



Our first day of school is

Sept. 8

- Full day
- In-person
- Five days a week
- Masks required by NJ mandate
- More details provided by each school



LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#LindenCelebrates

Respect for Diversity ■ Excellence in Education ■ Commitment to Service

Linden, NJ

www.linden.k12.nj.us

May 27, 2021

Forum covers range of back-to-school issues

Issues of health, government mandates, and logistics were discussed in depth on Aug. 3 at a Town Hall Meeting regarding Linden Public Schools' safe return to school in September. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Marnie Hazelton hosted the meeting at School No. 1, with about 50 guests in attendance and about another 200 logged

in to participate virtually. Guest were told that: School will return to an in-person, full-day schedule, with no virtual option; the district will follow health guidelines regarding the wearing of masks and social distancing; all plans are subject to change.

[Click here to read about the forum.](#)

[Click here for our full reopening plan.](#)



Familiar faces, new places

Administrators take on exciting challenges, opportunities



Gwendolyn Long is the new principal at Soehl Middle School after spending five years as vice principal.

Quote: "I am Soehl Middle School. This is me. This is my heart. I embody it."



Wayne Happel is a new vice principal at Linden High School after four years as VP at McManus Middle School.

Quote: "I'm excited to see kids coming in from middle school still with that immaturity and growing into young men and women who are going to become productive members of society."



Isabella Scocozza is filling a new position of director of grants and federal funding after two years as principal at Soehl and 14 years as VP.

Quote: "This new role will enable me to work with all of the schools within the district and assist in providing the necessary resources and funding to support our Linden students."



Frank Bandinelli is the new vice principal at McManus Middle School after 13 years as a vice principal at LHS.

Quote: "It's a different perspective. With my experience, I can help get them ready for the high school. I can give them the opportunity to know what to expect in order to be successful."



Click on the administrator's name to read more.

Linden Public Schools

Superintendent
Dr. Marnie Hazelton

Assistant Superintendent
Denise Cleary

**Business Administrator/
Board Secretary**
Kathleen A. Gaylord

Human Resources Manager
Dr. Karen Baldwin

Board of Education

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Special prizes cap off Soehl's summer of STEM



Students in the 21st Century Community Learning Center Summer STEM Academy came away with valuable knowledge about coding, forensic science, and bicycle mechanics. And eight lucky winners rode away with new BMX bikes. Each of eight classrooms in the program for Grades 5 through 8 at Soehl Middle School was given a kit with parts and tools needed to construct a bike. Once the bikes were built, there was a raffle to choose one lucky winner per room to keep the bike that they constructed. [Click here to read more and see more photos.](#)

McManus students create spot to care and share

Students at McManus Middle School built a "Linden Care Box" outside the school where community members can donate items for neighbors who need them. Teachers Nicole Marsh and Christine Correia worked with their students to create the community donation box as part of the Apple Challenge Series. The box contains donated items for safe indoor activities for children. The theme will change monthly, and community members are urged to donate what they can and take what they need. [Click for more photos.](#)



Key dates to remember

Sept. 2

10-month staff
return to school

Sept. 8

Students return
to school

Sept. 28

Board of Educa-
tion work session

Sept. 30

Board of Edu-
cation regular
meeting

Back to School Nights

School No. 1

9/27

School No. 2

9/22

School No. 4

9/29

School No. 5

9/29

School No. 6

9/22

School No. 8

9/27

School No. 9

9/21

School No. 10

9/21

McManus

9/14

Soehl

9/20

Linden High School/

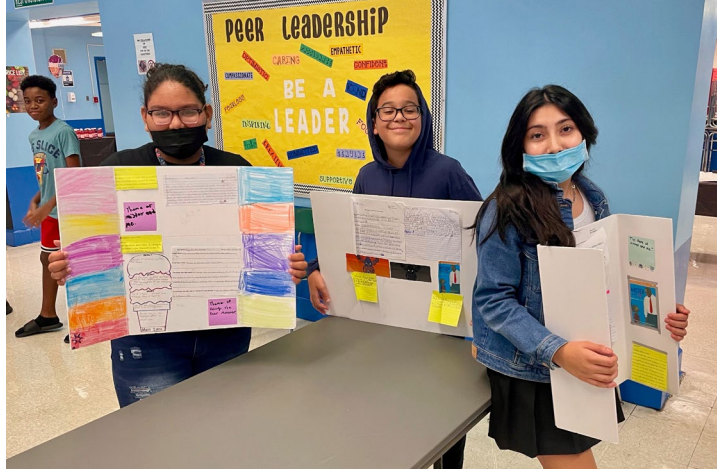
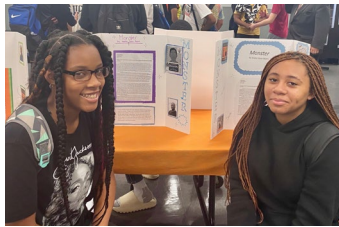
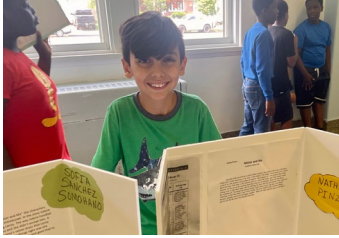
9/23

Academy of Excellence

A summer springboard to success

Bridge Program supports new 6th and 9th graders

Students in our ninth-grade and sixth-grade Bridge Program wrapped up their summer studies with Gallery Walks on Wednesday, July 28, to show off their language arts work for their parents and guests. The Bridge Program is new this year and gives students academic support and social and emotional learning as a springboard to success as they move into middle school and high school. [Click for story and more photos.](#)



Partnership gives Linden staff new opportunities to raise funds

Linden Public Schools have developed a partnership with the national nonprofit DonorsChoose to allow teachers to tap into a network of 4 million donors to support classroom projects and district initiatives. Staff members are encouraged to use DonorsChoose to initiate fundraising efforts that benefit students. Administrators will monitor these projects and are given regular updates from DonorsChoose.

[Click here to read more.](#)



Photo contest gives students new focus

Students in Michael D'Amato's social studies classes at Soehl Middle School learned about lighting, background, angle, and other elements of photography as they took part in a five-week photo contest through May and June.

A different winner was chosen each week as students focused on different themes, such as food, happiness, and shadows. Photos were judged by a panel of three Soehl teachers and each week's winner was given a trophy and a pair of AirPods. [Click here to learn more and see winning photos.](#)



Departing School No. 1 principal leaves legacy of love

School No. 1 Principal Dona Preston retired in June after 33 years in Linden Public Schools, leaving behind a legacy of love for her neediest students and leadership for the many teachers who have served with her. "I was really lucky in my career," she said. "I've worked with seven different superintendents, phenomenal supervisors, wonderful teachers, and truthfully I've been blessed by all the people who have helped me in my career." But it was always the students who came first for Preston, who started in 1988 as a special education teacher at School No. 5. [Click to read more.](#)

