

LOWER TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

2018-2019 NEWSLETTER

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FULL-DAY PRESCHOOL

Lower Township Elementary Schools was awarded a grant from the state of New Jersey to implement a full-day preschool program. This grant afforded the district the opportunity to expand from seven half-day preschool classrooms to fourteen full-day preschool classrooms.

The [High Scope Curriculum](#), a research-based program with a child-focused approach to early education, is being used in all of the classrooms. Components include morning meeting, large group, small group, plan-do-review, family style meals and outside/gross motor time.

The grant includes a Preschool Intervention and Referral Team, along with two Master Teachers who support the teachers and students.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Lower Township Elementary Schools recognizes the importance of SEL and each school formed a resiliency team during the summer of 2018. The teams have attended multiple workshops, and have turn-keyed the information to staff.

ADVANCED SKILLS

The newly enacted bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes a flexible block grant program known as Student Support and Grants (SSAEG) under Title IV, Part A. Lower Township allocated a portion of our Title IV Part A funds to pilot the [Units of Study in Teaching Reading](#) to enrich our Advanced Skills classrooms.

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KNOWING SCIENCE

Grades K-5 implemented a new science program called [Knowing Science](#)

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Knowing Science was founded to help elementary school educators teach core topics in science, engineering and science practices and crosscutting concepts that are described by the Next Generation Science Standards.

Through engaging hands-on activities and demonstrations, social interaction, inquiry based investigations and shared experience, Knowing Science's lessons and materials provided in the STEM Kits, lead students to achieve basic science literacy.

**SPRING 2019 STATE
ASSESSMENT**

The State of New Jersey has ended its membership of the interstate consortium that produced the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments. While the online platform will remain the same, the state's mathematics and English language arts (ELA) assessments will no longer be called Partnership for Assessment of College and Career Readiness (PARCC). The statewide assessments for ELA and mathematics will be called:

New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-ELA (NJSLA-ELA)

New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Mathematics (NJSLA-M)

New Jersey Student Learning Assessment- Science (NJSLA-S)

NJSLA-S Grades 5, 8 and 11

[NJSLA-S Practice Test](#)