LINK TO HOME
for the Week of September 12, 2022

This Week
Monday, September 12  LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:30 pm, at school and on Zoom. (Click for access.)
Thursday, September 15  Back to School Night (See details below.)

Important Upcoming Dates
Friday, September 23  Early Dismissal for students, 12:45 pm; Instructional Planning & Professional Development for Staff, 1:15pm

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, KATHLEEN M. HESTER, ED.S
We are so excited to begin the 2022-2023 school year! We welcome our new grades: 5th graders, 1st graders and Kindergarteners as well as new families to our 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Our first week was wonderful. We greeted our scholars and really spent time getting to know them as well as introducing and reviewing school and class expectations.

On Monday, we roll out our academic schedule. We are all committed to work hard to ensure all of our scholars grow this year, academically, socially, and emotionally. We are always here for you should you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday, September 15th for Back to School Night. Please see below for more information.

REMINDERS:
• If your child will be absent for any reason, please contact Ms. Brooks at 973.642.0529 or send an email to absent@linkschool.org by 8:30 am on the morning of the absence.
• There are still some gym uniforms (sized for middle school aged students) available at Link. Please call Ms. Brooks to make an appointment to come in to purchase uniforms. Once these are sold, parents will purchase them directly from Flynn O’Hara.
• East Orange Families: Don’t forget to send your Transportation Forms to the East Orange Board of Education immediately.
• Remember to pick your child up at dismissal. Teachers will only be outside with students for 10 minutes after dismissal. You will not want your child standing alone outside.

JOIN US FOR BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT – Thursday, September 15
Meet your child's advisor and teachers and learn what's in store for your child this year at Link's Back to School Night on Thursday, September 15! Here’s how the evening’s program will run:

• Kindergarten and Grade 1: In-Person, at the school from 6pm – 7:30 pm
• Grades 5 and 6: Virtual via Zoom, 5-6pm
• Grades 7 and 8: Virtual via Zoom, 6-7 pm

The Zoom link for grades 5 through 6 is:
We encourage ALL parents to attend! This evening will help you better understand expectations, programs, and processes at Link. An informed parent can better help his/her child succeed in school. See you then!

**SCHOOL UNIFORM CODE**

Please make certain that your child wears SOLID BLACK SHOES and SOCKS to school each day. When wearing the gray slacks, students must wear a SOLID BLACK BELT.

Nail polish, nail gel, and artificial nails ARE NOT ALLOWED. Please have your child remove any of these immediately. Clear nail polish on natural nails is acceptable.

**SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS**

Please complete the Federal Lunch Program Applications TODAY so Link can submit the forms for reimbursement from the state. And, even if your child doesn't eat the school meals, it is important that you complete the form. The forms were given to your child this week so please check their backpack! The forms are also posted on Link’s website for you to download. [Click here](#) and then scroll down the page to “School Meals Program.”

**PICKING STUDENTS UP BEFORE THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY**

To ensure an orderly and safe end to the school day, it is important that parents do not pick children up before dismissal time. If it is absolutely necessary that you need pick up a child early on a regular school day, please come before 2:20 pm if your child is in kindergarten and grade 1 and before 3:20 pm if you child is in grades 5 through 8. On early dismissal days, please come by noon. If you come after those times, you will have to wait until the regular dismissal time for your child. You may want to call the Main Office to let them know you will be picking up early.

**TECHNOLOGY FEE FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR**

We will collect a fee from each student in the next few weeks to cover the Chromebook being sent home later this month. Keep an eye out for a communication about how to make the payment! Thank you to those families who were proactive and already sent in the fee. The Chromebook used in school does not incur a technology fee.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM LINK**

Throughout the school year, Link will communicate with parents in a variety of ways. **But the main messaging – announcements, school events, parent newsletter, and more – happens through School Messenger, our electronic parent notification system.** Depending on the message, we will either call you or send an email or text – and sometimes all three! Keep an eye on your email inbox and check your phone for important messages and information from Link.

It is important that you help us keep our database current by letting us know when you change phone numbers or email addresses. You won’t want to miss out on any communication! Additionally, we ask you to please opt-in for texting, so that we can text important messages, including emergencies for school closures due to weather, etc. It’s easy – just use your phone and text “Y” or “YES” to our short code number 67587.

**LINK’S WEBSITE IS A RESOURCE FOR YOU**

Link’s website is a valuable resource for our parents. Along with the school calendar that you can access from the home page, it includes a Parent Page with a wealth of information for you. To access the Parent page, go to the website, [www.linkschool.org](http://www.linkschool.org) and scroll down about halfway. Under “Connection,” click on the Parents button.

On the Parent Page you will find information including the dress code and uniform purchase information, school meals program and menus, portals to PowerSchool and Deanslist, copies of the parent newsletter, important forms for downloading, and much more. A link to school lunch menu
FEE-BASED AFTER CARE PROGRAM
Link offers a fee based After Care Program for students of all ages running from 4:10 pm until 6:00 pm on Monday through Thursday and until 5:30 pm on Friday. Stay tuned for an email with the forms to sign up for the program and the date it will begin.

“LIKE” LINK ON FACEBOOK AND FOLLOW LINK ON INSTAGRAM
Link's Facebook and Instagram feature school happenings, announcements, and community information each week. Check us out at: 
https://www.facebook.com/LinkCommunitySchool
https://www.instagram.com/linkcommunitycharterschool/

DAILY AFFIRMATIONS
Monday: My happiness is up to me. / Mi felicidad depende de mí.
Tuesday: There are endless possibilities before me today. / Hay infinitas posibilidades ante mí hoy.
Wednesday: My voice matters in every space I find myself in. / Mi voz importa en cada espacio en el que me encuentro
Thursday: Wonderful things are happening to me. / Me están pasando cosas maravillosas.
Friday: I can take deep breaths in difficult moments. / Puedo tomar respiraciones profundas en momentos difíciles.

MESSAGE FROM MR. SILVER REGARDING 8TH GRADE HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT NEWS
The Class of 2023 is embarking on our important journey of successful HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT! I am very excited to partner with you as we work together to learn about, apply to, gain acceptance to, and (if necessary) secure financial aid and/or scholarships to the very best high schools for your children. There are many options for you to explore- independent boarding schools, independent day schools, private parochial/Catholic schools, competitive public magnet and specialized schools, high performing charter schools, and competitive vocational-technical schools! I am honored to support you during the entire process. Here are a few very important first steps you should know...

1) SCHEDULE A "HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT FAMILY CONFERENCE WITH ME!" This individual conference with me, you, and your child, is our first major step towards reaching your goal of exemplary high school placement for your child. The meeting takes approximately 30-45 minutes and can be conducted in person or via Zoom (whichever is your preference). I will breakdown the entire process for you, explain how your responsibilities and your child's responsibilities will be supported by Link, and how I will help make this overwhelming experience manageable and even enjoyable! I have many time-slots available through the school day and in the evenings. To schedule your HS Placement Family Conference, please contact me at gsilver@linkschool.org or 973.642.0529 x46.

2) PLEASE DO NOT REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR THE HSPT/COOP EXAM! The HSPT/COOP Exam is the Parochial/Catholic High School Entrance Exam, scheduled for November 11th, 2022. LINK WILL BE REGISTERING & PAYING FOR ALL 8TH GRADE STUDENTS TO TAKE THIS EXAM! Each year, Link provides this service in order to give ALL 8th grade students experience taking a high-stakes high school entrance exam. This exam is for schools such as St. Benedict’s Prep, St. Vincent Academy, Immaculate Conception of Montclair, and many more! Even if you decide to not have your child apply to parochial/Catholic schools, it is important to give our scholars Entrance Exam experience, especially early on in the HS Placement process. I will register every student for this exam and will help students prepare for it as well. During our HS Placement Family Conference, we will discuss the other exams that your child will have to take in order to
successfully apply to high schools.

3) DEVELOP STRONG & CONSISTENT EMAIL HABITS!! In order to best set you and your child up for success in the High School Placement process, it is imperative that you CHECK, READ, and TAKE ACTION on emails on a daily basis. This is the main way that high schools communicate throughout the high school application process. It is also the best means of communication for me, so I can stay organized and efficient with supporting all 8th grade Link families.

The HS Placement process can be very stressful and scary, but if we partner together throughout the year, it will be exciting, successful, and fun. I look forward to our HS Placement Family Conference. See you soon!

IN THE CLASSROOMS: PHOTOS FROM THE FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL!