

July 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Lawndale staff and I are looking forward to our students returning for another school year together. While the year ahead will most certainly look a little different from previous years, we are committed to making this one an exciting year full of joy and one to result in precious memories for your family and child(ren). At Lawndale, we know the importance of these years in a child's life, and the significant role school plays in your child's happiness and quality of life. We take this responsibility very seriously. Our goal at Lawndale continues to be to create an environment in which all students can thrive, learn, and grow while keeping our students, staff, and entire school community safe. Please know we have taken many measures to make this a reality and will work diligently to care for your child as we would our own. In order to move forward with our commitment amid the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be some changes to our school day. Below, we hope to outline some of those changes and ultimately ease your minds during such a challenging time.

- **Our instructional school day will be 8:15 AM until 2:15 PM.**
- Arrival - Doors will open to receive students at 7:30 AM. Students will report directly to their classrooms with their designated teacher; however, each will have the opportunity to pick up a grab-and-go breakfast on the way to his/her homeroom class.
- Dismissal - Students will depart using various exits on campus beginning at 2:15 PM. The early release time is necessary to accommodate multiple routes for our buses and allows our staff to carry out additional cleaning steps and plan for instruction.
- **All school supplies will be provided for all students.** Students will have individual bags/boxes of supplies, manipulatives, textbooks, novels etc.
- Students may bring backpacks, lunchboxes, and purses to school.
- Students will remain with their homeroom class in the same classroom for the entire school day except when transitioning to recess and activity. Remaining with the same group of children will help to limit exposure during the instructional day. Content area teachers and support staff, however, will transition to classrooms in order to provide instruction to various groups. Additionally, challenge classes will remain intact as we are accustomed, and those students will be pulled out of the regular classroom on their designated day/time.
- All special services will still be offered to students who qualify for those supports such as special education, English Learner support, and Tier II and Tier III interventions.
- Teachers will determine individual learning gaps in August through screenings and observations. Interventions and extra support will be planned for students as needed to close those gaps. Students needing additional academic and behavior support will be provided Tier II or Tier III services based on identified needs.
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided by our cafeteria staff. Students will eat their meals in the classroom.
- **Lawndale will be a peanut/nut free school again this year.** Please help us by voluntarily adhering to the following food allergy safety guidelines. More details to come from our nurse when school begins.
  - Please do not send any food items to be eaten as snacks in our classrooms with ingredient labels indicating they contain peanuts or nuts.
  - Please do not send any food items with ingredient labels indicating they were manufactured in a factory that processes nuts. Example: Hershey's plain chocolates and some jelly beans.
- Guests will not be permitted to join students or staff on campus during the instructional day so that we are able to promote the healthiest environment possible for our students and staff.
- Handwashing and sanitization will be a significant focus for helping students to learn and practice healthy habits throughout the school day.
- Activity Classes (Art, Music, PE, Media, RIDES, & Technology) will continue to be offered to students on a rotational basis. Students will travel to these classrooms. Each room will be sanitized between classes.
- Recess is also included as a part of our students' daily schedule with a limited number of students on the playground or in a designated play area at a time.
- Movement throughout the building has been carefully planned to avoid masses of students being in the hallway at any given time.

- Nurse Graham will be on hand full time (Monday through Friday) at Lawndale this year. She will be instrumental in helping to keep our students and staff healthy and safe.
- As outlined in the Tupelo Public School District Blueprint for Reopening School 2020-2021 School Year, <https://t.co/DaPKvWWtjS>, students and staff will be expected to wear a mask during small group instruction and expected to wear a mask when they are not able to practice social distancing. Students will be expected to wear their mask during arrival, dismissal, bus travel, and moving throughout the building.
- A face covering will be provided by the district; however, if you want to provide one for your child, you are welcome to do so.
- Intermittent closures are addressed in the Blueprint. Due to possible outbreaks, the superintendent may be required to close a school or schools to prevent further spread. Students will receive instruction online during these closures.
- Distance learning is an option provided to K-12 students in our district for the upcoming school year. If chosen by families as the learning option, this would be a commitment that would extend for the **entire semester**. Please note, we will welcome students to join us in house at the start of Semester 2 (January) should that be requested by parents. **For those choosing the Distance Learning option, the deadline to register is Friday, July 17, 2020.**
- Students participating in distance learning would be assigned a certified teacher who would provide standards-based instruction, feedback for assignments, and continuous communication with students and parents for this selected method of learning. This option would still require students to be accountable for logging into the students' instructional day with regular attendance, as well as meet the grade level criteria in order for him/her to be promoted to the next grade level.
- We will limit the number of visitors in the office. We will ask some people to wait outside from time to time to protect all families and guests. When visiting, please wear a mask. You are welcome to call the office for assistance prior to entering the building.
- As a safety precaution parents will not be allowed to enter the building or to walk their child to their classroom on the first day(s) of school. Your child will be enthusiastically welcomed by staff members and escorted to his/her new classroom. Our staff will work diligently to calm any first day jitters.
- Each child will have his or her own desk/space in the classroom, during activity, and in challenge. If seated at a table, children will be at opposite ends. Teachers will set up classrooms with social distancing in mind.
- There will be joy and fun in our day! We will work tirelessly to make Lawndale Elementary a place of joy for all children.
- Daily schedules are posted online at [www.tupeloschools.com](http://www.tupeloschools.com) if you would like a more in-depth look at the school day.

At Lawndale, our teachers, staff, and I are ready to welcome your children in August as if they are our own. We desire for experiences at Lawndale to be those that will encourage, inspire, and motivate your child to be the very best he or she can be. We believe it takes a partnership with our parents, families, and community to make this happen. Our expectation of helping students demonstrate being responsible, respectful, resourceful, and safe each and every day will not waver. The changes in our day-to-day procedures for this year align with the guidance provided by the CDC, our community healthcare professionals, as well as our district leadership to give you and your child our very best. We look forward to your continued partnership and support in making the 2020-2021 school year one that allows your child solid educational experiences at Lawndale.

More information will be coming, and some information may change based on the needs and guidelines at the time. If you should have any additional questions or concerns during this registration process, please do not hesitate to reach out by calling our main office at 841-8890. We are always glad to help.

Partners in Learning,

Talina Knight and the Lawndale Team