can facilitate this process as planned and approved by OEM.

The 8th grade teachers have already selected the student who will be leading the flag salute as well as the graduation speakers. The music teachers have already begun to organize the musical ensembles. We are in the final stages of selecting a videographer to assemble the production. While the process requires a tremendous amount of coordination, our goal is to release the production on Friday, June 19th at 7:00 PM. Should anything alter that timeline, we will notify the public.

**Lawn Signs:** The company used by the district for school pictures is BNL School Pictures. BNL is producing lawn signs for both our 8th Grade Graduates as well as our 4th Graders who are “moving up.” Members of the Administrative Team have tailored the signs to be similar but distinctly different enough to recognize the accomplishments of students at the different grade levels. The Little Silver PTO has graciously agreed to financially support the cost of the lawn sign production. THANK YOU LSPTO!

**4th Grade Promotion:** Dr. Albert Devine has been working with a committee of parents to create a form of recognition for our 4th grade students as they prepare to “move up” to Markham Place. Information will be forthcoming from Dr. Albert Devine to the parents of 4th grade students that will explain when the students will be photographed in front of their own homes beside the 4th grade lawn sign wearing their special t-shirt. The photos will be used to simulate the traditional “4th grade Clap Out.”

**8th Grade Summer Gathering:** As noted earlier, the process of creating a virtual graduation ceremony requires a tremendous amount of coordination. We want the event to be special for the students. As indicated in my May 11th letter to parents, it has come to my attention that parents may be planning to petition the Board of Education to hold a summer graduation ceremony. This request assumes that social distancing regulations will be lifted by that time. There is no way to ensure that will happen, therefore postponing graduation is not feasible. SHOULD restrictions be loosened by the summer, the school district will explore options for providing our graduates with a social experience that will afford them the opportunity to see their friends before moving on to various high schools. This consideration will be based on parameters set forth in executive orders from the Governor.



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**Extended School Year Programming for Special Needs Students:** The NJDOE Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning was slated to provide additional guidance on whether our Extended School Year programs (ESY) will be mandated to be virtual or not. The scheduled May 14th meeting for school officials was postponed, and the new date has not yet been released. Therefore, we continue to plan for two potential models, and a definitive decision will be made pending NJDOE guidance.

**Remote Learning Center for Little Silver Parents:** As indicated in my May 8<sup>th</sup> letter to parents, beginning the week of May 11th, we redefined teachers' schedules. The revised [schedules](#) were posted to the Remote Learning Center for Little Silver Parents on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

There are a variety of other issues that will be addressed in the near future. Thank you, as always, for your patience during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn M. Kossack". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Carolyn M. Kossack  
Superintendent of Schools