

# Pershing Elementary

## September Newsletter

6402 Judson Street, 68507

Website: <http://wp.lps.org/pershing/>

Phone: 402-436-1160

LIKE us on Facebook: Pershing Elementary School



Dear Families,

It has been an exciting start to the 2021-2022 school year! We have continued with our school-wide theme of 'Be Relentless'. The Pershing community is relentless in the pursuit of our personal and/or classroom goals. Teachers are relentless in their teaching and planning to find ways all students can experience success in and out of the classroom. Students are relentless in their learning and engagement in the classroom.

It has been exciting to see students and teachers meeting short-term goals even just a couple of weeks in. Students have learned and practiced classroom and school-wide routines, procedures, and expectations. These expectations are important to ensure students understand both behavioral and academic expectations that will help them be successful.

I am proud of our start and excited to see Relentless teaching and learning continue this school year.

Sincerely,

Jamie Cook, Principal

## Upcoming Events

### September 1

Fundraiser Kick-Off!

### September 6

No School for LPS Students

### September 7

6:00 p.m. PPTO Meeting- Media Center

### September 15

Fundraiser orders Due

### September 20

Staff & Student pictures

### September 28

PLC Early Dismissal @ 1:33 p.m.  
No Preschool

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Pershing Elementary  
School**

# A Message From.....

**Mr. Koenig, Assistant Principal**

## **FALL MAP TESTING**

Students in grades K-1 will take the MAP Reading Fluency and students in grade 2 will take MAP Growth Reading test in fall, winter, and spring. Students in grades 3-5 will take the MAP Growth Reading and Math tests in the fall. These tests are part of assessments required by the Nebraska Department of Education to measure student readiness to learn and growth in reading and math prior to the state assessments. Teachers and administrators will work together to use the results to help plan instruction for students.

Fall MAP Fluency and Growth testing dates for Pershing:

- Growth Reading (Grades 2-5) = September 1-3
- Growth Math (Grades 3-5) = September 8-10
- Fluency (Grades K-1) = September 15-17

## **IMPORTANT!** Arrival Drop off and Dismissal Pick-Up

- For morning drop off please see Pershing's arrival traffic plan located in the Student/Parent Handbook. It is important that you become familiar with this traffic pattern to ensure the safety of all our Pershing students and staff. The south side of Judson street is not a safe spot to drop students off. This side of the street is a No Parking Zone, please do not drop students off on the south side. Follow the recommended traffic plan and use the cutout to temporarily park to drop students off, or the north side of Judson (along the school side) to drop students off.
- At dismissal, students should only cross at the crosswalks at 64th & 63rd and Judson. There are certified staff members placed at these locations and will be able to help students safely cross the street. Please do not waive your student across the street. There are no parking signs along the south side of Judson. When you park across the street, it impacts the flow of traffic going east and west down Judson. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding in making sure that our students arrive and get home safely each day.

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## **Pershing Fundraiser!**

Pershing Elementary School fundraiser starts today, and we need your help. Our goal is to raise \$20,000.00 for essential programs not currently funded through traditional means.

It's as simple as 1, 2, 3!

1. Register TONIGHT at <https://www.shopfund.com/>
2. Share custom student support links with family & friends.
3. Student Goal: 5 Online Supporters.

REGISTER-SHARE-WIN: Sharing gets you tickets for chances to win over \$100,000 in instant prizes.

### **Fundraiser Links:**

- \* Why We Fundraise - (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8770815>)
- \* How To Videos - (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8752340>)
- \* Kick-Off Videos - (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8754595>)
- \* Parent Letter - (<https://bit.ly/2WmObL8>)
- \* Prize Program - (<https://bit.ly/3llq22X>)

On behalf of myself and the staff at Pershing Elementary School, thank you for doing your part to make our fundraiser a success.

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## Volunteering at Pershing:

You can make a difference in the life of a student by serving in a variety of volunteering opportunities: reading to a child, shelving books in the library, and much more. Each and every volunteer helps our students learn, grow and succeed. We are grateful to you for sharing valuable time with Pershing and LPS.

We have established several volunteer "levels", based on contact with students and supervision by LPS staff. Please see below to determine which level applies to your volunteer interest.

Level 1: If you are interested in a Level 1 volunteer activity, simply contact Pershing. You are not required to fill out a volunteer form. (Examples may include but are not limited to: helping with a school mailing or helping in the media center shelving books.)

Level 2 or 3: If you are interested in Level 2 or 3 volunteer activities, please fill out the volunteer form located on our volunteer webpage. Make sure you fill out all the application fields completely and accurately. The link is also located on the front of the LPS website ([www.lps.org](http://www.lps.org)), under Popular Pages. You will be asked to provide basic information, as well as sign a Volunteer Code of Conduct and a Personal Disclosure. This information is necessary for our continuing effort to provide safety and security to our students and staff.

**As a reminder, all students, staff, visitors, and families are required to wear a mask inside the school building.**

Link: <https://wapp.lps.org/gold/volunteer/volunteer.cfm>

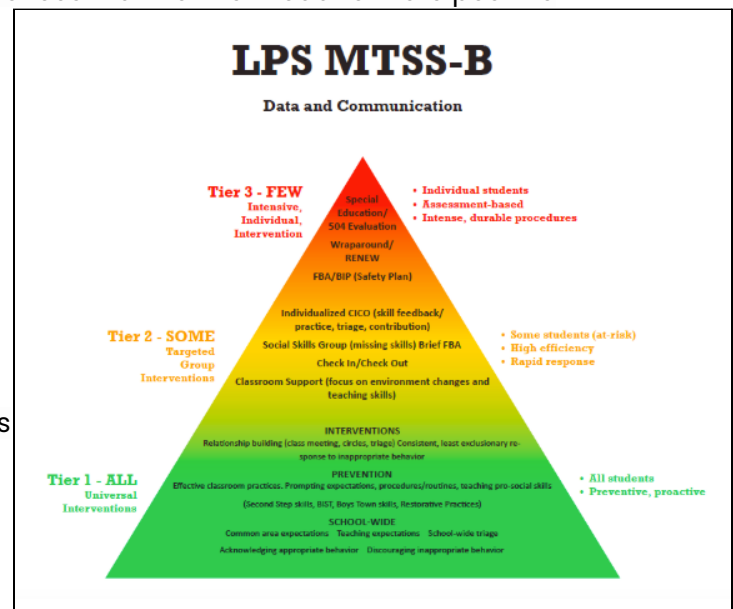
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## Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) at Pershing

At Pershing we want all students to be successful. In order to ensure that students find success, Lincoln Public Schools has developed a framework of best practices for supporting student behavior throughout the school day. This framework includes evidence-based practices that we know lead to more positive outcomes for students. Some of the most powerful practices staff use include:

- Developing and teaching all students our school and classroom expectations
- Acknowledging positive behavior when we see it
- Consistently practicing strategies that prevent problem behavior before it happens
- Establishing consistent consequences
- Using data to make decisions

Here at Pershing, we are working especially hard during these first few weeks of school to teach our expectations and acknowledge positive behavior when we see it. In this way, we know we are laying the foundation for a productive and positive school year.



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## Second Steps

Families:

We want your child to be successful in school and that means supporting and encouraging their whole development. While excelling in academic classes is important, children also need skills to take on learning challenges, make good decisions, manage strong emotions, and get along with others.

The first week of school we began Second Step Elementary, a research-based social-emotional learning program designed to improve children’s social-emotional skills. Second Step skills and concepts are designed to help children both in and out of school. Four units will cover the following:

**Growth Mindset & Goal-Setting:** Children learn how to pay attention and manage distractions, develop a growth mindset, and apply goal-setting strategies to their social and academic lives.


**Emotion Management:** Children learn how to identify and label emotions and use emotion-management strategies- including stress management for older students - to calm strong feelings.

**Empathy & Kindness:** Children learn how to recognize kindness and act kindly, have empathy for others and take others’ perspectives, and recognize kind acts and empathy as important elements of building and maintaining relationships.

**Problem-Solving:** Children learn how to identify and state a problem, recognize if a problem is an accident, and use the STEP problem-solving process:


- S:** Say the problem
- T:** Think of solutions
- E:** Explore the outcomes
- P:** Pick a solution

You’ll receive communication from your child’s teacher to help you reinforce Second Step language, skills, and goals at home. If you have any questions about Second Step Elementary, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher for more information. Thank you for your support as we work to build a safe and supportive school community.



## What Is Second Step Elementary?

Second Step Elementary  
Digital Program



Second Step\* Elementary is a research-based social-emotional learning (SEL) program designed to improve students’ social-emotional skills, including growth mindset, goal-setting, emotion management, kindness and empathy, and problem-solving.

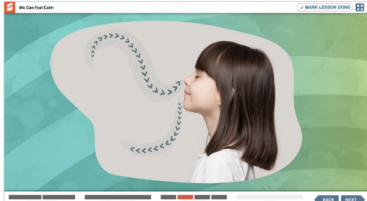
Studies show that these skills can support students’ school performance, increase positive social behaviors, and reduce conduct problems such as bullying.<sup>1,2</sup> SEL programs can also create positive classroom and school climates.<sup>3</sup>

Second Step Elementary is taught in the classroom, to all students, and helps students develop a common set of skills and strategies that can be practiced, used, and reinforced throughout the school community, including at home.

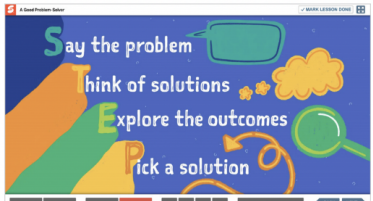
- Unit 1: Growth Mindset & Goal-Setting**
- Unit 2: Emotion Management**
- Unit 3: Empathy & Kindness**
- Unit 4: Problem-Solving**

**Kindergarten-Grade 5**

- 1 lesson per week
- 5 lessons per unit
- Total: 20 lessons per grade



Kindergarten, Unit 2, Lesson 9, We Can Feel Calm



Grade 4, Unit 4, Lesson 16, A Good Problem-Solver

**How do students and schools benefit from SEL?**

PROMOTE	PREVENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic success</li> <li>• School connectedness</li> <li>• A safe and respectful school climate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem behaviors</li> <li>• Antisocial behaviors</li> <li>• Peer rejection</li> <li>• Impulsivity</li> <li>• Low academic achievement</li> </ul>

# \*\*Additional News\*\*

**Boys Town Social Skills:** Below are the following social skills we have been teaching, practicing, and reinforcing. These are great skills you can teach, practice, and reinforce at home as well.

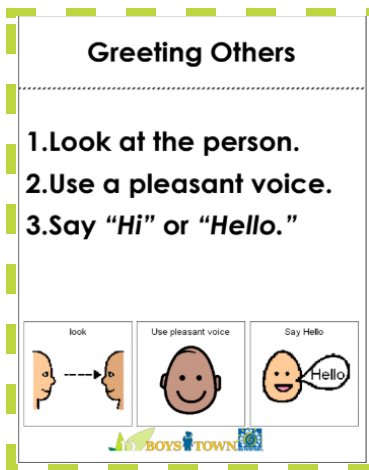
## Following Instructions

1. Look at the person.
2. Say "Okay" or nod your head.
3. Do what was asked right away.



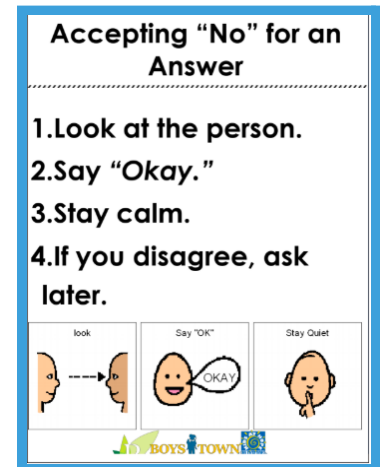
## Greeting Others

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a pleasant voice.
3. Say "Hi" or "Hello".



## Accepting 'No' for an Answer

1. Look at the person.
2. Say "Okay" or nod your head.
3. Stay calm.
4. If you disagree, ask later.



## Library News

### Keeping Track of Library Books

Would you like to help your student keep track of the books they have checked out from the school library? Here's how:

- Begin at [portal.lps.org](http://portal.lps.org)
  - Enter your student's ID and password (If you don't have this information, the school office can provide it for you).
  - Select "Destiny Discover" from the alphabetical listing in the portal.
  - From the upper right-hand corner of the screen, select login and select Log in using your account with New LPS Portal.
  - On the top row, hover your mouse over "My Stuff".
  - Select "Checkouts" from the dropdown menu to see the books that are currently checked out.

### Taking Care Library Books

Most classes covered this topic during our second week of school.

- \* Keep books up high away from pets and little ones at our house.
- \* Keep food and drink away from books.
- \* Plan where to keep books.
- \* Learn the rotation of specials so that students are able to return and borrow a new book each Library check-out day every week. (4th/5th graders will be every other week).

## Digital Citizenship Tips

At the beginning of the school year, all LPS students review Chromebook expectations and the Responsible Use Agreement (RUA) for Chromebook use. Click [here](#) to learn more about Chromebook use in LPS and to review the expectations outlined in the RUA. Here are some questions to start a conversation at home about Chromebook expectations:

- How do you take care of your Chromebook?
- When can you use your Chromebook?
- What settings can you change on your Chromebook?

## CLC Quarter 1 Club Enrollment Information



**Enrollment Period:** Information coming soon!

## Resources for families

If you are in crisis and need immediate assistance, these services are available any time of the day or night, any day of the week:

- CenterPointe Helpline (Lincoln): 402-475-6695
- Nebraska Family Helpline: 1-888-866-8660
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
- Your Life Your Voice (Boys Town) 1-800-448-3000 or text VOICE to 20121 (text charges from your phone carrier may apply)
- Lincoln Police Department (non-emergency) 402-441-6000 or 911 (emergency)

Additional community resources can be found at MyLink - a website (<https://mylnk.app>) and a mobile app (for Apple and Android - search MyLink). It can be downloaded in a wi-fi environment and then used when wi-fi is not available. Translations are provided in Arabic, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

## Come join the LPS family as a substitute teacher!

Did you know that if you currently hold a Bachelor's degree you might be eligible to be a substitute teacher?

- Meaningful impact on students - we rely on our substitute teachers to ensure that the well-being and education of our students continue when their permanent teacher is absent. This is a great way to invest in our youth.
- Great pay - Subbing in Lincoln Public Schools equates to almost \$150 per day. You can even choose to fill half-day sub positions.
- Subbing is a great way to stay abreast of what's happening in our schools.
- You can set your schedule and sub over 85 school days. This allows you the flexibility to take care of other responsibilities.
- We even provide a half-day orientation to prepare you to be a successful sub in our district. Our next local sub training is September 9, 2021.

Go to the following link for more information: <https://home.lps.org/hr/local-substitute-information/>

# Reading at Home

Resource from *NDE At Home Reading Plan for Success-LINK*

## What is phonological awareness?

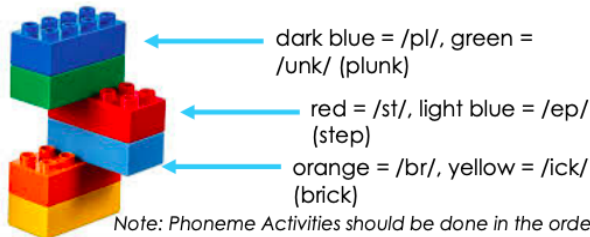
Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize and work with sounds in spoken language. It is the foundation for learning to read.

Students with strong phonological awareness can:

- rhyme;
- count syllables;
- recognize sounds alone and in words;
- add, remove, and substitute sounds in words;
- break words into their different sounds and blend them back together; and
- isolate sounds.

## Onset and Rime Activities

- Play a word guessing game with your child. Give your child clues one at a time, describing the onset and rime. Once your child understands how to play, take turns giving the clues.  
Examples: "It begins with the /r/ sound and rhymes with 'bug'." (rug)  
"It begins like 'bed' and ends like 'rest'." (best)  
"It ends with /op/ and begins like 'tool'." (top)
- Turn words into a math problem. Ask your child to solve the equation to build words, using onset and rime.  
Examples: "What plus 'et' makes the word *net*?" (/n/)  
"/h/ plus what makes the word *hippo*?" (ippo)
- Use different colored building blocks to represent onset sounds and rime sounds. Lock different block combinations together, and say what word is represented. Change the onset blocks to make rhyming words, change the rime block to make new words.  
Examples:



Note: Phoneme Activities should be done in the order listed. Follow the arrow to move down the phoneme mastery progression.



## Reminders

### IMPORTANT: Arrival Times

- ★ Students may arrive @ 7:45 a.m. for breakfast
- ★ Students who are not eating breakfast should arrive @ 8:00 a.m.

**\*\*No supervision prior to 7:45 a.m.**

### Community Spirit Day

Every Friday is Community Spirit Day!

Students can wear their Pershing shirt or **purple**

## Need Assistance?



The MyLNK app connects you to every service and nonprofit in Lincoln.

It's free to use and does not require an internet connection after it's downloaded.



MyLNK is made possible by the Center for People in Need, Leadership Lincoln, and Don't Panic Labs.

# \*More News & Important Information\*\*

## LPS Important Information Booklet:

### Pets on Property:

Lincoln Public Schools require animals to be certified to be on property at school. There are few circumstances where animals are tied to curricular areas and may gain permission from the building to be on the property. All family pets must remain off property during student hours which includes family events, arrival, and dismissal times. This helps us reach our number one goal of keeping students safe.



### Treats & Invitations:

Classrooms recognize birthdays in a variety of ways. Students are not allowed to bring birthday treats (edible or non-edible). Please do not send gifts, party favors, balloons, or flowers. These items will not be delivered to classrooms.

Invitations will not be distributed during the school day. Teachers should be notified ahead of time if a student has invitations to distribute after school. Phone numbers and addresses cannot be distributed by any school personnel.



# Pumpkin Run 2021

The 19th annual Pumpkin Run is a 1-mile youth cross-country fun run, the largest run of its kind in the nation!

**Date:** Saturday, September 26th

**Location:** Canopy Street, Railyard

**Registration Information** (You can register online [HERE](#))

**Entry Fees:**

\$12 Per Runner: August 24-September 17

\$15 Per Runner: September 18- September 26

**Entry Deadlines**

Runners registering through their school must have their completed entry form to Mr. Wendelin by September 19th. Registrations WILL NOT be accepted through the schools after September 19th.

On-site entries WILL be accepted



# From the Health Office...

## Parents of Kindergarten and Preschool students:

Please bring the following completed reports to the Pershing Health Office as soon as possible:

- Complete Immunization Record (including kindergarten shots)
- Physical Exam Report (must be no earlier than 6 months from the start of the school year)
- Vision Evaluation Report
- Dental Exam Report
- Health History Inventory
- Action Plans for Asthma/Anaphylaxis/Diabetes/Seizure Disorder/Other health conditions
- Medical Statement for Special Nutritional Needs found under Nutrition in forms for food allergies and intolerances

All above forms can be found on the LPS website, [www.lps.org](http://www.lps.org):

- "Parent Tab"
- Lincoln Public Schools' Health Services Guidelines
- Health Screening at School

## Tips for a Healthy and Happy School Year

1. Keep emergency contact information current. If there is an emergency, the school staff and the school nurse need your most up-to-date contact information in order to reach you quickly.
2. Emergency Action Plans: If your child has a health condition such as asthma, seizures, diabetes, anaphylactic allergies, or any other health condition that warrants an Individualized Health Plan, please contact your school nurse. An updated health plan for all serious health conditions is necessary prior to school each fall so that the nurse and school staff with educational need to know are prepared for the child's first day of school. A blank copy of most action plans can be found on the LPS website under "HealthServices".
3. Make sure your child gets enough sleep. Sleep will help your child achieve a healthy lifestyle and stay focused in the classroom.
4. Pay attention to your child's eating habits. Diet affects your child's health and learning potential. Teaching children to eat healthy by setting an example will help them to make good food choices. Make sure your child has breakfast every morning. Breakfast provides the fuel to help your child perform at his or her best. If you're running late, healthy breakfast bars (check the label) or fruit can be an option.
5. Tell the school if you think your child has a serious or contagious disease. COMPLETE THE COVID-19 SELF-SCREENING EVERY MORNING BEFORE SCHOOL. Some diseases can easily spread to others. The school nurse can work with the health department, school staff, and other families to help control the spread of disease.
6. Keep your child active. Activity is an important part of overall health. Not getting enough exercise can cause weight gain which can lead to other potentially serious health problems.
7. Be alert for possible signs of head lice. Monitor your child for signs of head lice such as frequent head-scratching. Screen your child regularly and notify us immediately if head lice are detected. Remember: it is best to treat only the family member who is infested. Always feel free to utilize your school nurse as a resource if you have questions!
8. Remember: prescription medications given at school can only be administered after the completion of a parental permission form. They also need to be brought to and from school in the original prescribed container.

If you have any questions, please contact the health office at 402-436-1160 (Ext.2)

The Pershing Health Office,

Nicole Fuller RN, MSN, School Nurse  
Nicole DeLong, Health Technician