

Lincoln Families,

Hard to believe that we are already a full week into February. With plenty of school still left this school year, know that the end of the second trimester is only a month away. Now is a great time to check in with your student to ensure a strong finish to the term. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers.

Have a great Super Bowl weekend,

Dave

*Please read below for the latest news, reminders and updates from Lincoln Middle School and School District 64.*

### **Lincoln at a Glance**

- M 2/12: Lincoln's Birthday
- T 2/13: D64 Band Solo & Ensemble Night 3:30-7:00; GVB @ Chippewa 3:30 (away)
- W 2/14: Early dismissal 2:10
- H 2/15: GVB @ Iroquois 3:30 (away)
- F 2/16: No School for Students - Teacher Institute Day

### **Looking ahead...**

- M 2/19: No School - Presidents' Day
- T 2/20: GVB vs Emerson 3:30 (home)
- W 2/21: Early dismissal 2:10
- H 2/22: GVB @ Grove 3:30 (away)
- F 2/23: Marine Bio Shedd Aquarium Field Trip

### **No School: February 16 - Teacher Institute**

There is no school for students on Friday, February 16, 2024. On this day, staff will be participating in ongoing professional development training.

### **No School: February 19 - Presidents' Day**

In observance of the federal Presidents' Day holiday, all District 64 schools and

offices will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024.

### **IMPORTANT: Registration for 2024-25**

Registration for the upcoming school year is currently open and needs to be completed by March 22, 2024. We cannot stress to you enough the importance of completing this necessary process as it can impact the ability of our school to plan, schedule and, most importantly, hire teachers and staff for the upcoming school year. More specifically, this can impact student schedules, teacher assignments, and teaching locations in the building.

There is an early bird discount on student fees for families registering by 12:00 on March 18. To take advantage of the fee discount you will need to have the registration forms filled out and submitted by Monday, March 18th. This allows our staff time to verify documents and send out invoices so you can pay them by noon on Friday, March 22nd.

Go to [d64.org/about/register](https://d64.org/about/register) to enroll.

### **Illinois Youth Survey**

On Wednesday, February 21, our 8th grade students will be taking the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS). The purpose of the IYS is to better understand youth attitudes and behaviors that can impact student problems and academic success. It will ask about topics including nutrition, physical activity, bullying, tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use. Students will be asked to complete a survey (with no names or identification numbers) that will be confidentially administered during one class period. The survey is completely voluntary and privacy will be strictly protected.

The Illinois Youth Survey will provide us with a local report of the combined student results which will help to determine which programs may be needed to keep students safe and healthy. The IYS is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services and is coordinated by the Center for Prevention Research and Development at the University of Illinois. For more information, please visit the Illinois Youth Survey website at <http://iys.cprd.illinois.edu>.

The links below provide a notification form officially informing you that the survey is being conducted at our school. This form will allow you to exclude your child from participation and only needs to be returned if you do not want your child to participate.

[IYS Parent Notification Letter 2024](#)

### **Elective Selection for 2024-25 - Due Now!**

All current sixth and seventh grade students should have completed elective

selections for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. If you have not completed this important step in preparing for next year, please do so at your earliest convenience.

### **Save the Dave - Lincoln Spring Conferences 3/14**

Parent-Teacher Conferences are set for the afternoon-early evening of Thursday, March 14, 2024. These conferences are scheduled at the request and discretion of the core teams. Communications will be sent out to those families on March 1st. Should you want to meet with your child's teacher, please email them directly to set up a conference.

### **LMS PTO Events**

#### Movie Night 3/7

The Lincoln PTO is hosting a special advance viewing of Kung Fu Panda 4 at the Pickwick Theater on March 7. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information.

#### Parent & Staff Bingo Night 4/10

Building on last year's successful trivia night, the Lincoln PTO is sponsoring another fun-filled event for parents and staff. Please join us on Wednesday, April 10th for bingo at the Firewater Saloon in Edison Park. More information about tickets can be found [here](#).

### **Snow Day Update**

There will be no school on Friday, March 8, 2024.

D64 had only two days of school closings due to inclement weather before February 1st, meaning Friday, March 8th becomes a Records/Planning Day. Staff will work, but there will be no student attendance on March 8th.

### **IAR Testing - Help your child be ready**

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness Test, an assessment for all students in Illinois, will be administered in District 64 from March 11-March 22.

The best preparation for the IAR has been the quality instruction our teachers have provided this school year. However, there are things you can also do to promote your child's success:

- The IAR is an online assessment and students will be using their Chromebooks to complete these tests. Please make sure your child brings his or her Chromebook to school each day, fully charged. Also, please remind your student to bring ear buds each day of testing.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.

- Provide your child with words of encouragement. While we don't want our students to feel anxious about any assessment, we do want them to do their best.

### **Update 2024-25 Calendar**

The D64 School Board recently approved the school calendar for the 2024-25 school year. View the calendar [here](#).

### **Calling All Young Authors!**

The D64 Young Authors Contest is an independent, voluntary at-home project for students interested in writing and publishing their work for others to read. Here is a more detailed overview of [this year's guidelines](#). Submissions are due by March 1st.

### **8th Grade Promotion - Save the Date**

A promotion ceremony for our 8th grade students has been tentatively set for Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at Maine East High School. Details will still need to be discussed and finalized. For now, save the date.

### **Maine South High School - Info for Current 8th Grade Students**

Maine South High School has recently provided us with information for our current 8th grade/incoming 9th grade students and parents. Please see [this letter](#) from their administration and mark your calendars for upcoming events.

Additionally, you can see the timeline for upcoming events for incoming freshmen [HERE](#).

### **After-School Clubs (TLCs) and Activities**

We have after-school clubs and activities available for students on a drop-in basis. We want all of our students to get involved, so take a look at the teen leisure club offerings and encourage your son or daughter to join in on the fun. New clubs and activities will be posted after the break.

### [Second Trimester TLCs](#)

### **Illness Reminders**

Cold and Flu Season is here! Please do not send your student to school if they have a fever of 100 or above, vomiting and/or diarrhea, or if they feel too sick with a sore throat, cough, runny nose, etc. to participate in class. Keep them home, give them time to rest and do not send them back to school until they are 24 hours free of vomiting, fever, and diarrhea without the use of medication AND feeling well enough to participate in the school day. [Please read this illness letter](#) that was sent home earlier this year about the common illnesses we're seeing this time of year. IDPH and CDC have asked us to remind you to make sure you and your students

are up to date on your flu and COVID immunizations (and RSV vaccine for infants or older adults).

If your child will not be attending school due to illness or any other reason, please report it to the school absence line at any time and leave a message stating the reason for the absence. We want everyone to be healthy for the last week of school before break and want to help everyone have a healthy holiday season.

### **Absences**

Please call the office attendance number (847-318-4215) if/when students miss class for any reason. Also, please be sure to contact the school nurse, Rachel Ossmo (847- 318-4219) with any illness/medical information related to the absence. If a student is leaving for an appointment, it is recommended to send a note with your child to provide to his/her classroom teacher. Students should come down to the office at their designated time; the front office will not be calling into classrooms for your student.

Please remember that you can check your child's attendance through the PowerSchool Parent Portal..

NOTE: As a reminder and per the D64 [Student-Parent Handbook](#), absences due to vacations, attendance at a cultural or sporting event, or participation in a team sport, acting or fine arts performance are considered unexcused. Work will be given upon return for students leaving the country or immediate District area when your children RETURN to school. It must be completed at home under a parent's supervision. Teachers are not expected to provide homework or assignments in advance for students who will be absent for an extended period of time for a family vacation and other activities.

### **Portal Access**

All Lincoln students and parents are provided access to schedules via the PowerSchool parent and student portals. The PowerSchool Parent Portal allows you access to your student's academic information, including student schedules and grades. To gain access to the Parent Portal, please go to [ps.d64.org](https://ps.d64.org). If you have any questions on how to login, please contact the Lincoln Main Office for assistance (847) 318-4215.

### **Schoology Parent Access**

Schoology will be utilized by students to help navigate their remote learning day and will include links to students' virtual class meetings. Parents can also access students' classes and monitor student assignments. To assist, we have created [THIS VIDEO](#) to assist in navigating this new learning platform.

Not connected to Schoology yet? [Follow the directions here!](#)

### **School Hours**

School hours for student classes are from 8:05 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Please note that each Wednesday, students are dismissed at 2:10 p.m. for staff professional development activities.

Doors to the school open for students each morning at 7:58 a.m. Homeroom begins at 8:05 a.m.

### **Office Hours**

School office hours are from 7:20 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Remember that our student absence line (847) 318-4215 is available 24 hours a day. Please let the Lincoln Office know as soon as possible if your child will not be in attendance. Please do not rely on e-mail notification for reporting absences as it may not be seen until later in the day.

### **Lincoln Website and Calendar**

The Lincoln website and Lincoln school calendar are valuable resources to keep informed of important updates and events throughout the year. The calendar is kept up to date throughout the school year, and new information is posted regularly. We hope that these tools are helpful resources for keeping you and your student organized and informed as we progress through the year.

[Lincoln Website](#)

[D64 Website](#)

Calendars for 2023-2024 can be viewed [HERE](#).

### **Student-Parent Handbook**

Lincoln Middle School, along with all District 64 schools, operates in accordance to policies and practices that have been reviewed and implemented by the District 64 Board of Education. Please review the [D64 Student-Parent Handbook](#) prior to the start of the school year to familiarize yourself with the information contained in it. We want to work in partnership with you to ensure a positive school year, and having an understanding of this information will help to promote a successful school year. This handbook is intended as a convenience for District 64 families and staff by summarizing selected information about procedures, services and programs. It also provides a quick reference for contact information and District timelines.