

THE 2026/2027 LIN HOWE
WELCOME PACKET



WELCOME BACK FAMILIES!

We want to extend our warmest welcome as the school year begins and we return to school. Whether you're a new family coming to Lin Howe for the first time or your child is returning to campus, we are looking forward to welcoming you!

We hope this packet helps you navigate your child's time here at Lin Howe. In the following pages, you'll find information about our PTA organization, safety on campus and a helpful glossary of our Lin Howe ABC's to explain the ins and outs of the daily Sea Dragon experience.

We are always looking for parent volunteers to enhance and support life at Lin Howe. Whether you want to volunteer a lot or a little, we will help find the spot that's right for you. We have many opportunities to volunteer - we need your support to make our school a place that is welcoming to all and full of community building opportunities.

Anyone hoping to volunteer on campus in any capacity must be a cleared volunteer. Please see the Safety On Campus page for details on how to become a cleared volunteer.

We want all families to be informed throughout the school year in order to stay connected to what is happening at Lin Howe. You can stay up to date in many ways:

- Mr. Chabola's weekly email updates (the Sea Dragons' Diary)
- Downloading the ParentSquare app (available for free for iOS and Android devices)
- Attending monthly PTA meetings
- Joining the 'Linwood E. Howe PTA & School Community' page on Facebook (closed Facebook page for Lin Howe families)
- Checking out our school webpages:
 - linhowe.ccusd.org
 -
 - linhowepta.com

Linwood Howe is outstanding because of all of our combined efforts. We would love to have you involved in any way you are able. Welcome to Lin Howe!

Sincerely,

Casey Chabola

Principal

caseychabola@ccusd.org

Jennifer Chyi

PTA President

linhoweptapresident@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a wonderful hands-on way to support Lin Howe, connect with other Lin Howe community members, and make great memories.

For any opportunity during the school day and interacting with students, you must be a cleared volunteer. This is a one-time process that takes 1-2 weeks. You will need to complete an application, get fingerprinted, and make sure your Tuberculosis assessment is up-to-date (if it isn't, Lin Howe's nurse can do it with you). The detailed step-by-step instructions about how to become cleared can be found [here](#).

There are a number of ways to volunteer at Lin Howe throughout the year - chaperoning a class field trip, lunch time help, PTA hosted events like the Book Fair, Family Fun Nights and Science Fair, fundraising events like Raise Craze classroom activities and the jog-a-thon, reading to a class. Teachers also welcome volunteer-led crafts or activities - just reach out to your student's teacher. Get inspired [here](#).

ATTENDANCE & INDEPENDENT STUDY

Lin Howe (and all of CCUSD) is funded by attendance. This means that on days when your student is not at school whether due to vacation, illness, excused or unexcused absences, the school does not receive funding.

In order to help CCUSD retain its needed level of funding, students have the option to complete Short-term Independent Study (STIS). This involves completing a form and emailing to lhattendance@ccusd.org. Your student's teacher will then provide make-up classwork for them to complete while not at school. More info about STIS can be found [here](#). Students are eligible to take 1-15 days of Independent Study each academic year.

Whether or not you decide to do STIS for your student's absence, you MUST send an email to lhattendance@ccusd.org and include the teacher in the email. In the email **Subject line** add your child's first and last name and date(s) of absence. More info [here](#).

ATTENDANCE IMPACTS FUNDING!

+1% IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT WIDE
=
+\$800K FUNDING FOR CCUSD



SICK?

Please request independent study within 24-48 HOURS.



TAKING A TRIP?

Please request independent study at least **THREE DAYS** in advance.



BUT IT'S EXCUSED!?!

Even excused (doctor appt) absences result in a loss of funding for the district.



HOW TO REQUEST



Email this form to lhattendance@ccusd.org and cc their teacher.



HOW MANY DAYS?

Independent study may be used for 1-15 days each year.

WHEN IS A STUDENT PRESENT?

Students are considered present once morning attendance has been taken.

SUPPORTING LIN HOWE

Lin Howe Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and the Fund for Instructional Aides are specific to Lin Howe. Culver City Education Foundation (CCEF) is CCUSD's fundraising organization that supports a variety of programs across the district.

In the following pages you can read about the numerous programs and activities these three groups make possible to enrich every student's academic and social experience.

Suggested Annual Donation

We have found that many Culver City, LA and Santa Monica schools ask for a recommended yearly donation. Given our school's reduced budget, Linwood Howe began doing the same last year. Our fundraising efforts are a big ask of many families in our community, but they will greatly enhance and enrich our children's educational experiences.

Families are asked to raise or contribute \$500 annually per student split across the school's two groups - the PTA and the Fund for Instructional Aides.

You are welcome to split your annual contribution in any way that reflects the priorities and passions of your family. If you would like a recommendation, contribute \$250 per student to each fundraiser. Please know that any amount in your budget is appreciated and incredibly helpful toward funding our school's educational support. ***Every dollar adds up!*** For families able to provide more generous support, we are grateful if you do so.

There are a few times during the academic years that families are given opportunities to contribute that are separate from the PTA and Fund for Instructional Aides. As above, these are optional.

- At the beginning of the school year, teachers might send out a supplies wish list to help stock their classroom.
- The class room parents will take a collection for teacher gifts a few times during the year: December holiday gift, teacher's birthday, May's Teacher Appreciation Week and end-of-year. This frequency entirely depends on the room parent.
- The PTA will also coordinate two collections during the year for all of the other staff such as coaches, librarians, cafeteria, music, art, nurse, front office, instructional aides, etc. These will be in December and May during Staff Appreciation Week.



Donating at Lin Howe

Visit www.lhseadragoncommunity.com to learn more.

Goes Directly to Lin Howe

RAISE CRAZE

Funds Lin Howe PTA's activities & initiatives across campus. This includes:

- 12 assemblies this year!
- Field trip for each grade
- Family Fun Nights & community-building events
- Supplies where needed, ex: PE, front office, health office
- Educational materials & software for teachers
- Equity & Special Education Committees
- Science Fair, Book Fair & Talent Show
- Cultural events like Holi & Lunar New Year parade
- Green Team & Beautification Days
- Faculty Appreciation

While Raise Craze is only in October, PTA accepts donations year-round.

FUND FOR INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES

100% of donations go to the salaries for an instructional aide in each grade, or when needed, a subject-level aide. All positions are at Lin Howe only.

*CCEF generously serves as the bank account for the Fund.

*Donations to the Fund are kept separate. They are NOT combined with CCEF's general fund.

Accepts donations year-round: one time or monthly giving.

Donations to any of these three groups are tax deductible.

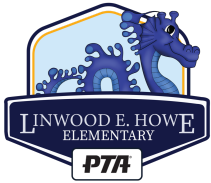
CULVER CITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

CCEF raises money from local businesses and families. Donations are pooled and then distributed across the district's schools according to CCEF's funding priorities.

CCEF supports five elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, an adult school and four preschools. Your donation to CCEF increases the overall amount that is available across ALL schools.

More info: www.ccef4schools.org

The Lin Howe Parent Teacher Association (PTA)



The Lin Howe PTA is a unit of the California and National PTA and is made up of parent volunteers and school staff. Our PTA funds Lin Howe's class field trips, assemblies, classroom supplies, classroom libraries, the Lin Howe school library, school beautification, physical education equipment, as well as district wide outreach programs (backpacks program and community school fund for college scholarships). The PTA also plans, funds and runs numerous social and educational events including Family Fun Nights, book fairs, Lin Howe's Talent Show, programs supporting equity, yearbook and the Dragon Wagon walking school bus program. We also have three subcommittees: the Committee for Equity, the Special Education PTA Committee, and the Green Team.

The PTA is able to fund these things through support of our one and only annual fundraiser, [Raise Craze: Kindness Fundraiser](#). Students pay it forward for donations received by completing acts of kindness. Not only does this fundraiser support our PTA and school, but it encourages our students to give back to others. Raise Craze kicks off every Fall - look for more information in the Dragon Diary and school-wide communications.

Joining the PTA costs only \$7 per member and anyone in your family can join - parents, students, grandparents, etc. we encourage you to "round up" to \$10 to support the various programs our PTA supports. You can join PTA during our Membership Drive, or join easily today on our website: linhowepta.com or at jointotem.com/ca/culver-city/lin-howe-pta/join

Culver City Education Foundation (CCEF)



CCEF is the only nonprofit organization dedicated to serving every student at every CCUSD campus, raising money for highly-valued educational programs and teaching innovations that would not be possible through government funding alone. CCEF funds districtwide arts & STEM education programs that promote academic success, fostering equity across all of the schools. CCEF is only able to fund these vital programs with community support. Visit <https://ccef4schools.org/> to learn more or to donate.



YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION



Donations to the Culver City Education Foundation fund these programs at every elementary school:



MATHLETES
After school math clubs for 4th and 5th graders, and the annual Math Olympiads tournament.



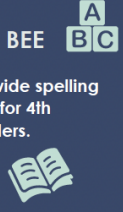
ART & INNOVATION LABS (CCAIL)
Creative learning spaces for all TK-5th graders where students explore visual arts and engineering design concepts.



GROWING GREAT
Hands-on science workshops for 2nd graders in all elementary schools.



FRONT & CENTER THEATRE COLLABORATIVE
Teaching artists from professional theatre groups provide theatre arts programming to all CCUSD students reinforcing lessons in literacy, history, language arts, and cultural awareness.
Arts Partners: 24th Street Theatre (5th), Actors' Gang (4th & 5th), We Tell Stories (3rd), Young Storytellers (5th)



SPELLING BEE
The District-wide spelling competition for 4th and 5th graders.



PALI INSTITUTE SCIENCE CAMP
Multi-day camp trip experience for 5th graders to take STEM learning outside the classroom, building self-confidence and teamwork.



RECORDERS
Provided to all 3rd graders for a district-wide introduction to instrumental music.



UKULELE MUSIC EDUCATION
For all 4th and 5th graders to build upon musical literacy.



ART SUPPLIES
Essential art supplies to elementary schools to inspire creativity and support early learning through the arts.

Visit www.ccef4schools.org to donate today!

IMPORTANT DATES

These dates are subject to change so please always read the Dragon Diaries.

Aug 17 - New family orientation

Aug 19 - First Day of School!

Sept 3 & 4 - Open House

Sept 9 - Picture Day

Sept 15 - Family Picnic with In & Out truck

Sept 28 - Oct 9 - PTA fundraiser Raise Craze

Oct 3 - Family Fun Movie Night

Oct 23 - Spooky Dance (5th Grade Pali Camp fundraiser)

Oct 26-30 - Book Fair (benefitting the school library)

Oct 30 - Halloween Parade

Dec 5 - Winter Wonderland Family Fun Night

December 7-8, 10-11, 14-15 - Parent-teacher conferences (and early dismissal)

Jan 22 - 5th Grade Bingo Night (5th Grade Pali Camp fundraiser)

Feb 26 - Jog-a-thon fundraiser for the Fund for Instructional Aides

Mar 12 - Talent Show

April 19-23 - Book Fair (benefitting the school library)

April 21-23 - Science Fair

April 23 - Open House

May 8 - Family Fun Movie Night

** Party Book events to support the Fund for Instructional Aides will happen throughout the year and are outside of school hours.

SAFETY ON CAMPUS

Lin Howe strives to create a place where everyone is safe, welcome and supported. It's our belief that every student should feel emotionally and physically safe at school, which takes every community member's support.

ON CAMPUS SAFETY

Cafeteria, hallway and playground expectations are explained to students at the beginning of the year and reviewed with students periodically. All rules and expectations are embedded in the P.R.I.D.E. expectations of Perseverance, Respect, Inclusion, Determination and Empathy. In addition to reinforcing the character traits at home, parents can remind students to keep their hands, feet and objects to themselves, no play fighting, and to treat others as you would want to be treated.

With over 550 students on campus, we know there will occasionally be hurt feelings and conflicts. When this occurs, students are encouraged to use "I messages" and utilize strategies that are taught at the beginning of the year for managing conflict. When appropriate, students are also encouraged to tell the nearest adult, see the school counselor, or notify the principal.

ON CAMPUS VISITORS

Anyone hoping to volunteer on campus in any capacity must be a cleared volunteer (please confirm current policy before you volunteer). To become a cleared volunteer, you must submit an application through CCUSD which includes passing a TB screening and getting fingerprinted. Visitors must present a photo ID which is scanned and checked against a Megan's Law database. More information can be found [here](#).

Parents and students are encouraged to greet each other outside of the entrance gates, however parents are not allowed inside the gates to the school area.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Lin Howe has detailed plans for fire, earthquakes, lockdowns and shelter in place emergencies and students and staff regularly participate in drills for each scenario. When practicing for lockdowns, your child's teacher will explain it in an age-appropriate way to ensure students understand the seriousness without creating anxiety or fear.

Finally, and most importantly, if you see something, say something. Campus safety takes everyone being vigilant.

LIN HOWE FROM A TO Z

This is a simple reference guide that quickly describes what each of our Lin Howe events and programs are. We hope it's helpful as you navigate life at Lin Howe!

Art & Innovation

Our Art and Innovation Lab provides an opportunity for every Sea Dragon to dive into immersive, hands-on visual arts, engineering tasks, robotics, and design-centered projects. Through this creative process, students cultivate artistic methods, imaginative problem-solving, and a sense of personal agency. Throughout the academic year, each student will enjoy either 45 minutes weekly or 90 minutes every other week of specialized instruction within the Art Lab.

After School Programs

Lin Howe has several options for After School Programs, including Cornucopia, Youth Sports Education Program, Iverbe Sports Camp, CCUSD Office of Child Development (OCD) and Culver City Parks and Recreation (CARP). These classes are provided by a third party and are open to all students (though some classes are for specific grade levels). Information about classes, cost, and signing up is sent home with each student and can also be found [here](#).

Back-to-School Morning

This parent only event takes place during the second full week of school. It's an important time where parents can learn more about their child's classroom experience and hear from their teacher about the coming year.

Beautification Day

Held two times throughout the school year and organized by the Green Team, Beautification Day is when Lin Howe families come together on a Saturday or Sunday to help keep our school looking great. There's always plenty to do including tasks like planting, painting, and picking up garbage. It's a fun way to get involved and care for our campus.

Book Fair

Lin Howe PTA hosts two Book Fairs during the school year. Load up your kids' brains with amazing books - all proceeds go directly back to buying books for our school library! The Book Fair takes over the whole library and each class visits the Fair during school hours. Parents and family members are welcome to visit the Book Fair after school.

CCUSD

CCUSD stands for Culver City Unified School District.

Committee for Equity

The Lin Howe PTA Committee for Equity aspires to be a coalition of parents, teachers, and administrators working toward ensuring equity at Lin Howe for all students and families. We believe our school community is unique and we should work toward making sure EVERY child has the opportunity to learn and grow in our school.

Costume Parade

Coinciding with Halloween, Lin Howe typically has a costume parade where students dress up and parade around the perimeter of school. An alternate activity is provided for students who do not wish to participate in the parade.

The Dragon Diaries

Each Friday, Mr. Chabola sends an email to the school community with important announcements, reminders, etc. If you are looking for information, the Dragon Diaries is a good place to start! Previous Dragon Diaries can always be found [HERE](#).

The Dragon Wagon

The Dragon Wagon is Lin Howe's walking school bus. Students and parent volunteers meet Friday mornings from two locations to walk to school together. Join us at Carlson Park at 8:10 am or Ince/Lucerne at 8:20 am, or join in along the way. Students are given a tag to be scanned and an opportunity to win a prize.

Facebook

Lin Howe has a PTA moderated Facebook page to keep up to date with school related issues and connect with other Lin Howe Families. Search for "Linwood E. Howe PTA & School Community" and ask to join. Members must agree to comply with outlined rules in order to participate. A PTA-appointed monitor will accept you after a brief screening questionnaire.

Family Fun Nights

Lin Howe is a community that likes to have fun! PTA sponsored Family Fun Nights are free of charge and open to all Lin Howe families. Not only are Family Fun Nights great community builders, but they also take a community to make it happen. These include a fall and spring movie night, as well as Winter Wonderland in December. We're always looking for help to make these events happen, so don't forget to sign up for a volunteer shift!

Farm Fresh to You

Farm Fresh to You is an organic food delivery company that brings California-grown fruit and vegetables directly to your door. 10% of all proceeds from purchases by Lin Howe supporters are donated back to our school! Simply use promo code "seadragons" when signing up at farmfreshtoyou.com. Existing customers may also add the "seadragons" code to their subscription through the "Accounts" page.

Field Trips

PTA is proud to fund at least one field trip for every grade level at Lin Howe. Students and teachers enjoy going off campus for a special experience, and a parent volunteer or two are often included.

Green Ambassadors

This is the student group run by PTA's Green Team that focuses on the 5 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Ride and Rethink! The Green Ambassadors attend meetings where they learn about ways to be sustainable and then share that information with their classmates.

Green Team

This is a team of volunteer parents (run through the PTA) that works to ensure Lin Howe is thinking and functioning in the most sustainable, earth friendly ways. The Green Team runs the Green Ambassadors program, maintains the school garden, and invites classes to harvest and work in the garden. The Green Team organizes two school Beautification Days throughout the year to help keep our school looking beautiful. It's a great way to get involved!

Instrumental Music

K-2 students experience instrumental music through the Symphonic Jazz Orchestra (described later in this packet). Third graders work with recorders, while 4th and 5th graders can opt into instrumental music.

Intervention (Reading and Math)

Lin Howe has reading and math intervention specialists who support students in their grade level benchmarks.

Kinder Celebration

Kinder Celebration is the culmination of kindergarten, usually taking place a couple of days prior to the last day of school. It typically includes a short performance and a simple celebration.

Lin Howe's Got Talent

A large group of Sea Dragons participate in Lin Howe's annual talent show, highlighting their singing, dancing, instrumental, comedic and other talents. Students attend auditions, dress rehearsal and perform during the evening show. Most performers start working on their acts over the winter break. It's a fun night for all! The talent show is hosted by the PTA.

Math Olympiads

dedicated to stimulating enthusiasm, fostering creativity, and strengthening intuition in mathematical problem solving.

Office of Child Development (OCD)

OCD is short for the Office of Child Development. OCD is part of CCUSD and offers fee based and income eligible preschool programs, before and after care programs for TK-5, and summer camps for K-5. More information can be found here: <https://ocd.ccusd.org/>.

Open House

Open House offers an opportunity for parents to see what their child has been working on throughout the year. Students are excited and proud to show off their work and teachers are available to answer questions.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Conference dates are in mid-December. This is a time to meet with your child's teacher to discuss progress, concerns, etc. These dates also coincide with early dismissal days at 1:45 pm.

PTA

[PTA](#) stands for Parent-Teacher Association. The PTA's purpose is to promote the education, health and welfare of children in the home, school and community.

Membership Drive—We kick off the school year with our annual membership drive. It's \$7 to become an official PTA member, though many people "round up" to \$10 per membership so that even more funds can go back to our various programs. A membership can be purchased for all members of your family - parents, children, grandparents, etc. We strive for 100% participation as the funds raised go right back into helping our school. You can join anytime at linhowepta.com or [TOTEM MEMBERSHIP](#).

Monthly Meetings—Meetings will alternate monthly, between the first Thursday of the month at 6pm and the first Friday of the month at 8:30am. PTA meetings are open to all Lin Howe adults who want to learn about what the PTA is working on and to get involved. Upcoming PTA meeting dates can be found at <https://www.linhowepta.com/calendar> Come join us!

Pali Camp

5th grade students have the opportunity to attend Pail Camp through the Pali Institute for adventure, education and bonding experiences.

PBIS (Positive, Behavioral, Intervention, and Supports)

Classroom guidance lessons are presented to each class focusing on one of the five behavioral expectations.

P.R.I.D.E.- Perseverance, Respect, Inclusion, Determination, Empathy

Picture Day

This is the day where student portraits and class photos are taken for the new school year. It usually occurs in mid September. There is also a make-up day for any student who was absent that day, enrolled late or a retake is needed. This usually occurs a month after the original picture day.

Promotion - 5th Grade

This is the culmination of the 5th grade year, typically taking place a couple of days prior to the last day of school. It typically includes a tribute and a simple celebration.

Reflections

Reflections is a nation-wide arts appreciation and recognition program for students, sponsored by the National PTA each Fall. To participate, Lin Howe students may submit an original piece of their own independent work, inspired by the annual theme, in any of the following six areas: Dance/Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Photography, Music Composition and Visual Arts (2D and 3D).

School Calendars

- The Lin Howe website address is <http://linhowe.ccusd.org> and the Lin Howe events calendar is on the bottom of the home page.
- <https://www.ccusd.org> and the CCUSD calendar is located under the “About Us” tab.

School Site Council (SSC)

The School Site Council is comprised of parents, teachers, school staff members and the principal. All members are elected by the group they represent and serve two year terms (with the exception of the principal). This group discusses the school site plan (including school-wide goals), the school safety plan, and some school spending.

Science Fair

, students showcase their science project in the cafeteria. All science projects remain on display for Lin Howe families to view.

Special Education Committee

The Lin Howe PTA Special Education Committee is a parent-led group that works closely with school faculty and staff to ensure that children of all abilities are visible and supported in our school and community. We organize special assemblies, classroom readings, and other activities to increase understanding and empathy for students who are differently abled. There also is a Parent Resource book center that addresses an array of social, emotional and developmental issues for our children at the LinHowe library.

Spirit Wear

Spirit wear is our line of clothing that features multiple Lin Howe and Sea Dragon logo designs. There is a fantastic assortment for kids and adults including tees, sweatshirts and caps.

Staff Appreciation Week

The PTA welcomes the staff back to school in August with a luncheon. Lin Howe celebrates Staff Appreciation Week in May with a staff breakfast, luncheon and other special events . Room Parents also organize specific gifts for teachers. It's a great way to show our appreciation for all they do!

Symphonic Jazz Orchestra

Symphonic Jazz Orchestra is a K-3 music program. Professional musicians visit classrooms at Lin Howe to teach students about music and musical instruments.

Targeted Parent Teacher Conferences

Unlike regular Parent Teacher Conferences, where teachers meet with ALL students, these are teacher requested conferences. The teacher will let you know if they would like to schedule a conference time. Target Parent Conference Dates are in the Fall & Spring. These are also early dismissal days at 1:45 pm for all students.

Teacher Contact Information

A list of teachers (staff directory), with an option to email the teachers, is under the "About Us" tab on <http://linhowe.ccusd.org>.

Volunteer Registration Process

In order to be able to volunteer in the classroom, enter a classroom during the day, or go on field trips you need to have completed the [volunteer registration process](#) and confirm current requirements with the front office before you volunteer. It takes a few weeks, so start ASAP. The front office can guide you through the process. Forms are available on the school website, under the parent tab.

Walk 'N Rollers

An organization that encourages kids to walk, bike, skate or scoot to school.

Website Links

Culver City Unified School District - <https://www.ccusd.org>

Linwood Howe Elementary - <http://linhowe.ccusd.org>

Afterschool Cornucopia - <https://afterschoolcornucopia.org>

Lin Howe PTA - <https://www.linhowepta.com>

Facebook: Linwood E. Howe PTA & School Community

Yearbook

The yearbook comes out at the end of the year and is filled with photos from throughout the school year. To create the yearbook, parents are asked to send high resolution photos of classroom events, field trips and school events to the PTA Yearbook Committee. Pre-orders are taken in the Spring and the book is distributed at the end of the year. For questions email yearbooklinhowe@gmail.com.