



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

August/September 2021

Mr. Arcurio's Corner

It is hard to believe that we are less than two weeks away from the start of a new school year. We are excited to be returning to full-day, in-person learning for all students! While we were hoping that the health precautions implemented due to the health crisis would be a thing of the past, that is not the case as we see more positive cases occurring throughout the country and in younger people. As always, our focus will be on creating a safe learning environment for all students. With that in mind, we will continue to follow CDC guidance and collaborate with the NJ Department of Education, as well as the Hunterdon County Department of Health to facilitate this.

Please remember that our children follow the lead of the adults in their life. We model our expectations here at school and the children do a wonderful job of meeting (often exceeding) those expectations whether they are academic, social-emotional, physical, or health related. At LBS we have always worked as a team with families and the community to educate the children. Your continued support and assistance in helping us to ensure that the children understand the expectations is appreciated. Your conversations with them about the need to wear masks in school and do things a bit differently were a gift last year and led to very few issues with the students complying. I am asking for your support again this year as we work to get closer to "normal" in our daily operations.

We are working hard to develop procedures that will allow our children to interact more closely in the classroom while still maintaining the distancing and other guidelines necessary to provide for health and safety. The teachers became quite adept at teaching in last year's unusual situation and will blend the lessons that they learned with the environment that we have this year to ensure that the children receive the interactive and loving educational experiences that they need and deserve.

Over the next two weeks before school starts you will receive emails with information about the new school year. There is a great deal of information in this newsletter; however, as our situation continually changes, it makes sense for us to continually update you and provide you with the most current information about the school year. Additionally, this newsletter is long enough and I want to make sure that the information is read by all, so I want to break it down some. If you have any questions please

Important Dates

Aug 30	K/PreK Orientation 9am
Aug 31/Sept 1	Teacher PD Days
Sept 2	1st Day for students - 12:45pm dismissal
Sept 2	BOE Mtg. 6:30pm
Sept 3&6	Labor Day Weekend - School Closed
Sept 7	School Open Full Day
Sept 16	Back to School Night More info to come

BETTER TOGETHER!



email me at barcurio@lebanonschool.org. This will allow me to ensure that I provide the information that you may be seeking to the entire community in a future email.

Our theme/motto continues to be **“Better Together!”**

This year, more than ever, we will build upon the importance of being together and supporting one another in our journeys. With the children and teachers all back in the building, it will be exciting to once again build on our core theme that we can be a better version of ourselves when we work together. Be on the lookout for more to come on this.

There are so many things that await the boys and girls this year and I am eager to get started. *Remember that our first day for students is Thursday, September 2, 2021 and the school day runs from 8:40 am to 12:45 pm on that day. Regular days begin on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 with the school day ending at 3:00 pm. Please note that the first day we will hold lunch and recess is Tuesday, September 7th.* Arrival and dismissal procedures are detailed in a section below. We will be utilizing the same procedures as we did last year, with the addition of safety patrol again this year.

I am looking forward to the upcoming weeks and welcoming back all of our families. More to come over the next two weeks...

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio - Lead Learner/Superintendent

Masks

- Per the Governor’s Executive Order 251, masks are required for all individuals indoors in district and school buildings no matter your vaccination status. There are exceptions which are listed in [the Order \(on page four, section one\)](#). As a public school district, we must follow this Order; masks are being mandated by the Governor and it is not a local board of education decision. The Order is explicit that boards of education and other governing bodies cannot override the Order. Mask mandates can only be modified or revoked by the Governor. It is important to note that per an exception by the CDC, if students are properly wearing masks indoors, there will be no quarantine needed for close contacts as mentioned under “Close Contacts and Quarantine” below.
- Masks are NOT required for any outside activities.
- Mask breaks will be taken at the teacher’s discretion and all have been given the latitude to make that decision. When practical, snack and mask break will coincide and will occur outside as they did last year so that students can have additional time without masks. If snack occurs in the classroom due to weather, desk shields will be used.
- All teachers have the opportunity to teach outside throughout the day, as well, weather permitting.

Distancing/Lunch/Recess

- 3ft. Distancing of desks and students
 - Small group instruction is allowed (3ft. distancing w/masks)
 - Desk shields are available for all students

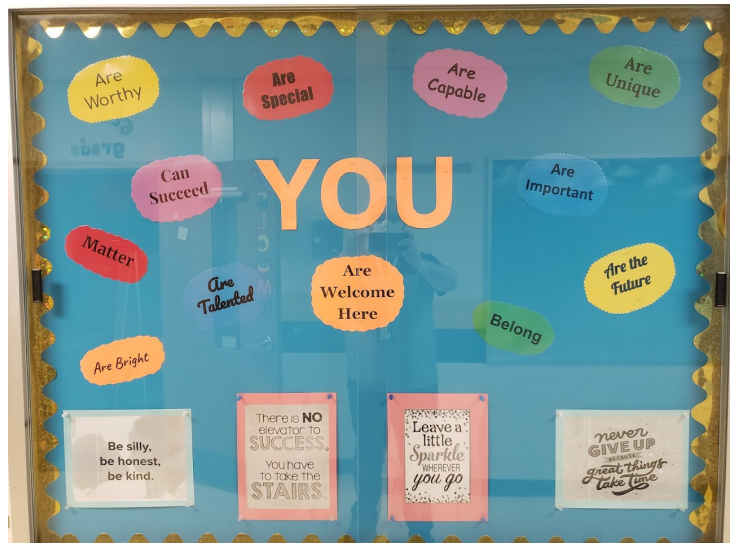
- Students will be distanced from each other by at least 6 feet in the cafeteria while eating unmasked
- We have scheduled 3 lunch periods this year (traditionally 1) in order to minimize the number of students eating in the cafeteria at one time.
- Students will have unmasked recess this year and will be allowed to use the playground equipment in smaller groups. Students will hand sanitize before and after using the equipment.

Screening

- Parents are requested to screen their own children prior to sending them to school. If your child has the symptoms listed below per the New Jersey Department of Health, the child should not come to school. Please inform Mrs. K. in the health office if your child has the following symptoms (908) 236-2448
 - At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigor (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR
At least **one** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of smell, loss of taste.

COVID-19 Positive Cases

- If any student, either vaccinated or unvaccinated, tests positive for COVID-19, please report the positive case to the health office so we can contact trace if needed (908) 236-2448. Please refer to the Hunterdon County Department of Health's [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to track positive cases in the county.



Quarantining

Quarantining is still in effect for ill individuals or those who test positive for COVID-19 as follows:

- Ill individuals with COVID-like symptoms who have not been tested or individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home until at least 10 days have passed from symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms, or 7 days with a negative test result collected at 5-7 days. (Note: if the county is at High level for COVID-19 activity quarantine is 14 days, no testing out of quarantine. [Levels are determined by the NJ Department of Health.](#))
- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic should stay home for 10 days from the positive test result, or 7 days with a negative test result collected at 5-7 days. (Note: if the county is at High level for COVID-19 activity quarantine is 14 days, no testing out of quarantine.)
- An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.

Close Contacts and Quarantine (Important Exception)

- The CDC has an exception for close contacts in K-12 indoor classroom settings as follows: *“the close contact definition excludes students who are within 3-6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.”* Therefore, if students are wearing masks over their mouth and nose indoors, there is no quarantine required for close contacts.
- In circumstances where masks are not worn, such as lunches, PE class, sports, etc., the following guidelines will be followed for close contacts:
 - **Unvaccinated** individuals identified as close contacts of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 should be excluded from school and quarantine for 10 days, or 7 days with a negative test result collected at 5-7 days. If the county’s COVID-19 activity level reaches High, close contacts should be excluded from school and quarantine for 14 days. Note: [COVID-19 Activity Levels](#) are determined by the New Jersey Department of Health.
 - Exposed close contacts who are **fully vaccinated (adults and some 12-year-old 6th graders during the year)** and have no COVID-like symptoms:
 - Do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
 - Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following exposure.
 - If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation of care.

Hygiene

- We will continue to promote and implement hygiene procedures and education with the children
- Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer throughout the day and reminded to properly wash hands

Cleaning/Maintenance

- The custodial staff will continue our procedures from last year, including
 - Daily spray disinfectant of the entire school interior each morning
 - Wiping down frequently used surfaces and common materials daily and throughout the day as necessary.
 - Replacement of filters in the HVAC system in more frequent intervals than manufacturer recommends
 - Use of air cleansing machines in areas where students/staff with symptoms occur

Health Office...

- If your child is going to be tardy or absent, please contact the school by 8:30 am. Please leave a message on the absentee line or the nurse's office voicemail. Messages can be left any time of the day or night.
- Additionally you can use the online reporting system available on the left hand column of our website homepage at www.lebanonschool.org.
- If you prefer to use email, please include Ms. Muia (rmuia@lebanonschool.org) , the nurse (lkosciolek@lebanonschool.org), and your child's teacher as the recipients.



Special Area Classes

- All special area classes will be live and in-person in the school building this year.
- Students will travel to special area classrooms
- Special masks and devices will be used to limit dispersal of air/fluid from instruments during instrumental music.
- All special area teachers will have the opportunity to teach outside if desired, weather permitting.

Teacher Supply Lists

- [Click Here](#)

Staffing

- **Ms. Mayan Barkel** is our new 2nd grade teacher. She was an aide at the school two years ago and worked as a leave replacement in second grade last year. She also worked in the Flemington-Raritan School District during the 2nd half of the year. She is a wonderful addition to our teaching staff!
- **Mrs. Kimberly Ace** is our new Art teacher. She comes to us with years of experience teaching art to elementary students in Basking Ridge. She is a freelance artist and has also worked with children in a variety of non-school settings. We are thrilled to have her on our LBS team!
- **Mrs. Jennifer Salazar** is our leave replacement teacher for Mrs. Horak in 5th grade. She comes to us with experience teaching upper elementary students and Basic Skills in public elementary and charter schools in New Jersey. She is another welcome addition!
- Please be sure to welcome all of our new staff members when you have a chance. LBS is unique in its small town feel and our newest members of the education community will soon see what a true gem they have found in our town.
- **Grade Level Teachers** - Please note that there have been some changes in our grade level teachers as follows. We are looking forward to our new configuration and how it will benefit our children at all levels.
 - Preschool - Mrs. Farrell
 - Kindergarten - Mrs. Adamaitis
 - 1st Grade - Mrs. Walsh
 - 2nd Grade - Ms. Barkel
 - 3rd. Grade - Mrs. Corradi
 - 4th Grade - Mrs. Baldoni
 - 5th Grade - Mrs. Horak/Mrs. Salazar
 - 6th Grade - Mrs. Petty

Realtime Student Information System

- We are working to implement a new student information system this year. Realtime is a central digital location where we will house demographic information, student attendance, teacher lesson planning, student report cards, and mass email/phone/text communication services. We will add additional items like teacher evaluation, etc. as time progresses.
- This newsletter was sent via our Realtime system first at approximately 3:00 PM on Aug. 20th and then sent again via our One Call Now System at 4:00 PM. If you did not receive the email between 3:00 and 3:30 PM, please contact Mrs. Muia at rmuia@lebanonschool.org and we will review your contact information.

Substitutes

- We are in need of substitute teachers for this school year. If you are interested please contact Tricia Duell at tduell@lebanonschool.org.

YMCA After Care

- [Registration](#)
- Due to a lack of interest in the **before-care** program, the Y is not offering one at LBS at this time.

Snacks/Parties

- A snack should be sent to school each day with students
- Please work to send a snack that will not require assistance open, etc.
- Food may not be shared.
- We will not have parties that involve food to start the year. This **is not** at the discretion of the teacher. Schoolwide, there will be no food parties. Please do not ask teachers as they will have to decline the request.
- As always, please follow allergy guidelines for your class supplied to you by the school nurse/teacher

Daily Supplies

- In addition to any supplies requested by your teacher's supply list, students to come to school each day with:
 - Snack
 - Water Bottle (fountains will not be used this year)
 - 2 well-fitting masks (one worn and one in backpack)

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Morning Drop-off

- **Parents of 1st-floor students (K-3)** will drive up Sutton Road through the park and pull up to the sidewalk in front of the gym (stop before the green electrical transformer)
- Once stopped, let your child out of the car. If you need to get out and come around to help small children out of the car, do so as quickly as possible. We will have staff and safety patrol to assist with doors.
- A staff member will be on duty at the end of this sidewalk each morning to monitor.
- A staff member will be on duty at door #12 each morning to greet the students and monitor them.
- The students will enter the building and go directly to class. Please be sure that your child has a mask to wear upon entering the school.
- Parents will pull up the driveway and turn right on Maple
- **Parents of students in preschool, 4,5, and 6** will drop off in front of the school as we did last year.
- Students will enter through the main entrance and go directly to class. Please be sure that your child has a mask to wear upon entering the school.
- A staff member and safety patrol will be on duty at the sidewalk each morning to monitor
- A preschool staff member will also be on duty to assist.



- ***Parents who have a 1st-floor and a 2nd-floor student*** will drop off the 1st-floor student as per above and then drive up, make a right on Maple and drop off the 2nd-floor student as per above
- ***Note: If an older student wishes to get out of the car with the younger (1st-floor student) they may do so and walk up the cement stairs and enter through the main entrance. They may not enter on the first floor.***

Afternoon Pick-up

- ***Parents of 1st-floor students (K-3)*** will drive up Sutton Road through the park and pull up to the sidewalk in front of the gym (stop before the green electrical transformer)
- Please have a card with the student name/grade in the passenger window
- The staff member on duty at the sidewalk will call the name/grade of the student on the walkie-talkie which will be on in each homeroom.
- Once the student's name is called s/he will exit the building immediately through door #12 and go directly to their car.
- Parents will pull up the driveway and make a right on Maple
- ***Parents of students in preschool, 4,5, and 6*** will pick up in front of the school as we did last year.
- Please have a card with student name/grade in the passenger window
- The staff member on duty at the sidewalk will call the name/grade of the student on the walkie-talkie which will be on in each homeroom.
- Once the student's name is called they will exit the building immediately
 - Students will exit through the main entrance and go directly to cars.
- ***Parents who have a 1st-floor and a 2nd-floor student*** will pick-up the 1st-floor student as per above and then drive up, make a right on Maple, and pick-up the 2nd-floor student as per above

Important Arrival and Dismissal Notes

- Maple Street is a one-way street during arrival and dismissal times. Traffic flows from Brunswick to Main Street. The crossing guards flip the sign on Main Street to indicate that cars may not enter during this time. Additionally, there is no parking on Maple Street during these times.
- Do not block the driveway on Maple Street. 1st Floor Parents must have clearance to exit and turn right.
- Any parents walking students to/from school should remember the door noted above where your child will enter/exit the school. Please be sure that your child has a mask to wear upon entering the school.

Sidewalks & Crosswalks

- Parents and children are to stay on the sidewalks and within crosswalk lines when walking to and from the loading zones. Do not walk through the parking lots or directly across Maple Street.
- Crossing Guards are on duty in front of the school and will be encouraged to cross groups of children/adults rather than one at a time.

Parking

- If you wish to walk your child to the door, K-3 parents should park in the gravel lot in the park and walk children to door #12. Preschool and 4-6 parents should park in the upper parking lot



and walk children to the main entrance

- Outside these times, the parking lot is reserved for staff during school hours and/or volunteers/visitors who are on campus for an extended period of time. **Students should not be dropped off in a parking lot**

Rainy Days

- All procedures explained above remain in effect for rainy days.

Dangerous Actions

- Do not make U-turns on Maple Street, in the park, or in the driveway. Cars must proceed in one direction.
- Do not wave students across Maple or the road through the park without using the crosswalks or adult supervision.
- Do not use parking lots to drop off or pick up children.
- Do not pass other cars in the car line. Wait for the traffic to move forward.
- Do not park in the car line

Staff members are there to serve as supervisors to ensure the safety of your children. Please be respectful of their directions; they are here to help. Thank you for your consideration of and attention to these procedures. Your support is appreciated! Let's all continue to be good neighbors who follow all safety and traffic guidelines.

Communication

- LBS is moving to a new Student Information System this year. This will allow us to integrate many of the functions that we currently complete using separate systems. Our attendance, demographic information, Report Cards, Lesson Planning, and mass communication will all reside in this system. Eventually, staff evaluation and a parent portal will also be a part of the system. It is important that we have your correct contact information and emergency contact information in the system to ensure that you are notified as appropriate and that we have additional responsible adults that we can contact in the event of an emergency. **If you received this newsletter via "Realtime" AND "One Call Now" that means that your basic information is correct in our new system. If you only received this newsletter via the traditional "One Call Now" system, please email Mrs. Muia (rmuia@lebanonschool.org) so that we can make sure we have the most up to date information.**
- Communication between parents and school is vital. Any time you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the Chief School Administrator. The school number is (908) 236- 2448.
- If you prefer, the school secretary can forward your call to the voicemail of any staff member.
- Also, e-mail addresses for individual staff members are available on the school's website at: <http://www.lebanonschool.org/Administration-and-Staff>.
- The school uses these methods to communicate with Lebanon Borough families:
 - Email (as needed and generally each Friday)
 - District and Teacher Websites
 - Monthly *Wildcat's Roar* newsletter regarding school activities
 - Report cards and parent conferences
 - Sending home samples of student work
 - Back-to-School Night and Open House & Monthly PTA meetings
 - ***"Realtime" phone/text/email system

Crossing Guards Needed!



HIRING

4 SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS
PLEASE APPLY AT BORO HALL OR
DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION

As Soon As Possible

lebanonboro.com

Teacher Websites

- Our teachers maintain websites. Please be sure to check them out on the [staff page of our district website](#). They can be a great source of class-specific information.

Join the PTA

- Our PTA is a wonderful organization that works in conjunction with the school to provide students with enriching opportunities that could not happen without its support. Field trips, assemblies, family events, supplies, and equipment are just a few of the many ways that our PTA supports the children of Lebanon Borough. This year may be different, but the PTA will continue to support our school in new ways. Please be sure to join the PTA! The [Membership Form](#) can be found on the PTA page of our district website.

Visit our district website

www.lebanonschool.org

and follow us on Twitter at

[@LBSWildcats](https://twitter.com/LBSWildcats)