



# Little Falls Township Public Schools

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The 2017-18 school year is around the corner, and we are thrilled with what this school year has in store for your children. This year, we will be focusing on what it means to have HORNET PRIDE. One major attribute that should be encompassed through Hornet Pride is **Kindness**. For this reason, we have decided to use **Kindness** as our 2017-18 theme.

## **“One District...One Team...One Vision...Always Kind”**

As I officially welcome back our returning families and extend a warm welcome to those who are new, I would like to share some important information about our upcoming school year.

### **What will the 2017-18 school year bring:**

- Painting at all three schools
- New wall mats in all three All Purpose Rooms
- 1:1 Chromebooks grades 5-8
- Increased Science time for grades 5&6
- Enhanced STEAM opportunities
- Photography Class at School 1
- A district Instagram account
- A Literacy Specialist
- An additional Part Time School Counselor
- New signage
- Extended Early Morning Drop Off at School 2
- Industrial fans for all three All Purpose Rooms
- Continued commitment to small class sizes

### **Test Sores:**

The preliminary PARCC test data has arrived, and Little Falls has reason to celebrate. In all grade levels and content areas, we are now performing well above the state. We have showed significant gains, in Math and English Language Arts, as well as students moving from meeting expectations to exceeding expectations.

In order to continue this success and work towards enhancing other areas, the district has secured a Literacy Specialist and Mathematics Consultant. These specialists will work directly with the Superintendent, DEAC, and teachers to use data in order to maximize student success.

A comprehensive Test Score analysis presentation will take place during September or October, depending on the release and receipt of the final PARCC data.

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## **Pride Guide:**

This year, each family will receive a Pride Guide. The Pride Guide will outline expectations and provide common language for what it means to have Hornet Pride. In addition, the Pride Guide will also be housed on our Website for your convenience. Each student and parent/guardian will be asked to sign and return a form acknowledging that they have read the guide.

## **2017-2018 Goals and Objectives:**

After an in-depth analysis of both staff and student data by the District Evaluation Committee (DEAC), School Improvement Panels (ScIP), and Administrative Team, the 2017-18 Goals and Objectives have been developed. We use a pyramid approach, where Goals and Objectives are developed for the District first and then each school team develops their Goals and Objectives. This encourages a common vision, while allowing for individual implementation, activities, and rationale. Attached, please find a list of the district and school goals. The entire plan is posted on the Home Page of our Website under the "Goals and Objectives" tab.

The Administrative Team will be presenting the 2017-18 Goals and Objectives in their entirety during our August 29<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Meeting. The meeting will be held at School No. 1 at 7:00pm in Room 103. Please come and join us.

## **Communication:**

In order to reduce the amount of paper used, we will continue to primarily send flyers home digitally. Posted on the left hand side of each School's Home Page of the Website is a section labeled "Friday Folder".

You have been asked to provide us with one or more telephone numbers and email addresses. Please make sure that your child's Main Office(s) has your most recent information, as these tools are used not only to pass along daily information, but are also used for emergency situations.

Below are ways that you can stay connected with us:

Website: [www.lfschools.org](http://www.lfschools.org)

Twitter: @LFSchools

@LFSchool2

@LFSchool3

@LFSchool1

Instagram lfsuperintendent

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**Policies:**

Below, please find a list of policies that are an important component of our vision. These policies can be found on our District Website under the “Board of Education” tab at the top and then “BOE Bylaws and Policies” to the left. Our policies are designed to ensure an orderly environment, where students, staff, and those who are part of our academic community can be emotionally and physically safe. A comprehensive list of all policies is available on our Website as well.

Policy Number	Policy Name
2361	Acceptable Use of Computer Networks/Computers and Resources
2260	Affirmative Action Program for School and Classroom Practices
5612	Assaults on District Board of Education Members or Employees
2423	Bilingual and ESL Education
6230	Budget Hearing
1523	Comprehensive Equity Plan
3126	District Mentoring Program
2610	Educational Program Evaluation
3283	Electronic Communications Between Teaching Staff Members and Students
4283	Electronic Communications Between Support Staff Members and Students
7441	Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds
5500	Expectations for Pupil Conduct
5512	Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
2415.03	Highly Qualified Teachers
2422	Health and Physical Education
5230	Late Arrival & Early Dismissal
5331	Management of Life – Threatening Allergies in Schools
2415	No Child Left Behind Programs
8760	Pupil Accident Insurance
8330	Student Records
8601	Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal
2415.05	Pupil Surveys, Analysis and/or Evaluations
1510	Americans with Disabilities Act
5613	Removal of Students for Assaults with Weapons Offenses
5611	Removal of Students for Firearms offenses
8540	School Nutrition Programs
7422	School Integrated Pest Management Plan
5751	Sexual Harassment
2460	Special Education
5600	Student Discipline / Code of Conduct
5350	Student Suicide Prevention
5530	Substance Abuse
2415.04	Title I District-Wide Parental Involvement
8600	Transportation
8467	Weapons

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Please be reminded that there have been some changes to our time schedule to allow more time for parents to travel between schools.

**NEW TIME SCHEDULE:**

School 2

Early Morning Drop Off	8:15am
Full Day Preschool and Grades K – 2	9:00am – 3:20pm
AM Preschool	9:00am – 11:30am
PM Preschool	12:50pm – 3:20pm

School 3

Early Morning Drop Off	8:05am
Grades 3 & 4	8:45am – 3:05pm

School 1

Grades 5 – 8	8:28am – 2:57pm
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As the beginning of a new school year rapidly approaches, please enjoy your remaining summer days. Use this time to refresh, recharge, and reconnect with friends and family. As always, if you have any questions or concerns my door is always open. I leave you with the following: **One kind word can change someone's entire day: Say Please and Thank You...Hold the door open for someone...Respect Differences...Let someone go in front of you...Just be KIND.**

Yours in kindness,



Tracey Marinelli

Superintendent of Schools

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## **2017-18 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **DISTRICT**

1. All educators will identify, prioritize, and incorporate the use of technology to achieve learning objectives in all disciplines within each school's curriculum as appropriate.
2. All staff will develop and implement a coherent curriculum that is aligned with assessments; addresses needs of our diverse student population, and guides interventions for students.
3. Teacher teams and administrators will identify essential content and learning expectations for each grade level / subject area that are aligned to state standards and will clearly communicate them to students and parents.

### **SCHOOL NO. 1**

1. Support teachers in implementing technology using a 1:1 chromebook initiative.
2. Support teachers in developing an effective inclusion and basic skills environment.
3. Refine and update content, learning expectations, and standards alignment in ATLAS for subject / grade level curriculum maps and cross content activities.



## **2017-18 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **SCHOOL NO. 2**

1. Support teachers in using technology across the curriculum as well as a means of communication between school / home.
2. Implement strategies and programs to address the needs of our diverse population and begin to close our achievement gap.
3. Implement a cohesive academic program that is transparent.

### **SCHOOL NO. 3**

1. Incorporate the use of the technology to achieve learning objectives and to help support the development of independent learners.
2. Develop and implement a coherent curriculum that is aligned with assessments, addresses needs for our diverse student population, and guides interventions for students.
3. Refine and update content, learning expectations, and standards alignment in ATLAS for subject / grade level curriculum maps.