



Week starting December 17, 2023

Dear Linden Families,

As we approach our last week of school before the new year of 2024, I thank our teachers and support staff for their work in our district. They are with students daily, and every interaction with students matters. I wish them well for showing up and doing what is best for children. As we welcome January 2024, I look forward to being visible in the school buildings to strengthen partnerships and provide support.

***Flyers to register students for Pre-K-3 and Pre-K-4 will be mailed home in January***

Pre-K-3/4 students are happy and excited to be in school. They have become familiar with classroom routines, development of social skills, and adaptation to a structured learning environment. We will expand our Pre-K-3 programming next year. Enrolling students in Pre-K-3/4 allows them to start building foundational skills before entering formal schooling. Students in Pre-K-3/4 programming allow educators to identify any potential learning needs or delays early on.

***Benchmark assessments for Language Arts and Math will begin in January.***

Continuous data analysis of student work has helped to establish personalized learning environments for student achievement. Students' individual needs and interests are incorporated into their learning. We will continue to refine our curriculums to align with standards-based instruction and modify them to support our multi-lingual learners and students with special needs. Our instructional leadership teams and administrators' learning walks provide collaborative discussions on best instructional practices.

***Technology and Artificial Intelligence***

An increase in technology-integrated classrooms continues. Interactive whiteboards, MacBook Air Laptops, iPads, and educational apps enhance teaching and student engagement. Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education has been incorporated through project-based learning. Coding, graphic design, engineering, video production, robotics, and other hands-on activities are provided to students to help develop skills necessary for the future workforce. District leaders are expanding their knowledge of artificial intelligence (AI) to develop a comprehensive use plan in and out of the classroom.

***Safety and Security***

Our District Security team is active throughout our district to keep us safe. Students are encouraged to make positive choices using our tiered support systems that promote non-violence and awareness. By partnering with our mayor for the "It Takes a Village" initiative, we are pleased that students can win a monetary prize by participating in our "Keep our Schools Safe" video contest. Students who submit a 2-minute public service announcement video individually or with a group can win a monetary prize. One prize will be awarded for each level—\$ 500 (elementary), \$750 (middle), and \$1,000 (high school). The flyers will go out this week with all the information. Students will have until Thursday, January 19th, to submit their video. Winners will be announced at the January board meeting.

I firmly believe that we must meet students where they are at, and it shows in all that has taken place this year. Great things are happening at Linden Public Schools. As we continue to soar, strengthening our home school connection is paramount. Thank you for being part of our team. As we move into the New Year, I wish you and your family good health and a prosperous New Year.

Take care,  
Atiya Y. Perkins  
Superintendent of Schools