

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools*

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Dear Lynn Public Schools Families,

I am writing to update you on matters related to the upcoming school year. As you might imagine, each week brings with it new information and shifts to existing guidance. There is much to share so I am doing so in an accessible format. The updates and information are below. First, some good news: Lynn Public Schools was recently awarded a \$1.6 million Remote Learning Technology Essentials Grant. As has been communicated previously, with School Committee approval, we used the remaining funds from the previous fiscal year to purchase enough devices for each student to have one, grades 3-12. In addition to some necessary equipment and peripherals, this grant award makes possible the purchase of devices for all students in grades k-2. We are excited for students, first and foremost, and grateful for the state's generosity.

Upcoming Virtual Town Hall

Monday, August 24th 6pm – Presentation and discussion on Special Education ([English](#); [Espanol](#))

Staying Updated

As we prepare to open the 2020-21 school year in a way never done before in Lynn, I want to make sure that you are informed and can have your questions answered. Many answers to questions can be found on the [Reopening Safely page](#) on the Lynn Public Schools website. Therein, one will find the reopening plan, a frequently asked questions document, and a technology support space. As we near the beginning of the school year, your first point of contact should be your child's school principal. We always welcome your questions on the dedicated e-mail address lpsreopening-families@lynnschools.org.

Remote Learning Academy

Lynn Public Schools is offering a Remote Learning Academy for students who choose to enroll in a full remote learning mode for the entire school year. The Remote Learning Academy allows LPS students to access a fully online educational experience, which is designed and provided by an external vendor.

The Remote Learning Academy is:

- Offered for students in grades K-12
- Inclusive of all core content areas, and some electives
- Designed with both synchronous (live) and asynchronous (recorded) classes
- Aligned with the Massachusetts State Standards
- Offered in multiple languages and includes English as a Second Language

- Supports students on an individualized education plan or 504s with the required accommodations, modifications, related services and etc.

The details on this option for families are still taking shape as the offering was made available to school districts a little more than a week ago. In order to plan, we are asking families that are certain that this approach is best for their student complete a [survey](#) by Friday August 28th. As more details become available to us, we will share.

High School Athletics

On Tuesday, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletics Association released [guidance](#) on athletics for the upcoming school year. In it, they make clear the sports deemed safe for student participation and the dates of seasons, the extent to which they can be determined. Districts designated as “red” based on the [Department of Public Health \(DPH\)’s metric](#) of average daily cases per 100,000 residents and which therefore have their high school students learning remotely at the start of a season both of which are true for Lynn, *must postpone their entire season, including practices*, until the so called floating season later in the year. This means that, at best, fall sports will be postponed to the float season, the dates of which will be determined later.

Season	Dates	Sports
Fall	Starting Sept. 18	Golf, XC running, field hockey, soccer, gymnastics, girls volleyball, fall swimming/diving, football practice,* cheer practice,* unified basketball practice* *Practice only using EEA cohort modifications : Football, cheer, unified basketball
Winter	TBA by MIAA	Winter gymnastics, boys and girls indoor track, ski, dance, winter swimming/diving, cheer, hockey, basketball, wrestling
Floating season	TBA by MIAA	Sports unable to play in earlier seasons may engage in Level 3 play (competitions) if permitted by updated EEA guidelines. Schools that offered only remote learning in early fall may use this season for play that was missed during their remote schedule.
Spring	TBA by MIAA	Girls golf, baseball, softball, tennis, boys volleyball, girls and boys lacrosse, track and field, rugby

Now more than ever, communication is critical. You can expect messages of this sort up to the first day of school (9/16/20) and beyond.

Yours in partnership,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools