



Pershing Elementary School

6402 Judson Street • Lincoln, NE 68507 • (402) 436-1160 • Fax (402) 436-1471

July 3, 2021

Dear Pershing Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer break and are ready to join us for a great year of learning. We are excited to continue the journey with all our families. Pershing staff and administrators have been busy this summer reflecting, refining our school-wide practices, and getting everything ready for a **RELENTLESS** 2021-2022 school year.

I hope you have enjoyed time with family, friends, and each other. I appreciated a more "normal" summer this year. My family spent lots of time playing outside, soaking up moments with family and friends, and a little traveling. This summer we've spent many days at the baseball fields with my youngest, Jack, learning t-ball and the basketball courts with my oldest, Carter. I am extremely grateful for these moments that we can spend as a family making memories that will last a lifetime.

As always, we would like to extend a special welcome to our kindergarten students, their families, and others who are new to Pershing. Please know that we want you to be a part of your child's education. My newsletters will be sent home via email at the beginning of each month. If you would like a paper copy, please let the office know.

This year we welcome some additional professionals to Pershing School:

Kristin Latham- Preschool Family Educator

Emily Robinson - Kindergarten teacher

Nathan Johnson- First-grade teacher

Nikki Westwood- Fifth-grade teacher

Nolan Grint- Fifth-grade Teacher

Kaylee Arens- Special Education Teacher

Chelsey Igo-Boggs- ELL Teacher

Arin Liszka- CLC Site Coordinator

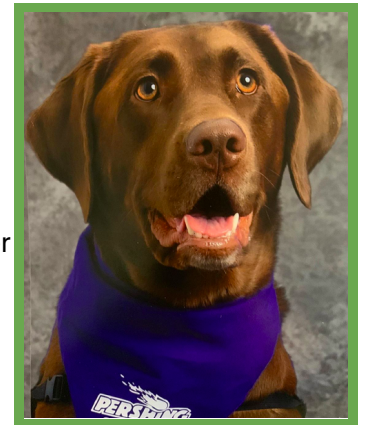
Therapy Dog: Goose

We are excited about the opportunity to have a therapy dog in our school community! The "therapy team" consists of Special Education Coordinator, Anna Salomons, and her Labrador retriever, Goose! To reach this accomplishment, the team worked together to pass a series of tests, as well as training courses to meet requirements set by the American Kennel Club (AKC).

Therapy dogs play a vital role in serving students and adults in school buildings. Some of the benefits that have been noted of having a therapy dog in the building include: increasing positive hallway behavior, concentration, and work completion, improving attendance, reducing anxiety, increasing motivation, providing emotional support, and creating a warm school environment. Therapy teams are well aware of and sensitive to student preferences and needs when it comes to interactions.

At Pershing, Goose's primary role will be to be present among various areas of the building. Goose will serve as a support to any student in need, a visitor and observer in classrooms, as well as reinforcement at appropriate times for students working hard and following the Pershing expectations.

For more information, feel free to visit the Lincoln Public Schools Therapy Dog webpage at: <https://home.lps.org/studentservices/therapy-dogs/>.



Goose's certification is through Uplifting Paws. More information on this organization can be found at: <https://www.upliftingpaws.org/>.

A MESSAGE FROM PERSHING'S ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, MR. KOENIG:

As a building, Pershing Elementary will have a more intentional focus on **Restorative Practices** starting with the 2021-2022 school year. Pershing has used practices and strategies in the past that have been restorative in nature, but this will allow staff to develop even more trusting relationships with students, build classroom community, and meet the needs of all students.

What are **Restorative Practices**? Restorative Practices are formal and informal processes that build and sustain a culture of kindness, respect, responsibility, and justice. **Restorative Practices** emphasize relationships and repairing those relationships when harm has occurred.

The fundamental premise of **Restorative Practices** is that people are happier, more cooperative and productive, and more likely to make positive change when those in positions of authority (adults) do things with them, rather than to or for them.

Restorative Practices cultivate a culture in which everyone feels like they belong. **Restorative Practices** build a community in which every member – students, staff, families – feel that they are seen, heard, and respected.

Throughout the school year, we will continue to share with families ways that parents/guardians can use and support **Restorative Practices** at home. The goal for sharing these is that as students develop skills and strategies that are transferable across environments, parents/guardians will be able to support the development of these skills and strategies at home.

A MESSAGE FROM PERSHING'S COORDINATOR, MRS. SALOMONS:

Pershing Families:

I hope your summers have gotten off to a relaxing start! It's hard to believe it's about halfway over already! I had the opportunity to oversee our summer school program, and it was so fun to see learning continue. Teachers and students involved in the summer program worked so hard to continue their hard work from the 20-21 school year.

As Mr. Koenig spoke (above) regarding closing our social-emotional learning gap, we are also working hard as a staff to close our academic learning gaps. As we prepare for the 21-22 school year, our staff continues to improve upon many of our practices including writing quality IEP goals, providing research-based interventions, and serving individual student needs.

As the school year approaches and you would like more information regarding helping your individual scholar close any academic gaps, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Mr. Koenig, Mrs. Cook, or any of your children's teachers. We are excited to be able to collaborate and plan for our students and their successes throughout the 21-22 school year already!

First Grade Jumpstart: July 27-29

9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

- Drop students off at Door #2 and pick them up at Door #15

Sneak Peek to Kindergarten: Tuesday, August 10th

4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

- Drop kindergarten students off at Door #2 and pick them up at Door #15

Safe Walk to School Night: Thursday, August 12th

5:30 p.m.– 6:30 p.m. Pershing Elementary

- o Practice arriving at school using the safest route
- o Meet your new team of teachers
- o Tour the building & Find your classroom
- o Receive the student calendar/handbook
- o Join the Pershing Parent Teacher Organization (PPTO)
- o Sign up for October parent/teacher conferences (bring your calendar)
- o **Postcards will be mailed on the first of August to students letting them know their teacher.**

IMPORTANT CENSUS INFORMATION

The Annual Online Registration Verification (formerly the census form), Health History Form, the request to provide medication (Tylenol/Ibuprofen), and the Free/Reduced Meal Application forms **MUST be completed online.**

For the Annual Online Registration Verification: Starting in mid-July, parents and guardians will verify their child(ren)'s enrollment information through the online parent portal, ParentVUE. This annual process was formerly completed on a paper census form that parents/guardians had to review, update and return to the school office. The Health History Form and the request to provide medication (Tylenol/Ibuprofen) permission form are now part of the Annual Online Registration Verification.

You must have an LPS ParentVue account to complete this process. (Activation is a one-time setup). To create your ParentVue account, please contact the Pershing school office for an activation key. Your ParentVue account will be used for the duration of the time you have a student in LPS. Note that you will need a valid email address to create your ParentVue account. If you do not have one, you may obtain a free email account through services such as Google.

If you already use ParentVue, there is nothing more you need to do to prepare. You will be ready to complete the annual Online Registration Verification process when it opens on July 20th. If you have previously activated your ParentVue account, but can't remember your password, you can reset it online at <http://synergybue.lps.org/>

On July 1st, under the Popular Pages on the homepage of the district website, www.lps.org you will find the Free/Reduced Lunch Application link.

BUILDING INFORMATION:

First Day of School for students K–5: Monday, August 16th

***No Preschool**

Breakfast will be served on the first day of school.

- 7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast is served in the cafeteria
- 8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Students not eating breakfast arrive
- K–5 students will enter through Door #2
 - o See Student/Parent Handbook for additional information regarding arrival procedures
- 8:15 a.m. School begins
- 1:33 p.m. School dismisses

School will dismiss early at 1:33 p.m. August 16–18

Regular School Hours begin Thursday, August 19th

6:30 a.m.– 8:05 a.m. Students attending YMCA's School Out program arrive.

7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Students eating breakfast arrive and will enter through Door #2.

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Students arrive and enter through Door #2

8:15 a.m. School begins

2:53 p.m.

School dismisses

First Day of Preschool: Thursday, August 19th

- Preschool a.m. will enter & dismiss through Door #10: AM hours – 8:00–11:30
- Preschool p.m. will enter & dismiss through Door #10: PM hours– 11:45–3:15

Outside supervision begins at 7:45 a.m.

Students who are not eating breakfast should not arrive before 8:00 a.m.

Dismissal Information

- 2:53 p.m. Dismissal bell rings
- All students are to leave the campus unless staying for a school-sponsored activity
- Pershing's playground will be closed to families and students until 6:00 p.m.
- *Families will need to wait outside the building for their children at dismissal.* Students will be dismissed out of their assigned doors of the school.
 - Kindergarten & All 1st Grade Classrooms: Dismiss out Door 15
 - All 2nd Grade Classrooms: Dismiss out Door 2
 - All 3rd Grade Classrooms: Dismiss out Door 12
 - All 4th Grade & All 5th Grade Classrooms: Dismiss out Door 11
 - Early Childhood: Dismissed out Door 10
- Teachers will wait with children outside until 3:00 p.m. Children not picked up by 3:00 p.m. will be escorted to Door 1, our main entrance. After 3:00 p.m., parents/guardians must come to Door 1 to pick up children and sign them out.

Lunch Schedule (revised from last year)

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|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| • Kindergarten | Lunch: 10:45–11:10 | Recess: 11:10–11:25 |
| • 2nd Grade | Lunch: 11:10–11:30 | Recess: 11:30–11:45 |
| • 1st Grade | Lunch: 11:30–11:50 | Recess: 11:50–12:05 |
| • 3rd Grade | Lunch: 11:50–12:10 | Recess: 12:10–12:25 |
| • 5th Grade | Lunch: 12:10–12:30 | Recess: 12:30–12:45 |
| • 4th Grade | Lunch: 12:30–12:50 | Recess: 12:50–1:05 |

Lunch/Breakfast Accounts

Student Breakfast and Lunch meals will be FREE for ALL students during the 2021–2022 school year! It is important that even though student meals are free for the 21–22 school year, you will want to still complete the online application for Free and Reduced lunch before school starting or at Safe Walk to School.

Communication: Thursday Folder/Pershing Comet Newsletter

The Pershing Thursday Folder will be utilized as our primary communication tool. While daily materials may still be sent home with your student, other pertinent information will be placed in your child's special Thursday Folder. You can anticipate receiving the first folder in the first week of school. Please be sure to empty the folder, go through the contents with your child, and return the folder the following day. The Pershing Comet newsletter will be sent electronically to all families.

Pershing Family Compact

The ultimate goal at Pershing Elementary School is to provide a high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards. This can best be accomplished through a cooperative effort and partnership among school staff, families, parents and/or guardians, and the student.

It is with this in mind that we join together in this partnership to foster the educational success of each Pershing Elementary Student. **Each student, parent, and teacher at Pershing will be asked to read and agree to this very important compact at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.** Staff, parents/guardians, and students will sign this compact during the first week of school. This important document will be referred to often during the school day and year to reference the commitment made. If you have any questions about the Pershing Family Compact, please feel free to contact the Pershing school office at 436-1160.

As we look to the year ahead, please know the staff at Pershing wants to partner with you to make this a productive and successful year for your children. If you have a concern about your child at any time throughout the year, please contact your child's teacher, our Assistant Principal, Dave Koenig, our Coordinator, Anna Salomons, or myself.

I am looking forward to seeing you very soon!!

Sincerely,
Jamie Cook, Principal