



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

August/September 2025

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

Welcome to a new school year brimming with opportunities and exciting learning adventures! We hope this message finds you refreshed and ready after the summer break.

Our dedicated team has been working hard to ensure a vibrant and engaging learning environment for your children. We are thrilled to welcome families back because, as always, we are Better Together! Your support and involvement are crucial to our students' success, and we appreciate your partnership deeply.

Our Mission Statement

We are excited to unveil our new mission statement that guides our work:

"At Lebanon Borough School, we believe we are Better Together as we work to help every child reach their full potential. We value each student's unique abilities and foster both academic growth and independent, critical thinking. Through strong partnerships among students, staff, families, and the community, and with programs and curriculum aligned with New Jersey's standards, we equip students with the skills and tools they need to succeed."

This mission reflects our dedication to nurturing the whole child through collaborative partnerships.

Move More, Screen Less Initiative

This year, we're launching an exciting new wellness initiative called "Move More, Screen Less," inspired by our staff's book study of *The Anxious Generation*. This program emphasizes the importance of physical activity, outdoor exploration, and meaningful face-to-face interactions for our students' overall development and well-being.

What to expect this year:

- Development of an outdoor classroom space where students can learn in nature.
- Designated screen-free periods focused on movement and outdoor activities.
- Activities to connect students with the natural world and with one another.

Important Dates

Aug 25	Preschool and K Student Orientation
Aug 25	1st Day for Teachers Inservice
Aug 26	2nd Day for Teachers Inservice/ 1st Day for aides
Aug 27	1st Day for students - 12:45pm dismissal
Aug 27	Brief Welcome Back - Front lawn or gym - 8:40 am
Aug 28	2nd Day for students - 12:45pm dismissal
Aug 29/Sept 1	Labor Day Weekend - School Closed
Sept 2	School Open Full Day
Sept 2	BOE Mtg 6:30pm
Sept 11	Back to School Night
Sept 23	School Closed - Rosh Hashanah

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- Lessons and assemblies dedicated to moving more and lessening the amount of screen time that our children currently consume.
- Home and family participation.

This initiative reflects our commitment to supporting students' mental health and fostering connections with the world around them in meaningful, hands-on ways.

As we start this new chapter together, we encourage you to stay actively involved in your child's education. Join us at parent-teacher conferences, engage in school events, and maintain open communication with our teachers to help provide the best possible learning experience for your child.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Back-to-School Night on **September 11, 2025**, where you'll have the opportunity to meet your child's teachers, learn about the curriculum, and get a glimpse of the exciting activities planned for the year ahead.

We are committed to fostering a positive and inclusive atmosphere where every student feels valued and empowered. Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Here's to a year filled with growth, discovery, and success. We look forward to seeing you at Lebanon Borough School very soon!

Please be on the lookout for my email every Friday at 3:00 PM titled "LBS Important Information," which will begin once school starts. This weekly email contains most of the information that you need to know to keep up to date with what is happening at school.

Our school motto is "Better Together!" We will build upon the importance of being together and supporting one another. 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. There will be more to come on this.

There are so many things that await the children this year, and I am eager to get started. Remember that our first day for students is **Wednesday, August 27, 2025**, and the school day runs from **8:40 am to 12:45 pm** on that day. Our second day is **Thursday, August 28, 2025**, and runs on the same early dismissal schedule. Regular days begin on **Tuesday, September 2, 2025**, with the school day ending at 3:00 pm. Please note that the first day we will hold lunch and recess is Tuesday, September 2nd.

New arrival and dismissal procedures are detailed in a section below. I am looking forward to the upcoming weeks and welcoming back all of our families. More to come in the weeks ahead...

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.
Superintendent

Preschool Update

Earlier this year, the State of New Jersey significantly changed the structure of its **Preschool Expansion Aid** program. In prior years, this program offered **100% state funding per child**, making it a sustainable and successful option for districts like ours. However, beginning this year, the State has shifted to a cost-sharing model, requiring school districts to shoulder **60% of the costs**, with the State covering only 40%.

While we appreciate the State's efforts to continue supporting preschool education, the new model comes with numerous requirements and conditions that make the program financially and logistically

burdensome for small districts like ours. After careful review and thoughtful discussion, the **Board of Education voted at its July 29th meeting not to apply for Preschool Expansion Aid for the 2025-26 school year.**

This decision was not made lightly. The Board and administration are committed to fiscal responsibility and ensuring that every dollar spent provides meaningful value to both students and taxpayers. Ultimately, the revised aid formula made it impractical to continue under the State's new terms.

Despite this change, I'm pleased to share that **Lebanon Borough School will still offer one full-day preschool class tuition-free for the 2025-26 school year**, as originally planned. We remain committed to providing our youngest learners with a solid educational foundation. The Board will revisit this topic later this school year to determine whether we can sustain this offering in future years without state support.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our school and our mission to provide a nurturing, high-quality education for all children. Should you have any questions, I encourage you to reach out to me directly.

School Hours

- **Full Day** - 8:40 AM -3:00 PM (drop off between 8:20 AM and 8:40 AM)
- **NEW: 2 Hr. Delayed Opening** - 10:40 AM -3:00 PM (drop off between 10:20 AM and 10:40 AM)
- **Early Dismissal** - 8:40 AM - 12:45 PM (drop off between 8:20 AM and 8:40 AM)

Health Office...

- If your child is going to be tardy or absent, please use the online reporting system available on the left-hand column of our website homepage at www.lebanonschool.org.
- Additionally, you can 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 at any time of the day or night.
- 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.



Teacher Supply Lists/Summer Packets

- [Click Here](#) (scroll to bottom)

Staffing

- **Mrs. Baker** will no longer be with us this year, and we wish her well in her new endeavor.
- We would like to welcome **Ms. Terri Johnson** to our school community as our new Art Teacher. She comes to us with experience at all levels, K-12.
- **Mrs. Heather Manning** will be our new 3rd-grade teacher. She comes to us with an MA and certification in Teaching K-5. She is also a certified Reading Specialist and has taught in both the Bridgewater-Raritan School District and Far Hills Country Day School.
- **Mrs. Daniel**, one of our paraprofessionals, will not be with us this year, and we welcome **Ms. Jacqueline Lewis** as a new paraprofessional on staff.
- Our Grade Level Homeroom teachers are as follows:
 - Preschool - Mrs. Farrell
 - Kindergarten - Mrs. Adamaitis

- 1st Grade - Mrs. Walsh
- 2nd Grade - Mrs. Corradi
- 3rd. Grade - Mrs. Manning
- 4th Grade - Mrs. Ingram
- 5th Grade - Mr. Pepe
- 6th Grade - Mrs. Petty

Realtime Student Information System

- *In the next few days, you will receive an email with login information for the parent portal.*
 - *Be sure to log in to make sure all of your contact information is correct.*
 - *This is also the place where you will receive report cards.*

Start of Year Parent Forms

- You will also be receiving a separate email with links to various forms that need to be acknowledged (Computer Acceptable Use Policy, Student Code Of Conduct, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Information, Publicity Permission, etc.).
- We are using a Google Form again this year for parents and guardians to acknowledge these forms.

Substitutes

- We are always in need of substitute teachers for this school year. If you are interested, please contact Tricia Duell at tduell@lebanonschool.org for information on how to get started with our substitute service.

YMCA Onsite After Care

- Currently, there is only aftercare hosted by the YMCA.
- *So far, the beforecare program has only had two registrations, which is not enough for the YMCA to have a staff member here, so they have discontinued it. Please contact the YMCA if you are interested in beforecare. If they have enough interest, they may restart the program.*
- If you would like more information on the YMCA before and aftercare, please contact Wendy Crocetti at wcrocetti@ymcabhc.org or Stephanie Lawreck at sflawreck@hcymca.com. They can also be reached at **908-483-4622**.
- If you would like to register for aftercare, you can simply click on this link: [Registration and information](#).

Snacks

- A healthy snack should be sent to school each day with students.
- Please work to send a snack that will not require assistance opening, etc.
- Food may not be shared.
- As always, please follow allergy guidelines for your class supplied to you by the school nurse/teacher.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures **NEW**

We are unsure of the exact start date of the construction in the Park, so we will not be using the driveway for drop-off or pick-up this year.

Morning Drop-off

BETTER TOGETHER!

- **All grades** will drop off in front of the school.
- Students will walk down the concrete steps to the cafeteria entrance from 8:20 - 8:30 AM and enter through the main entrance and go directly to class from 8:30 AM - 8:40 PM.
- A staff member and safety patrol will be on duty at the sidewalk each morning to monitor student arrivals.
- **Note:** A preschool staff member will also be on duty at the front entrance to assist. All preschool students will enter through the main school entrance regardless of drop-off time.

Afternoon Pick-up

- **All Grades** will pick them up in front of the school.
 - Please have a card with the student's 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 the cars.
- **New:** If you have to get out of your car for any reason, regardless of grade level (to strap in a car seat or seat belt, help with a large project or bag, etc.), you will drive past those who are stopped in front of the school and pull through the parking lot. You do not need to park in a space unless you are going to leave your car to go to the main entrance. There will be a pick-up line in the lot to accommodate this. A staff member will be there to assist.

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.

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 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, parents should park in the upper parking lot and walk their 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.

Rainy Days

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

Dangerous Actions

- **Do not let children exit the car on the driver's side. Always use the passenger side.**



- Do not make U-turns on Maple Street. Cars must proceed in one direction.
- Do not walk students across Maple without using the crosswalk.
- Do not park in the car lane.

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 uses the Realtime Student Information System. We must 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, your "Realtime" basic email information is correct in our system. If you have not received this newsletter via email and only found it on the website or received it forwarded from a friend, 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 at 3:00 PM)
 - District Website
 - Phone Calls
 - Monthly *Wildcat's Roar* newsletter regarding school activities
 - Report cards and parent conferences
 - Sending home samples of student work
 - Back-to-School Night Monthly PTA meetings
 - ***"Realtime" phone/text/email system

School Safety

As a parent, you want to know that your child is safe when they are at school. We understand your concern, and we want to assure you that we are committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for all of our students.

We have a number of safety measures in place to help keep our students safe. These include:

- **Monthly Safety Drills.** We conduct monthly safety drills to practice our emergency procedures. These drills cover a variety of scenarios, including fire, evacuation, and intruder alerts.
- **Walkie-Talkies.** All of our classrooms have walkie-talkies so that we have multiple ways to communicate quickly and easily in an emergency. Additionally, any staff member who takes children outside carries a walkie-talkie.
- **Bullet-Resistant Window Film.** All of our windows are covered with bullet-resistant window film. This helps to protect our students and staff in the event of a shooting. This has been in place for almost 15 years.

- ***All Exterior Doors are Locked.*** All of our exterior doors are locked at all times. This helps to prevent unauthorized individuals from entering our school.
- ***Critical Response Graphic Mapping.*** Five years ago, we developed a Critical Response Graphic Mapping system. This system helps to ensure that our first responders (fire and State Police) have immediate electronic access to accurate maps of the building to respond quickly to any emergency.
- ***Cameras for All Public Spaces Inside and Outside.*** We have cameras in all of our public spaces, both inside and outside of our school. This helps to deter crime and to provide us with evidence in the event of an incident.
- ***State Police Walkthroughs.*** The State Police conduct regular walkthroughs of our school. This helps them to become familiar with our building and our security measures.
- ***Memorandum of Agreement with Law Enforcement.*** We have a signed agreement with the State Police to work together for the safety of our students and our school.
- ***Emergency Response and Security Plans.*** We have plans that are regularly reviewed with local law enforcement to ensure that our practices are up to date. We will be participating in a site assessment in the next month to provide any suggestions for future safety enhancements.
- ***Extensive Recess Supervision.*** We have extensive recess supervision. This means that there are always staff members present to supervise our students during recess.
- ***Limiting Visitors.*** We limit visitors to our school. Visitors must check in at the front office and wear a visitor lanyard. These lanyards must be worn at all times.
- ***Staff IDs.*** All of our staff members have staff IDs. These IDs must be worn at all times.
- ***Vestibule With a Double Set of Locking Doors.*** Our school has a vestibule with a double set of locking doors. This helps to prevent unauthorized individuals from entering our school.
- ***Staff Trained for Emergencies.*** All of our staff members are trained for emergencies. This training includes how to respond to a variety of situations.
- ***Arrival and Dismissal Staff.*** Every morning and afternoon, we have 3-5 staff members outside to supervise the arrival and dismissal of students.
- ***Crossing Guards.*** Our crossing guards work for the town and know all of the children who walk to and from school. They have radios so that they can communicate with each other. This helps to ensure that our students are safe when they are walking. They keep in close contact with our arrival and dismissal staff to ensure that we are all on the same page.
- ***Counselor on Staff.*** We have a counselor on staff who is available to provide support to our students and staff. This is helpful in preventing incidents and addressing issues after one.
- ***Wingman Activities.*** We have implemented the Wingman Program over the past five years. This consists of our older students being trained to conduct activities with the younger grades that help our students build relationships with each other and with adults. These relationships can help to prevent bullying and other forms of violence.
- ***Pillars of Character.*** We infuse the pillars of character into our instruction and during morning announcements each day. This helps to teach our students about important values, such as respect, responsibility, and honesty.
- ***PBSIS (Positive Behavior Supports in Schools).*** We use PBSIS (Better Together Tickets) to recognize our students for positive behavior. These tickets provide incentives for good behavior and set a tone of “caught you being good” throughout the school.
- ***Safety Patrol and Student Council.*** We provide leadership opportunities for our older students through the Safety Patrol and Student Council. This teaches our children responsibility and is one more way to engage them with the school community.
- ***Small School and Class Sizes. This allows our students to be known by all. Our school is small, and our class sizes are small. This means that our students get to know each other and our staff members well. This helps to create a safe, positive, and supportive learning environment that is sensitive and responsive to students' strengths, needs, and struggles.***

We know that there is no such thing as a completely safe environment, but we are committed to keeping our students safe..

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. Please be sure to join the PTA! All information can be found on the PTA page of our district website.

Visit our district website

www.lebanonschool.org