



LONG BRANCH SCHOOLS

Gregory Elementary School



PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK 2021-2022

201 Monmouth Avenue
Long Branch, NJ 07740
732-222-7048

LONG BRANCH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Together We Can, Juntos Nós Podemos, Juntos Podemos"

2021

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tasha Youngblood Brown, President

Lucille Perez, Vice President

Avery W. Grant

Michele Critelli, Ed.D.

Armand R. Zambrano, Jr.

Donald C. Covin

Caroline Bennett

Lauren McCaskill

Violeta Peters



ADMINISTRATION

Francisco E. Rodriguez

Superintendent of Schools

JanetLynn Dudick, Ph.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services

Alvin L. Freeman, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Frank Riley

Assistant Superintendent of Leadership & Innovation

Alisa Aquino

Director of Grants & Innovative Programs

Nicole Esposito

Director of Curriculum, Planning & Teacher Development

Peter E. Genovese III, RSBO, QPA

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Markus Rodriguez

Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Nancy L. Valenti

Assistant School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary

Jena Valdiviezo, Ed.D.

Director of Personnel

MISSION STATEMENT

Committed to celebrating diversity and embracing uniqueness, the LBPS family strives to educate, develop and support every student to become successful community members in a rapidly changing world.

VISION STATEMENT

LBPS seeks to empower our students socially, emotionally, and academically for life and career in an inclusive, dynamic and innovative learning environment from PreK thru 12th grade and beyond.



GREGORY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF

2021-2022

Principal

Beth B. McCarthy

Vice Principal

Laura Widdis

Secretaries

Magaly Rodriguez

Danah Jetter

Nijah Pizzaro

Student/ Family Support Team Advisors

Twana Richardson

Silvia Rainho

Nurse

Suzanne Fitzsimmons

Grade 1 Teachers

Erika Tournquist

Stephanie Dixon (ELL)

Kevin Gilbert

Erin Schoonveld (ICS)

Suraya Kornegay (ICS)

Anna Santos (ELL)

Grade 4 Teachers

Melissa Joyce Gifted (Math)ELA

Megan Farrell (ELL) Math

Ebone Lawrence-Smith ELA

Thomas Odom Math

Brian Roberts ELA (ICS)

Grade 2 Teachers

Mia Cantaffa

Meredith Rindner (ELL)

Brittney Ramsey

Ashley Dziuba

Maria Panizzi (ELL)

Michael Dombrowiecki (ICS)

Grade 5 Teachers

Kelli Napolitano ELA

Michael McLaughlin (ICS)(ELL)

Cari Greenwood Gifted ELA

Aaron Collins (ICS)

Grade 3 Teachers

Alexa Booth (Gifted)

Jessica Maxwell (ICS)

Angela Robertson (ELA)(ICS)

Michael Thompson ELA

Christina Marra (ESL) Math

Ana Frazao (ESL) ELA

Special Needs

Alisha Hagerman (SCLD-1)

Jennifer Noone (SCLD-2)

Erica Krumich (SCLD-3)

Nicole Campece (SCLD-4)

Jennifer Farrell (SCLD-4)

Amanda MacDonald (SCLD-5)

Meredith Sinnett (SCLD-5)

Laura O'Brien (k-2 Aut)

Jessica Halleran (k-2 Aut)

Tynekqua Rolfe-Wiggs (3-5 Aut)

Holly terracciano (3-5 Aut)

Jennifer Leonhardt (3 Aut)

Diandra Reinfeld (ESL)

Patricia Bruckner(ALPS-1)

RTI Tutors

Rachel Robinson

Antonia Laterza

Child Study Team

Kirstin Coughlin

Linda Trafecante

Joey Robinson

Denise buckley

In Class Support

Carol Possiel

Jonathan Trzeszkowski

Nicole Howell

Beth Applegate

Kimberly Weinstock

Speech/Language Specialist

Marjani Morgan

Mia Apostle

Instructional Assistants

Samantha Cook

Michael Dennis

Casey Clark

Shannon Booth

Marissa Gomez

Elizabeth Marrin

Milagros Turner

Craig Cuje

Michael Conte

Dawn Montijo

Romia Lujan

Erica Wells

Christian Colon

Sheila Hoover-Popo

Hadja Haskovic

Jessica Molina

Specialist Teacher

Amanda Siller

John O'Neil

Jolie Dynak

Greg Penta

Edna Newman

Margaret Marzullo

Custodian

Joseph Lebron

Jose Lora

Lorenzo Mennella

Michael Rozza

Kanokwan Hernandez

Media Center Specialist

Stacey Simms

Safe School Environment Persons

Joseph DeFillipo

Literacy Coach

Stephanie Dispoto

k-5 Supervisor of ELA

Chantal Gudzak

Director of Early Childhood

Joy Daniels

GREGORY SCHOOL
HOURS

GRADES 1-5 FULL DAY	GRADES 1-5 HALF DAY
7:15 A.M.- 7:45 A.M. Breakfast	7:15 A.M.- 7:45 A.M. Breakfast
7:50 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. Classroom Instruction	7:50 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Classroom Instruction
2:30 P.M. Dismissal	12:30 P.M. Dismissal

~~~~~

**KLC CHILD CARE/EXTENDED LEARNING**  
**KNOWLEDGE LEARNING CENTER (CHAMPIONS)**

**BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

6:30 A.M. – until the start of the school day

2:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

For further Information please call:

732-222-3613

~~~~~

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[Click here for District Calendar](#)

Dates and Events subject to change

~~~~~

**EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYED OPENINGS**

In the event that Long Branch Public Schools are closed or openings are delayed announcements will be made through an automated phone message, social media (Twitter - @LBpublicschools), and Blackboard Connect phone call/text message. Bus sched

## **SCHOOL VISITORS**

Yearly, the Board of Education and District Administration actively explore best practices in school safety. We have established School Safety Committees in each school whose members have made recommendations to further improve the security of each building. Among those recommendations were building access cards, building risk assessments, video cameras, and additional training for school safety personnel.

After reviewing our procedure for visitors to schools, it was found that there is a need to make some changes to the procedure. The revised procedure for visitors is listed below.

### **Visitor to School Procedure:**

- No visitors are to enter the building with students during arrival. All visitors to our schools will need to have an appointment to enter the building. (If you require assistance, an appointment must be made after the start of the school day).
- At the buzzer, it is expected that all visitors will state their name, the purpose of their visit and/or specify with whom they have an appointment.
- If the visitor is picking up a child, they must answer a security question accurately in order to be granted access into the building.
- If the visitor has an appointment, and it is verified, the visitor will be buzzed in and must present themselves to the main office immediately upon entry.
- Visitors will be required to show photo identification, and sign in to obtain a visitor's pass.
- It is imperative that visitors do not hold the door open for others behind them. Each visitor must be acknowledged individually through the buzzer system.
- If you will be picking your child up early, you must notify the office in writing prior to dismissal. If it is an emergency, call the office to notify the school.
- Front Office secretaries will be required to call 911 and notify school administrators if a visitor is uncooperative, does not adhere to the procedures, or becomes threatening.
- Ultimately, failure to follow these procedures may result in a lockdown.

We know that this protocol is more stringent than past practice and may inconvenience our visitors who are, as always, welcome in our schools. Unfortunately, these are the times we are living in, and we are optimistic that our visitors will ultimately recognize our need to be as vigilant as possible.

If you should require clarification regarding the new protocol please contact the school. We will be happy to answer your questions to ensure your full understanding and adherence to our procedures. With your cooperation, our schools will be more secure for students and staff.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**ALL VISITORS MUST REPORT TO THE MAIN OFFICE TO SIGN IN/OUT,  
AND WILL RECEIVE AND MUST WEAR A VISITOR'S BADGE AT ALL TIMES**

### ATTENDANCE

In accordance with NJ State Laws on student attendance, the Long Branch Board of Education requires that all pupils enrolled in Long Branch Public Schools attend consistently and regularly. The curriculum implemented in each class is accelerated and requires the students' presence. Attendance and punctuality shall be required of all students during the days and hours that each school is in session. For the safety of our children, students should not be permitted to arrive at school more than 10 minutes before opening school times. All students who arrive prior to this time will be unsupervised.

### ABSENCE

If your child must be absent, please notify the school by calling (732) 222-7048 and leave a message on the school's machine anytime prior to the opening of school. We ask that the following information be provided: **child's name, teacher, reason for absence and expected duration. Doctor, dentist, and other necessary appointments should be made after school hours whenever possible.**

#### **Please note:**

1. **Vacations are considered unexcused absences; this will be reflected on the report card.**
2. **Absences considered excused must provide documentation (i.e. doctor's note).**
3. **Any student absent for more than the 10 days will be subject to being disenrolled and will be required to re-register. This jeopardizes having the same teacher, school or schedule.**

### TARDY POLICY

Any student who is not in their homeroom at the beginning of instruction will be marked tardy. All students arriving after that time must go through the front door and report to the **Main Office** to receive a late pass. Students who are repeatedly late will be addressed by the student advisor, the building principal, and if necessary, a truancy officer.

### EARLY RELEASE OF STUDENTS

Should it be necessary to take a child out of school for a valid reason before the regular dismissal time, please adhere to the following procedures:

1. Please send a note to the teacher one to two days in advance of the early dismissal date. We must receive a note or phone call by the day of the early release.
2. Report to the Main Office in order to pick up your child. **DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM. TEACHERS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO RELEASE STUDENTS.**
3. No student will be released to the parking lot or other unsupervised areas. Parents must wait in the Main Office and leave with their child.
4. Should it be necessary to have your child picked up by someone other than yourself, please send a note to school stating the person's name and giving your consent. Please advise the other person to report to the Main Office and be prepared to show photo identification along with answering a security question. Please note, students will not be released to any individual whom is not listed as an emergency contact.
5. No student will be released early if a parent or designated person does not come to the school to escort the child.
6. All early release of students must occur before 2:10, barring an emergency. Students will not be released from school until dismissal after 2:10.



## CONTACTING HOME

It is extremely important that we have current telephone numbers and emergency contact people for our students.

**A document with your child's current listed primary and emergency contacts, along with medical information will be sent home during the first week of school. Please be sure to review the information provided carefully and report any updates to your child's teacher immediately. Please note, only individuals listed as primary or emergency contacts will be allowed to pick up your child.**

## STUDENT CONDUCT

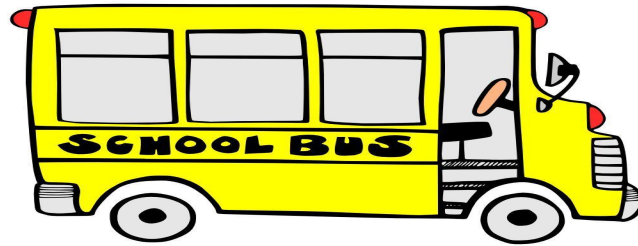
The Long Branch Public Schools have set high expectations for student conduct. It is vital that we establish a clear set of rules and maintain consistency in order to provide the structure that is necessary for our students to become successful. We recognize our responsibility to maintain proper and appropriate behavior in school, and we encourage you to support our efforts by discussing the school rules with your child. In order to build and strengthen relationships between school and home, we also strongly encourage parents and teachers to maintain ongoing communication to ensure every child's academic success.

Proper and reasonable behavior is expected from every student. As an elementary school, we understand that children come to school to learn and where/when possible we will attempt to teach students through their behavior to make better choices. However, when the behavior is repeated or the severity of the behavior deems consequences to be necessary, corrective action will be taken. It is the student's responsibility to recognize that the principal, teachers, and other adults in the school are responsible for the students and their actions at all times. Under no circumstances will defiant or disrespectful behavior be tolerated. Improper student behavior will result in immediate corrective action as deemed fit by the Principal/Vice Principal, according to district policy.

Improper student behaviors are classified into three disciplinary action tiers; Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3. Following an investigation by the Principal/Vice Principal or Student Facilitator, as needed, suggested corrective actions per tiered behavior are listed in the following table. Please note, corrective actions and consequences are individually based, and will only be discussed with the child's legal parents/guardians. **Building administration has the ability to exercise discretion relative to individual student needs and the Code of Conduct in order to support and maintain a safe and orderly school environment.**

## Student Code of Conduct

| Tier Level | Type of Behavior: (including, but not limited to)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Corrective Action 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Corrective Action 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Corrective Action 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tier 1:    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Horseplay (Non malicious physical behavior)</li> <li>● Inappropriate, Profane, or Vulgar conversation/action (non malicious)</li> <li>● Failure to follow the reasonable request of a staff member</li> <li>● Non compliance</li> <li>● Disturbing the class</li> </ul>                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In class consequences for all offenses. Teacher to properly document and discuss behavior and consequence issued with student's parent.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Second offense for same behavior, submit disciplinary referral, issue in class consequence. Teacher to properly document and discuss behavior and consequence issued with student's parent.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Third offense for same behavior, student meeting with student advisor and/or administration with consequence issued. Teacher/Student Advisor to properly document and discuss behavior and consequence issued with student's parent</li> </ul> |
| Tier 2:    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Disrespectful behavior towards peers/staff.</li> <li>● Student intentionally leaving the direct supervision of the assigned staff member without direct permission</li> <li>● Defacing property of others</li> <li>● Defacing school property</li> <li>● Horseplay (malicious)</li> <li>● Theft</li> <li>● Violation of User Agreement (technology usage)</li> <li>● Verbal threats</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First offense, disciplinary referral and classroom consequence. Teacher to properly document and discuss behavior and consequence issued with student's parent.</li> <li>● Corrective action from Principal/Vice Principal or Student advisor may follow. If issued, Principal/Vice Principal or Student Advisor will contact parent.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Second offense for same behavior, disciplinary referral, student and parent meeting with student advisor and teacher, corrective action from Principal/Vice Principal or Student Advisor.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Third offense for same behavior, disciplinary referral, student and parent meeting with Principal/ Vice Principal or Student Advisor, corrective action from Principal/ Vice Principal.</li> </ul>                                             |
| Tier 3:    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Exiting the classroom without permission, or as an act of defiance</li> <li>● Fighting</li> <li>● Creating an unsafe learning environment.</li> <li>● Exiting the building/Leaving school grounds</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teacher Immediately contact safe school or main office for intervention from Principal/ Vice Principal or Student Advisor. Principal will meet with student, student's advisor and parent. Corrective action will be assigned by Principal/ Vice Principal</li> </ul>                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



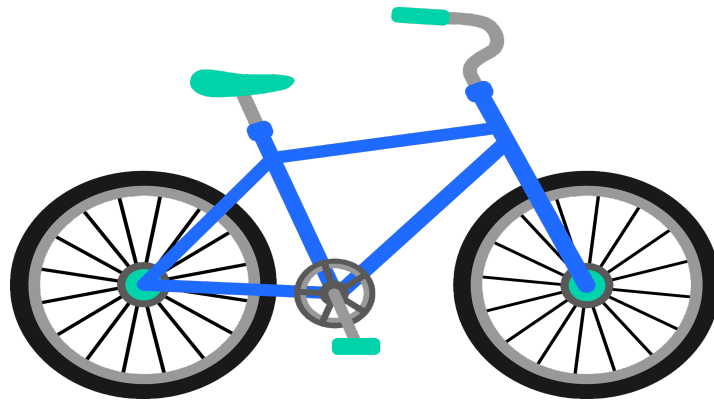
### **BUS REGULATIONS**

Transportation and its related activities are an extension of the school building. Student behavior at bus stops and on buses is subject to the same standards as in the school building. Therefore, students are expected to adhere to all school rules at bus stops and on the bus. **Students who choose not to obey school and district bus rules/regulations will forfeit their right to this service.**

It is imperative that you as a parent/guardian bring your child to the bus each morning and receive your child at the bus stop. If you fail to pick up your child he/she will be brought to an after school program located at the Gregory School, and you are subject to pay for after care services.

### **BICYCLES AT SCHOOL**

Students riding bicycles to school are not permitted to bring them into the building. Each bicycle must have a lock and chain securing it to the bicycle rack. Students must wear safety helmets when riding bikes to school.



## **UNIFORMITY OF DRESS ACCEPTABLE ATTIRE**



- **Pants, shorts, jumpers and skorts in khaki or black color**
- **Golf shirts (collared shirts), short or long-sleeved, in dark green, white or gray**
- **Turtleneck shirts in dark green, white or gray**
- **Cardigan sweaters in dark green, white, or gray**

All shirts, turtlenecks and sweaters are to have the Long Branch Public School patch (emblem) attached as part of your child's daily attire. The school will provide these emblems.

Sneakers are the desirable choice of footwear to be worn daily. If sandals are worn, they need to have a back. Plastic beach shoes and/or plastic shoes are not to be worn to school. Hats, scarves and bandanas are not to be worn in school. "Hats" and head coverings of a religious significance will be allowed.



### **UNACCEPTABLE ATTIRE**

- **Pants, shorts, skirts with pockets on the legs otherwise known as "CARGO" are not allowed.**
- **Hoodies, sweatshirts or jackets that are not green, gray or white are not allowed.**

Unacceptable dress is defined as clothing of other styles and color, which deviate from the "Uniformity of Dress" policy. **Shorts are not to be worn between November 1st and March 31st**

**ENFORCEMENT**  
**Uniformity of Dress Policy**

Procedures for students inappropriately dressed are as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense** – Teacher will send home a copy of the Dress Code Reminder Slip.

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** – The school will contact the parent/guardian. Due to safety and security issues, students not conforming to the policy will not be included in field trips, local excursions and possibly outdoor activities.

**4<sup>th</sup> Offense** – Principal or designee will meet with parent/guardian regarding the dress code regulations. If, at that point, families do not wish to participate in the uniformity of dress, then the alternative of not continuing in the District will be reviewed as well as the loss of privileges due to student safety and school security.

**CELL PHONES**

The use of cell phones, pagers, walkie-talkies and other personal communication devices are not permitted during school hours. The first time any such device is seen or heard during the school day, it will be confiscated and parents will have to retrieve it. Further violations may result in confiscation until the school year's end.



**Harassment/Hazing, Intimidation or Bullying**

[Click here to view the Long Branch Public Schools Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy](#)

**Contact Persons: Mrs. Silvia Rainho & Ms. Twana Richardson**  
**Student/Family Support Team Advisors**

The Board of Education, in accordance with the Anti Bullying Bill of Rights Act of 2011, prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a pupil. A safe and civil environment in school is necessary for pupils to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a pupil's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its pupils in a safe and disciplined environment. Since pupils learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff and volunteers should be commended for demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

"Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" means any gesture, any written, verbal, or physical act, or any electronic communication, as defined in N.J.S.A 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents that:

1. Is reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical, or sensory disability; or by any other distinguishing characteristic.

2. Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds, as provided for in N.J.S.A 18A:37-15.3, that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other pupils; and that
3. A reasonable person should know, under circumstances, that the act(s) will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a pupil or damaging the pupil's property, or placing a pupil in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; or
4. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any pupil or group of pupils; or
5. Creates a hostile educational environment for the pupil by interfering with a pupil's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the pupil.

Each incident will be handled individually per Policy set forth by the Long Branch Board of Education.

To view the Long Branch Public Schools Anti Bullying Policy, please visit the district website:

<http://www.longbranch.k12.nj.us//>

## **Dating Violence at School**

[Click here to view the Long Branch Public Schools Teen Dating Violence Policy](#)

**Contact Persons: Mrs. Silvia Rainho & Ms. Twana Richardson  
Student/Family Support Team Advisors**

The Long Branch Board of Education believes a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for children to learn. A pupil who is a victim of dating violence suffers academically and the pupil's safety at school is jeopardized. Acts or incidents of dating violence at school whether they are verbal, sexual, physical or emotional will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with the school's pupil code of conduct and policy set forth by the Board of Education.

To view the Long Branch Public Schools Teen Dating Violence in its entirety, please visit the district website @ <http://www.longbranch.k12.nj.us-DEPARTMENTS-ANTIBULLYING-CLICK TEEN DATING VIOLENCE>

## **Comprehensive Equity Plan**

[Click here to view the Long Branch Public Schools Comprehensive Equity Plan](#)

The Long Branch School District has conducted a comprehensive needs assessment of its equity and equality needs. The Comprehensive Equity Plan is designed to meet these assessed needs. The Board of Education has authorized the submission of the Comprehensive Equity Plan to the New Jersey State Department of Education, and will support full implementation of the plan. Highlights of the plan include:

- ***Staff Development and Training***
- ***School and Classroom Practices***
- ***Equity and Equality in Curriculum***
- ***Equity and Equality in Guidance and Services***

You may review the comprehensive plan and respond to it by contacting the Office of Affirmative Action at 732-571-2868.

# Parent Teacher Association

The Long Branch Public Schools encourage parents to become an integral part of their child's education.  
Parents working with teachers to educate our children  
is always a winning team.

## Gregory Elementary School 2021-2022

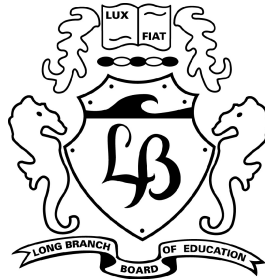
### PTO Executive Board Members

|                                                                              |                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>                                                            | <b>Donna Battaglia</b>                         |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b><br><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b> | <b>Shawanda Davis</b><br><b>Thomas Odom</b>    |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                                                            | <b>Cecilia Tamyra</b>                          |
| <b>Recording Secretary:</b>                                                  | <b>Ebone Lawrence-Smith</b>                    |
| <b>Coresponding Secretary:</b>                                               | <b>Nicole Trainor</b>                          |
| <b>Advisors:</b>                                                             | <b>Beth B. McCarthy</b><br><b>Laura Widdis</b> |

**Contact information:**  
dbattaglia1014@gmail.com  
Gregory School PTA



LONG BRANCH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY



Have a Wonderful Year!