



August 8, 2025 – Summer Roaring Report

Dear Lincoln Middle School Community,

Welcome to the 2025-26 school year! This year, join me in welcoming our new assistant principal, Ms. Sirois. We are excited to meet all our new Lincoln Lions and all of our returning Lincoln Lions!

I hope that summer has been an opportunity to reconnect, recover, and rest. For “Part 1” of this communication, I want to share pertinent information with you and your student that will be helpful with planning the next few months. I will also be sending a “Part 2” communication closer to the start of the school year with updated information. Please review and read this carefully then contact us if any questions arise. Our main office is open every day, from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

I want to start off this year by sharing our vision and mission of our school.

Vision: Belong. Become. Be Proud.

Mission: Lincoln Middle School is an inclusive community, rooted in equity, where students grow into compassionate, engaged citizens. We empower the whole student, fostering academic excellence, and cultivate curiosity and critical thinking. Through collaboration, we nurture multiple perspectives, inspiring a joyful and courageous learning environment.

Part of the shift in middle school includes entering a community where there are multiple perspectives, thought processes, and opinions. I believe it is our **duty** to educate students to become listeners of one another, engage in robust discourse, think critically and co-create for the betterment of our society and our world.

The shift that we rarely talk about is that as *parents*, we also experience this shift alongside our children. At times, this change may not feel comfortable, at times it will feel exciting – I invite you to lean into this learning because it can be life changing! Connecting with other families and collaborating with school are a few ways we can support each other and collectively grow.

This year, I am galvanized by the strength and resilience of our community, and the challenge ahead? We will meet it.

To a year full of learning,

Principal Ayala

Important Dates

Tours for Incoming 6th Graders and new students

Wednesday, August 20, 2025
@ 9:00 am and 1:00 pm

**Please call the main office at
874-8145 if you plan to attend
one of these tours.**

Back to School Social!

Wednesday, August 27, 2025
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Opening Week of School

Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025

First Student Day - 8:20 AM - 2:50 PM

Wednesday, September 3rd 2025

Early Release Day - 8:20 AM - 1:50 PM

Th-Fr, September 4th & 5th 2025

Full School Day - 8:20 AM - 2:50 PM

Early Release Wednesdays

Students will be dismissed at
1:50 PM every Wednesday
starting on September 3, 2025.

Community Campus Night

Grades 6-8

Tuesday, September 23, 2025
5:00 PM

Picture Day

TBD

RIPPLE WEEK!

TBD

Fall Conferences

TBD



First Day

This school year, 2025-26, ALL students will start school on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 and will attend school, the entire day, 8:20 AM - 2:50 PM. Wednesday is an early release day, 8:20 AM - 1:50 PM. Thursday and Friday are regular school days, 8:20 AM - 2:50 PM.

School Supplies

This school year, teachers will be sending supply lists that are required for their courses. Please be on the lookout for more communication from your child's Lion's Pride teacher during the week of August 25th, 2025. Students are allowed to carry bags or small backpacks between classes. We will not be using lockers. Please ensure that your child only brings **necessary items** to school.

School Supplied Materials

This year, ALL LMS students will receive an instructional planner. This is to help them develop their executive functioning skills and create more opportunities for communication between school and home! Also, certain content areas will be providing students with workbooks and lending students texts. Please discuss appropriate and responsible use of these materials with your student. If these materials are inappropriately used, you may need to cover the expense of additional materials.

Homework

All students will have assigned homework assignments from all their classes. Please ensure that you are checking in with your student about the completion of these assignments. Reach out to their pride teacher if you have any questions.

Breakfast

This school year, students will have the opportunity to have breakfast before the instructional school day starts in the cafeteria. This will begin on Thursday, September 4th, 2025. Students can have breakfast from 8:05 AM-8:15 AM.



Entrance/Exit

6th	Enter and exit building through the FRONT main building entrance (on Stevens Avenue)
7th	Enter and exit building through the GAZEBO
8th	Enter and exit building through the BACK entrance (off Leland Street)

Drop Off

- Please drop-off and pick-up your child in front of the building on Stevens Avenue. Avoid turning into the **parking lot/driveway, as it will likely result in being delayed by other vehicles.**
- Unless your child has a pre-arranged meeting with a teacher before school or they are having breakfast at school, **please do not arrive before 8:15**
- Buses drop-off and pick-up students on Leland Street at the rear of the building. **Please avoid Leland Street before and after school to avoid being delayed by the school buses.**

Transportation

- **Buses:** Students who are eligible to ride a bus will receive a Reach My Teach message from our transportation department with specific bus information before the start of the school year. Please note that we will have a later bus (leaving Lincoln at approximately 4:10 PM) to the Riverton and outer Brighton Ave/Sagamore areas on Monday, Tuesdays, Thursday, and Friday only, beginning Monday, September 8, 2025. Eligible students may ride the late bus only if they have stayed after school for a supervised activity (e.g. receiving extra help from a teacher, school activities, etc.) and can board the late **bus only with a pass** written by the teacher or coach with whom they stayed after school.
- **Bicycles:** Please make sure your child wears a helmet and has a sturdy lock if they ride a bike to school. Students are reminded to walk their bikes while on school grounds and lock their bikes to one of the bike racks located near all 3 grade level entrances. Please remember that the school is not responsible for any damages or losses caused to bikes locked on school premises.



Early Dismissal

Please follow the steps below for an early dismissal:

- Send your child to school with a note to be dismissed and ask them to bring it to the main office before school starts **or** call the Main Office early in the day, to inform us of an early dismissal.
- Ensure that anyone dismissing your child is listed on their emergency form in Infinite Campus. Students will not be dismissed to anyone who is not on the emergency form in IC. We cannot dismiss the child without written permission from the child's legal guardian. We will also call the guardian to confirm the note.
- Be prepared to show picture identification and sign your child out in the main office.

Attendance Matters – We have a daily goal of 95% for our entire school!

Regular and punctual school and class attendance are essential to a student's educational success. Students are expected to attend school **every day** unless they have an excused absence. The following outlines the LMS policies for attendance and tardiness to school.

Maine State Law and the Portland School Board of Education define excused absences as:

- Personal Illness
- Appointment with a health professional that must be made during school hours
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Family emergency
- Planned absence for personal or educational purpose which has been pre-approved by the Principal. (Students who do not receive pre-approval before the travel date will have unexcused absences.)
- Educational disruption as defined by Maine Law.

Absences for other reasons are **unexcused**.

Students who arrive at school after 8:20 AM are considered tardy and must report to the main office before going to class. Parents/guardians are expected to notify the school office before 8:00 AM if their child is going to be absent or tardy. **Alternatively**, you can send a note, with the child, explaining why the student is tardy. Parents/guardians may call our attendance secretary Judy Yeo at 874-8145 or email her at yeojud@portlandschools.org to report absences and tardies. Tardiness to school is excused for the same reasons listed for excused absences.



School Schedule and House Assignments

Our School Schedule

The school day begins at 8:20 AM and school ends at 2:50 PM every day except for Wednesdays when dismissal is at 1:50 PM. At 8:20 AM, students need to be in their first academic class. Students will be marked late if they arrive after 8:20 AM and parents will receive a text or phone call notification.

Students will attend their core classes: Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies everyday. These core classes are 53 minutes long. Students will also have Related Arts and Language classes that meet for 53 minutes.

We also have built in time during the school week for intervention and enrichment, social emotional learning, and relationship building between students and staff. Students will get their individual schedules on the first day of school and teachers will spend time helping them understand what their day will look like and where their classes are located. Once school begins, students' schedules can also be found on Infinite Campus.

Early Release Wednesdays

Every Wednesday is an early release day for students, beginning the first week of school on September 3rd, 2025 through the end of the school year in June. Students will be dismissed at 1:50 PM every Wednesday to allow for staff Professional Development. Students will attend their regular classes and have a lunch break. Buses will pick up students at 1:50 PM for their ride home and there will be no late bus on Wednesdays.

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast and lunch are available to all students, free of charge. Breakfast will be served before the instructional day begins, from 8:05 AM - 8:15 AM, in the cafeteria. Menus can be found on our school [website](#).



House Assignments

Students are assigned to an interdisciplinary team or “house” in every grade. This approach to grouping students is intended to help them make better connections with peers and staff by creating smaller learning communities within a larger school. With our students’ input, one of our first assignments in grades 6-8 will be to uniquely name and personalize these newly forming houses. We can't wait to see what they come up with! Contact and house assignment information will be shared **5 business days** prior to the first day of school. Please be advised that our school policy **does not support** house changes during Trimester 1.

Student Activities and School Policies

Student Clubs & Athletics

Lincoln offers many co-curricular activities and all students are expected to participate in one or more activities. Unless otherwise noted, activities are open to all students in all grade levels. Look out for correspondence for sign up dates!

Student athletes are required to have a current physical examination to participate in practice or games. The physical examination must have been completed within the past two years and the two year period must include the entire sports season of the sport(s) the student is playing. Student athletes are also required to follow the student-athlete contract, which outlines **academic** and **behavioral expectations**.

For more information on Athletics or Clubs at Lincoln, please visit the [Lincoln Students Website](#) or contact our Athletic & Co-Curricular Director, Frances Krush krushf@portlandschools.org or Principal Ayala with any questions you may have.

School Issued Technology

Portland Public Schools is proud to offer students one-to-one computing in grades 6-8. Chromebooks will be issued to each student by the end of September. The district has made an investment to provide this technology to your child. Please be advised that in order for your child to receive a chromebook, you must send a signed copy of the “Student PPS Computer Use Agreement.” This document outlines the expectations for managing a device and the consequences of improper use of the device. We will send this out on the first day of school.



Electronic Devices

All personal electronic devices must be placed inside a Yondr pouch and locked upon entering school (see [district policy](#)). Students are not allowed to use these devices from 8:20 am–2:50 pm. They may not be used in any manner that disrupts the educational process, is illegal, or violates Board policies and/or school rules. **Students who do not cooperate will have disciplinary consequences, including confiscation of their electronic items to in school suspension for three offenses.** Lincoln and the School Department are not responsible or liable for any item that is lost, stolen or damaged. The best practice is to leave these items at home! If you need to reach your child, please call the Main Office directly at 874-8145 and we will connect you with them or deliver a message to them on your behalf. Thank you for your support with this!

Middle School Dress Code

The responsibility for the dress and appearance rests with the individual student and the parent(s)/guardian(s). For health and safety reasons, students are required to wear shoes or other footwear while at school or participating in school-sponsored co-curricular activities, with the exception of activities that require students to be barefooted (e.g. swimming).

The Following are some, but not all, examples of clothing that could disrupt learning:

- Clothing with statements/graphics that violate others' civil rights.
- Clothing that references illegal behavior such as violence, drugs, sex, alcohol or tobacco.
- Clothing needs to cover the midriff and undergarments.

Students struggling to meet these expectations will be addressed individually and tactfully by an adult in the building. When necessary, a parent will be called to provide alternative clothing for a child whose attire is deemed inappropriate.

Food and Allergy Accommodations

A number of our staff and students have severe allergies. In response to those who may have life threatening allergies, LMS has designated an area in our cafeteria that is peanut/nut free. We are also an aerosol-free campus, so please ensure that your child keeps any kind of spray at home. If you have any questions about these accommodations, please contact our school nurse, Ruth Martensen at marter@portlandschools.org.



Student Early Release Days

In line with the focus of our district's strategic plan, students will have as much time in schools as possible. In the event there are early release days, the school will community with families at least two weeks in advance.

We're looking forward to an awesome school year! We can't wait to see all of the cool things our students will accomplish this school year. Let's have a lot of fun and learn together. If you have any questions in the meantime, don't hesitate to contact Principal Ayala or Assistant Principal Sirois.

Love,
Your Lincoln Family

Belong. Become. Be Proud.

(207) 874-8145 

(207) 874-8288 

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lincoln.portlandschools.org 