

Back to Learning (BTL) Advisory Group

Report and Resources from October 7, 2020 meeting

I. If you are not receiving emails: (ALL LEARNERS)

Missing BTL Check-In emails or **grade specific emails**? Please contact your student's Teacher/ Distance Coordinator in K-4, or your student's Math teacher in 5-8 to be sure you are on their distribution list.

Missing **whole school emails** such as Lincoln Loop and Friday messages? Call the Front office.

II. Teacher Support (ALL LEARNERS)

Many families have asked how they can support our teachers and staff in these demanding times. At this time, teachers are still evaluating how they can best use Parent Volunteers given the limitations on visitors in the building. Stay tuned for teacher requests that may come up as needs arise.

Don't underestimate the meaning of a personal note or email from a parent *or a student*. Kind and encouraging words can buoy anyone's spirits on a hard day.



Also, look for our **Online Pride Paw** form if you would like to recognize a Staff member for showing LA PRIDE (our core values of Leadership, Acts of Kindness, Prepared, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence) on the Lincoln Academy website under Lincoln News.
<https://www.lincolnacademy.net/Lincoln>

III. Volunteer Opportunities (ALL LEARNERS)

We have a large need for **crossing guards** in the afternoons for our crosswalk on Oak Street. These volunteers will check in with the front office and be given a safety vest and a stop sign. If you are interested, please contact the WatchDOGS coordinator, Mr. William Blauvelt at billybleu38@hotmail.com. All adult family members are welcome to participate.

Lincoln Academy PTO invites you to join in planning community events, virtual fundraising, landscaping and the spring silent auction. Please find them on the Lincoln website at <https://www.lincolnacademy.net/domain/106> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LincolnAcademyPTO>.

IV. Google Classroom Struggles (ALL LEARNERS)

Students having trouble with any Google Classroom or SeeSaw features should be in touch with their Teacher or Distance Learning Coordinator. (The Distance Coordinator in Middle School is Ms. Trinkle who is available every day from 12:20-3:45pm via their Google Classroom or Sila.TRinkle@jeffco.k12.co.us. Teachers and Coordinators are eager to help students succeed and will patiently walk Students or Parents any technology challenges.

For Parents experiencing issues with Google Classroom, Seesaw, or Campus Portal the first resource we recommend is your Student! Students are often happy to share their knowledge and help parents find assignments, grades, or material.

If you need additional resources, you can find grade specific Virtual Parent Academies on each grade's webpage for in distance learners. You can also find online tutorials by simply Googling "Google Classroom". Call the front office if you need immediate help or email info@lincolnacademy.net.

V. Learning Protocol if Quarantined (IN PERSON)

All in-person students have already been introduced to and regularly use their online learning platforms including Google Classroom and SeeSaw. They will be familiar with how to find and submit work in the event a grade or cohort becomes quarantined. They will receive additional information from their teachers in the event quarantine becomes necessary. Any technology needs of individual students will be addressed as needed.

VI. Clarification of Specials as Required Core Knowledge Curriculum (DISTANCE)

At Lincoln Academy, "Specials" (Art, Music, PE, Library, and K-4 Tech) are integral parts of the Core Knowledge curriculum. As such, "Specials" are required for both In-Person and Distance Learners. Their lessons are planned to coordinate with and support learning of Core subjects. Please watch for upcoming communication regarding timing and expectations of grade specific Specials classes and/or assignments.

VII. Maximizing use of Zoom time, Middle School (DISTANCE)

Middle School teachers are seeing notable differences in success between students who are and are not attending the required Friday Zoom classes and using daily office hours to personally meet with teachers. (Office hours for each teacher are posted on each Middle School snapshot page.) Students are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to make contact during office hours for any support they need. In some cases where a student is struggling academically, a teacher will require a live meeting. In this case, parents should be notified by the teacher and/or student. Parents may to request a different time if logistics make a student unable to attend the requested time, but understand teachers have some limitations to their availability.

VIII. Screen Fatigue/Brain breaks/Video lengths (DISTANCE)

We recognize distance learners are spending an unusual amount of time online. Although class content is better for their brains than the same amount of time spent on entertainment videos and online games, we still want to pay attention to keeping their bodies healthy and their brains sharp for learning.

Please support your student in taking the appropriate 20/20/20 visual screen breaks (every 20 minutes, look up from the screen and focus 20 feet in the distance for at least 20 seconds before looking back)

Distance learners are encouraged to take Screen/ Brain breaks between videos, subjects, or as needed for fatigue. While there are plenty of online Brain Breaks that students are familiar with including Go Noodle, Moose Tube, and Just Dance, encourage students to step away from the screens for some active exercise or play. Even a short 1-5 minute break for physical activity can improve attention and memory. Parents can benefit from joining students for a few activities when possible too.

Brain breaks can be as simple as:

jumping jacks	running in place	wall squats	shoulder scrunches
jump rope	neck rolls or arm circles	planks	or push-ups.

If your student needs a longer break, consider ideas like:

a small game of tag	hide and seek	balloon badminton
red light/green light	riding scooters or bikes	making a hopscotch maze
or even helping with dishes or walking the dog!		

Parents can help students develop a schedule taking into account that Live Zoom classes (synchronous learning) may be longer and cannot be paused like recorded videos. Younger students may need a reminder for a restroom break prior to live classes and meetings.

IX. Outline for Trimester option to move to In Person Learning (DISTANCE)

A form will be sent to all Distance Learning families around October 16th asking your Learning Environment Choice for Second Trimester. Forms will need to be returned by October 26th. In conjunction with the Board of Directors, the Administration will implement strategies to bring back those Distance Learners who wish to be In Person. Possible adaptations include increased cohort size, reduced distancing, or additional classrooms, if needed.

The first trimester ends December 2. December 3 and 4 may become Staff workdays/ Student non-contact days to facilitate the transition of any students returning to In-Person learning. Students making the transition from distance learner to in person will begin school on Monday, December 7.

Any families who wish to change from in-person to Distance Learning will continue to be able to make that choice at any time.

Please direct any questions info@lincolnacadey.net or the Front Office.

X. Back to Learning Advisory Group

Families have provided a wealth of information on what supports have been needed by Students and Families. Many suggestions and requests have been very quickly addressed and teachers continue to innovate to support all our learners. In the interest of allowing teachers to implement their plans and see the benefits of these new developments, we will lengthen the time between Family Check-Ins. Please watch for further information regarding Back to Learning in late October.