



STUDENT 2024-2025 HEAD AND BOOK

Truman.HickmanMills.org



TRUMAN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Truman Elementary Student Handbook



Address: 9601 James A. Reed Road, Kansas City, MO 64137

Phone: (816) 316-8100

Fax: (816) 316-

Website: www.hickmanmills.org/truman

Email: trumanelementary@hickmanmills.org

School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

2024-2025 School Year

Welcome to Truman Elementary

At Truman Elementary, we believe in providing our students with the tools they need to succeed in the ever-changing world. Our school is driven by a passion for excellence and innovation, offering a range of programs and opportunities that set us apart from the rest.

"It" at Truman Elementary means empowerment through various intervention groups, before/after school clubs, and enriching programs like Shine! and Epic! Our students thrive in an environment that nurtures their interests and talents. From engaging in Lego League Jr. to serving as student ambassadors, they have endless opportunities to grow and excel.

We take great pride in being a Trauma Smart school, where we prioritize the social and emotional well-being of our students. Our National Elementary Honor Society recognizes exceptional scholars who demonstrate leadership and academic excellence. Furthermore, we boast the incredible achievement of Claudette Scott, our district Teacher of the Year for two consecutive years, proving our commitment to exceptional teaching.

Truman Elementary values mentorship and community engagement. Through our All in Mentor Program and strong LINC partnership, we ensure that every student receives the support they need to thrive academically and emotionally. Our Robocats Lego League and Honor Choir inspire creativity and teamwork, fostering well-rounded individuals.

Our school leadership is committed to achieving excellence, focusing on three key instructional priorities:

1. **Effective Implementation of District Curriculum Resources:** We use cutting-edge resources and techniques to provide a world-class education for our students, ensuring they have every advantage to succeed.
2. **Maintain 90% Attendance or Better:** We recognize the importance of consistent attendance and strive to ensure our students are present and engaged in their learning journey.
3. **At least 50% of Scholars on Grade Level by the End of the School Year:** We are dedicated to helping our students reach their academic potential, and our goal is to see 40% of them achieve grade-level proficiency by year-end.

Join us at Truman Elementary, where we believe that every child deserves a champion - someone who believes in them, supports them, and helps them reach new heights. Together, let's empower our students for a bright future and show them that the future is now! Contact us today to learn more about our exceptional programs and caring community.

TRUMAN CONTACT INFORMATION

School Name:

Truman Elementary

School Alias:

Truman

School Address:

9601 James A. Reed Road, Kansas City, MO 64137

School Phone Number:

(816) 316-8100

School Fax:

(816) 316-8310

School Email:

trumanelementary@hickmanmills.org

School Website:

www.hickmanmills.org/truman

School Facebook Address:

www.facebook.com/HMC1Truman

School Instagram:

www.Instagram.com/Truman_hmc1

School Twitter:

www.Twitter.com/HMC1_Truman

School YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@trumanelementaryhmc1

TRUMAN ELEMENTARY STAFF INFORMATION

Principal Name: Angela Owens
Principal Email: angela.owens@hickmanmills.org
Principal Phone Number: (816) 316- 8100

Secretary Name: Terri Colbert
Secretary Email: terri.colbert@hickmanmills.org
Secretary Phone Number: (816) 316-8110

Attendance Clerk Name: Chirina Perry
Attendance Clerk Email: chirina.perry@hickmanmills.org
Attendance Clerk Number: (816) 316-8078

Counselor Name: Tabitha Salter-Jarrett
Counselor Email: tabitha.salter-jarrett@hickmanmills.org
Counselor Phone Number: (816) 316-8105

Family School Liaison Name: Traci Pettis Johnson
Family School Liaison Email: traci.pettis-johnson@hickmanmills.org
Family School Liaison Phone Number: (816) 316-8090

Nurse Name: Monique Hall
Nurse Email: monique.hall@hickmanmills.org
Nurse Phone Number: (816) 316-8070

ABOUT

Mission:

Truman Elementary is dedicated to providing an equitable environment that supports students in reaching their fullest potential academically, socially and emotionally. We bridge the gaps between home, school, and the community.

Vision:

Our school envisions the highest level of success for every student and in order to accomplish this goal, teachers, parents, students, and families must work together in a collaborative partnership.

Mascot:

Wildcat

Colors:

Royal Blue and Gold

Values:

Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe

Goals:

Build strong academic foundation, support social and emotional development, promote critical thinking and problem-solving, foster extracurricular engagement and cultivate a sense of community and belonging.

Mottos:

Be a Truman Scholar

THE TRUMAN WAY... (YOU CAN ADD DETAILS SPECIFIC TO YOUR SCHOOL HERE)

At Truman Elementary, we are dedicated to nurturing and developing the whole student through a culture of safety, respect, cooperation, kindness, and peace. Our guiding principles, known as "The Truman Way," help us create an environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Character Traits and Recognition

Each day, our staff will encourage students to:

- **Be Safe:** Engage in behaviors that ensure personal safety and the safety of others.
- **Be Respectful:** Treat others with kindness and consideration.
- **Be Cooperative:** Work effectively with peers and adults.
- **Be Kind:** Demonstrate empathy and compassion.
- **Be Peaceful:** Resolve conflicts calmly and constructively.

To recognize these positive traits, we will award a **High Five Award** weekly to one student from each class who exemplifies these characteristics. Additionally, at our Celebration Assemblies each quarter, one student from each class will be honored with an overall **High Five Award** for their outstanding display of these values.

How to Be a Truman Scholar

We encourage our students to become young scholars who engage as collaborative researchers and critical thinkers. Our goal is to create an environment where:

- **Students:** Develop as creative, critical, and complex thinkers who solve real-world problems. They take ownership of their education by setting and tracking their learning goals, actively participate in the school community, utilize technology to enhance their learning, and practice self-management through trauma-informed techniques. We aim for them to strive for proficiency and advancement in all their endeavors.
- **Parents:** Foster community trust and engagement by participating in the PTA, joining parent learning opportunities, implementing trauma-informed practices, and attending school events. Parents are also encouraged to support their child's academic success through reading, homework assistance, and establishing healthy routines.
- **Staff:** Committed to equity, staff will develop culturally responsive practices, utilize community resources, and provide enriching learning experiences through STEAM and PBL. They will foster a genuine interest in families, champion every student's potential, and ensure effective collaboration with their teams and support personnel.
- **School Environment:** You will find a vibrant STEAM room and Library Media Center, hallways that reflect classroom excellence, flexible seating, and student collaboration spaces. Cross-curricular and vertical learning opportunities will be present throughout the building. Multilingual signage, outdoor learning spaces, updated facilities, and well-organized classrooms further enhance our commitment to a dynamic and inclusive educational environment.

Behavior Management and Support

We understand that students may sometimes need redirection and support. Our behavior management continuum includes:

1. **Verbal Warning/Redirection:** Using trauma-sensitive language to guide behavior.
2. **Reflection:** A safe spot within the classroom for students to calm down and think.
3. **Think Sheet:** A written reflection in a buddy room.
4. **Parent Contact:** Engaging parents to support and partner with us in behavior management.
5. **Principal Conference:** A meeting with the student and possibly parents, where consequences may be issued for severe behaviors. More serious issues may bypass the five-step process.

At Truman Elementary, we are committed to creating an exemplary educational experience where every student, parent, and staff member plays a vital role in fostering a thriving school community.

ATTENDANCE AND INFORMATION UPDATES

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is crucial for the academic success of all students. Parents and guardians are expected to ensure that their children attend school every day and arrive on time. Absences and tardiness can significantly affect a student's learning experience and overall performance.

Reporting Absences

If a student is unable to attend school due to illness or any other valid reason, parents or guardians should notify the school office as soon as possible. Please call the school office before 9:00 AM on the day of the absence and provide a reason for the absence. If the school is not notified, the absence will be considered unexcused.

Excused Absences

Absences may be excused for the following reasons:

- Illness or injury
- Medical or dental appointments (with a doctor's note)
- Family emergencies
- Religious observances
- Other reasons approved by the school administration

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to:

- Family vacations during school days
- Oversleeping
- Missing the bus
- Lack of transportation
- Any other reason not approved by the school administration

Tardiness

Students are expected to arrive at school on time. The school day begins at 9:00 AM. Students who arrive after 9:10 AM must report to the school office for a tardy slip before going to their classroom. Frequent tardiness can disrupt the learning environment and may result in consequences.

Checking Students In and Out

Parents or guardians must sign students in and out at the school office for late arrivals and early departures. Proper identification may be required to ensure student safety.

Address, Phone Number, and Contact Changes

It is essential to keep the school informed of any changes in address, phone numbers, or emergency contact information. Please notify the school office immediately of any updates to ensure the school can contact you in case of an emergency.

Inclement Weather Policy

In case of severe weather conditions, school closures or delays will be announced through local radio and television stations, as well as through the school's automated notification system. Parents and guardians are encouraged to ensure that their contact information is up to date with the school office to receive timely notifications.

Transportation Changes

If there is a change in a student's usual transportation routine, parents or guardians must notify the school office in writing or by phone before 2:00 PM. This ensures that the student and staff are aware of the changes and can make necessary arrangements.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Arrival Procedures

Students should arrive at school between 8:45 AM and 9:00 AM. Upon arrival, students should go directly to their classrooms. Parents dropping off students should follow the designated drop-off procedures to ensure safety and efficiency.

Bus Expectations and Bus Riders

Students who ride the bus are expected to follow the bus rules and behave appropriately. Safety is a top priority. Students should remain seated, keep hands and feet inside the bus, and speak quietly. Misbehavior on the bus may result in disciplinary action and loss of bus riding privileges.

Car Rider Expectations

Parents picking up their children by car should use the designated car rider lane and display the school-issued car tag with the student's name and grade. Students will be called in the order of the cars' arrival. Parents should remain in their vehicles to ensure a smooth and safe pick-up process.

Dismissal Procedures

Dismissal begins at 4:00 PM. Students will be dismissed according to their designated mode of transportation (bus riders, car riders, and walkers). Teachers will escort students to their appropriate areas to ensure a safe and orderly dismissal.

Early Dismissal Procedures

If a student needs to leave school before the end of the school day, a parent or guardian must sign them out at the school office. Please provide a written note or call the office in advance to inform the school of the early dismissal.

Walker Dismissal Procedures

Students who walk home will be dismissed from a designated area. Parents who meet their children should wait in the designated waiting area. Students should follow all safety guidelines when walking home.

Transportation Changes

The dismissal mode of transportation for your students should be consistent from day to day. Inconsistency in the mode of transportation can cause a lot of confusion for your student and his/her teacher. A phone call to the office is needed in order to share transportation change information with all appropriate personnel. Children enrolled in LINC will be sent to LINC daily, unless notified in advance in writing or by calling the office at least an hour before dismissal.

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE

School Hours

School Start Time: 9: 00 AM

Dismissal Time: 4:00 PM

Daily Schedule varies based on the grade level.

School Calendar

A detailed school calendar with important dates, holidays, and early release days will be provided at the beginning of the school year and will be available on the school's website.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Visitors

Parents and guardians are welcome to visit classes and are encouraged to attend student assembly programs. To ensure the safety of all students and staff, all visitors must adhere to the following procedures:

- **Check-In Procedures:** Upon arrival, all visitors must report to the building office. Visitors will be required to present a government-issued ID, such as a driver's license, which will be scanned or manually entered into the Raptor system. If a visitor does not have a government-issued ID, any form of identification with the person's name can be used.
- **Visitor Badge:** Once entry is approved, the Raptor system will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of their visit. Visitors must wear this badge at all times while on school premises. A visitor's badge is not required for those who are only dropping off items in the office or picking up paperwork.
- **Scheduled Visits:** Parents wishing to visit classes during school hours are asked to make prior arrangements with the office and the teacher(s) at least 24 hours before the desired visit. Visits should be limited to teacher-approved instructional times and are for observation only. Interactions should not distract from the learning environment.
- **Returning to Office:** Before leaving the building, visitors must return to the office to sign out of the system.

Parent Volunteers

Parents are encouraged to volunteer at the school. Volunteers play a crucial role in supporting the school's programs and enhancing the educational experience of students. To ensure a safe environment, the following procedures must be followed:

- **Background Check:** All volunteers must complete and pass a district background check before working with staff and students. The Volunteer module, a web-based application, allows district patrons to complete an application online. There is a \$5 fee per background check, paid by the district patron.
- **Approval Process:** Results of the background check must be received and approved by the district before volunteering, tutoring, or participating in any school activities. The approval process is annual, and reminders will be sent to approved volunteers 60 days before the end of the school year.
- **Check-In Procedures:** Volunteers must report to the office upon arrival and departure. Volunteers

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Assemblies

- Students are expected to behave respectfully during assemblies, following the instructions of staff and presenters.

Activities Programs

- Participation in extracurricular activities requires adherence to school rules and academic eligibility.

Backpack

- Students are expected to bring a backpack to school daily to carry books, supplies, and other necessary items.
- Keep backpacks clean and free from any prohibited items such as toys, electronics, or other non-essential objects.

Breakfast/Lunch

- Free breakfast and lunch are served daily. Menus are available on the district website.
- All students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch according to federal guidelines.
- Students who stay after school may receive dinner as well.

Cell Phones

- Students must keep cell phones in their backpacks and turned off during the school day. Phones may be turned on after leaving campus.
- Use of cell phones during school hours is prohibited. Violations will result in confiscation, and parents will need to pick up the phones from the front office. Disciplinary consequences may also apply.

Dress Code

Students' attire should contribute to a safe and appropriate learning environment. The following guidelines must be adhered to:

- **Shoes:** Must be worn at all times. Backless shoes, slippers, slides, heels over 2 inches, and shoes with spikes or skaters are not allowed.
- **Coverage:** Clothing must cover the body from shoulders to mid-thigh (about 3 inches above the knee). The chest, back, ribs, midriff, underarms, and buttocks must be covered. Undergarments should not be visible. Sagging is not permitted. All shirts must have sleeves.
- **Prohibited Items:**
 - Headphones (e.g., Dre-beats), wireless headsets (e.g., Bluetooth) unless for academic purposes with permission.
 - Ripped jeans, leggings, spandex pants, see-through tights or yoga pants worn alone, pajama pants, and skirts with slits more than 3 inches above the knee.
 - Clothing that is see-through, revealing, or displays profanity or symbols related to violence, ethnic/racial slurs, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, illegal gang affiliation, or other illegal activity.
 - Jewelry or accessories that may be used as weapons, including wallet chains, spiked rings, spiked bracelets, oversized belt buckles, and bulky chains.

Emergency Drills

- Students must follow all procedures and instructions during emergency drills, including fire, tornado, and lockdown drills.

Field Trips

- Field trips are an extension of classroom learning. Behavior expectations must be met to attend.
- Volunteers for field trips must complete an application and background check.
- Students must stay with their group and follow all guidelines during trips. Transportation to and from events will be provided by the school.

Fines and Fees

- Students are responsible for any fines or fees for lost or damaged school property, including textbooks and library books.

Hall Passes

- Students must have a hall pass when leaving the classroom during instructional time.

Hallway Behavioral Expectations

- Walk quietly and on the right side of the hallway. Be respectful of other classes in session.

Medication at School

- Daily medications should be administered by the school nurse or a trained designee. Parents/guardians must bring medications to school in the original prescription bottle.
- Non-prescription medications must also be delivered to the school nurse by a parent/guardian with written instructions.
- Students are not allowed to bring or self-administer medications.

Personal Property

- Personal items of value should not be brought to school. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal property.

Recess

- All students are expected to participate in recess activities unless excused by a doctor's note for health reasons.
- Recess will be held outdoors unless weather conditions are unsuitable (below 32 degrees or above 90 degrees).
- Recess guidelines include no major horseplay, appropriate use of playground equipment, and staying within designated areas.

Recording Video, Audio, and Photos

- Recording of video, audio, or photos during school hours is prohibited unless approved by the administration for educational purposes.

Resolving School Concerns

- Parents are encouraged to address concerns with their child's teacher first. If further resolution is needed, contact the school counselor, Family School Liaison, or make an appointment with the administration.

Selling of Merchandise:

- Sales of merchandise on school property, such as fundraisers or spirit wear, must be approved by school administration. This ensures that all activities align with school policies and do not interfere with the educational environment.

Signs or Posters

- Posting of signs or posters must be approved by the school administration.

Technology Use

- Students must follow the district’s technology use policy, using school devices and internet access responsibly and for educational purposes only.

Textbooks

- Students are responsible for taking care of their textbooks and returning them in good condition.
- Lost or damaged textbooks may result in fines or replacement costs.

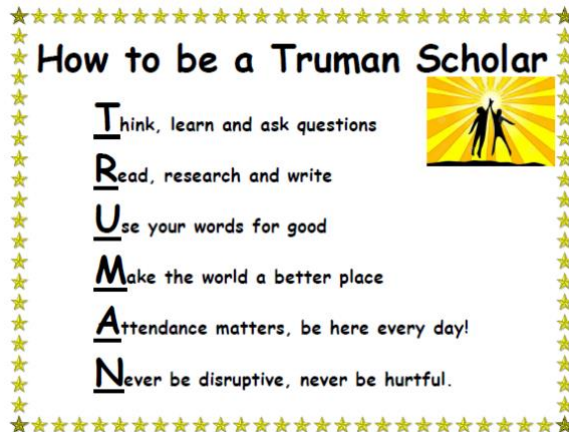
Telephone – Phone Calls

- The school office will take emergency messages for students. Student use of the telephone is limited to emergencies only. Do not call your child’s mobile phone during school hours.

Tobacco-Free District

- The school district prohibits the use of tobacco products on all school property and during school activities.

Truman Scholar: We encourage our students to be young scholars. This means that we create an environment where students can be collaborative researchers and thinkers. This poster can be seen all throughout the school and is taught to students. “Use your words for good”: profanity is not allowed and will result in an office referral. While we expect our students to make good choices and act as Truman Scholars, we also understand that there will be times when our students need redirection.



Video Surveillance

- The school utilizes video surveillance to ensure the safety and security of students and staff.

What to Share at School/Leave Home

- Items for sharing should be educational or interesting, such as photos, favorite stuffed animals, or vacation items.
- Toys, radios, games, phones, and other non-educational items should not be brought to school.
- Only bring the amount of money needed for specific purchases to minimize loss risk.
- Label personal items such as school supplies, coats, and jackets with the student’s first and last names. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal property.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH AND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Breakfast/Lunch

- Free breakfast and lunch are served daily, with menus available on the district website.
- All students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch according to federal guidelines.
- Students who stay after school may receive dinner as well.
- Healthy eating habits are encouraged, and students provided with a school lunch are not allowed to bring extra food (chips, juice, etc.). Students may bring a full lunch from home if they wish to include these items.
- All food must be eaten in the cafeteria unless there is an allergy need or special approved purpose for eating elsewhere.

Cafeteria Expectations

- All students are expected to enjoy a calm lunchtime environment.
- The cafeteria noise level must remain low to ensure that all calls or emergency instructions can be heard without shouting.
- Students must remain seated throughout lunchtime.
- Students are allowed to speak in a quiet, almost whispering voice to maintain a low noise level.
- Students should use good table manners and not trade or touch another student's food.
- Pop and candy are only allowed if part of a home-prepared lunch.
- Students must clean their area and dispose of uneaten food properly.
- Students will exit the cafeteria when given permission by a lunchroom supervisor.
- Students will not be released at unscheduled lunch times to eat with parents/visitors in the building.

Lunch Procedures

- Students will take all required lunch items.
- Students will sit with their class and talk quietly, using good table manners.
- Students are not allowed to trade or touch another student's food.
- Pop and candy are only allowed as part of a home-prepared lunch.
- Appropriate language must be used at all times.
- Throwing food, running, or playing in the cafeteria is prohibited.
- Students must remain seated unless given permission by a lunch supervisor.

Classroom Celebrations

- Classroom celebrations should align with school policies and promote a positive learning environment.
- Celebrations should be planned with the teacher's approval and ensure that all students feel included.
- Healthy snacks and treats are encouraged for classroom celebrations.

Minimize Classroom Disruptions

- Students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared for class.
- Maintain a respectful and quiet environment to ensure all students can learn without unnecessary interruptions.
- Follow classroom rules and the teacher's instructions to minimize disruptions.

BUILDING EXPECTATIONS

Building Doors

- For security reasons, exterior doors should remain closed and locked during school hours. Do not open doors for anyone.

Building Security Procedures

1. During school hours, all persons **MUST** press the buzzer, identify themselves, and state their reasons for wishing to enter the building.
2. Once in the building, all persons are required to sign in and show legal identification at the office. A visitor's badge will be provided if applicable.
3. No adult will be allowed to visit any classroom without **FIRST** making contact with the classroom teacher and scheduling an appointment. The phone extensions of all team members are provided in this document. Please note that instruction will not be interrupted by unannounced and/or unplanned visitors entering classrooms.
4. Legal documents from the court are required for allowing or refusing a biological parent access to their student. Please ensure the school is provided with any legal documentation from the court regarding your student.
5. Keep the school office updated on any revisions or changes regarding custody arrangements, if applicable.

Building Celebrations

- Building celebrations and specific holidays may take place throughout the year. Communication will be sent to families in advance. All food items must be store-bought and in the store package.

Birthday Celebrations

- Birthday Celebrations: Individual birthday parties are not allowed during the school day. However, parents may provide store-bought birthday treats to be distributed the last 30 minutes of the day, no earlier than 2:30 PM. Parents must schedule with the teacher prior to bringing treats to the school. If time has not been scheduled, treats **WILL NOT** be allowed into the classroom. Please bring all necessary paper products for the treats, as teachers do not have these supplies in their classrooms.

Health Room/Clinic

- The school nurse will contact you should your child's symptoms warrant going home. In the event your child needs to leave school due to illness or injury, please pick up your child as quickly as possible.
- All medications must be brought to the school nurse by a parent or guardian in the original container with labeling.

STEAM and Maker Space Room

- We have a fully functioning STEAM and Maker Space Room. **ALL** classrooms are welcome to use this room, which contains wonderful materials for students including a 3-D Printer, Lego Table, Make Space Cart, Robots, and much more!

FAMILY INFORMATION & EXPECTATIONS

ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND EMERGENCY CONTACT CHANGES: It is extremely important that we have current parent/guardian contact information on file in the event of an emergency. During the school year, should you need to have an emergency contact, cell/home number, or address removed or added to your student's records, please visit the front office or notify us in writing.

School-Home Communications

Communication is essential to keep families informed about important events and information at our school. We utilize the following methods to ensure effective communication:

- **Phone Blast/Newsletters:** Important information will be delivered to families via phone blasts or newsletters as needed to share events and updates.
- **School Calendar – Yearly:** Parents will receive the district calendar at enrollment. Copies are always available at the front office and can be viewed on the district website.
- **District/School Website:** Access our school's homepage from the district website for updates and information.

Teacher Communication

- Parents are provided a list of direct extensions for each teacher. If the teacher is unavailable, leave a voicemail, and they will return the call.
- In case of an emergency, contact the office, and the message will be relayed to the teacher.

Opportunities for Adult Involvement

Parents and guardians play a crucial role in our community. There are various ways to get involved in your student's educational experience:

- **Academic Events:** Participate in curriculum nights, tutoring sessions, and other academic-focused events.
- **Music Programs and Performances:** Join us for school concerts and performances.
- **Field Trips:** Chaperone field trips (background check required).
- **Special Events:** Attend school-wide celebrations, assemblies, and other special events.

Family Involvement Plan

We strive to support and promote the educational growth of each student by encouraging family involvement

- **Meet the Teacher:** Start of the school year event.
- **Curriculum Night (Open House):** Review curriculum and expectations.
- **Tutoring and Enrichment Programs:** After school programs starting in October.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Scheduled in the fall and spring.
- **Quarterly Celebration:** Recognize student achievements.
- **Title 1 Information Meetings:** Discuss utilization of federal funds.

School Community Involvement

There are numerous opportunities for parents and guardians to engage with the school community:

- **PTO Meetings:** Regular meetings to discuss and plan school activities.
- **School Events:** Attend concerts, parties, and other community events.

Emergency Information

Keep the school office and classroom teacher updated on any changes to your address, phone numbers, or emergency contacts. This ensures we can contact you or a designee when necessary.

Guardianship and Custody

If both parents are listed on a child's birth certificate, they are considered legal guardians unless the school receives a legal notarized declaration signed by a judge. Custodial parents/guardians should inform the school of any changes in legal custody and provide documentation. Original documents are required, and the school will make a copy for our records.

Health and Safety

Our school is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all students. In the event your child needs to leave school due to illness or injury, please pick them up as quickly as possible. All medications must be brought to the school nurse by a parent or guardian in the original container with labeling. The school nurse will contact you if your child's symptoms warrant going home. Contact the school nurse for any additional health-related information or concerns.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather and school closings or late starts, you will be contacted via a recorded phone message/email. Additional information on school closings can be found by:

- Watching local news stations for cancellations.
- Checking the district website or app.

Medication at School

To ensure the safety and proper administration of medication at school, please follow these guidelines:

- **Daily Medication:** Administered only by the school nurse or trained designee.
- **Prescription and Non-Prescription Medication:** Must be brought to school by a parent or guardian in the original container. Students are not allowed to bring or self-administer medication

Minimizing Disruptions

To help minimize classroom interruptions, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Appointments with Teachers:** Schedule appointments 24 hours in advance to speak with your student's teacher during their office hours. An appointment is required to meet with the principal.
- **Preparedness:** Ensure your child is well prepared for school each day. Classrooms are not interrupted to deliver homework, lunches, or messages. Items brought to school will be held in the office and delivered by a staff member at an appropriate time.
- **Classroom Treats/Birthday Celebrations:** Require teacher approval (notify the teacher 24 hours in advance). Approved snacks will be given to students during recess or lunch. Due to allergies, some snacks may be denied.
- **Balloons:** Not permitted for any reason, including birthday celebrations, awards assemblies, and performances.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

- Parent-Teacher Conferences are held in October and February to discuss student progress and address any concerns. Staff will make every effort to accommodate parents' schedules. Conferences can be scheduled directly with your child's teacher.

PTO

- The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is integral to school success, providing support through events, sponsorship, and volunteer opportunities.

Resolving School Concerns

If you have concerns regarding your child's education, please follow these steps:

1. **Contact the Teacher:** Speak with your child's teacher, as they work closely with your student.

2. **School Counselor and Family School Liaison (FSL):** If further assistance is needed, contact the school counselor or FSL.
3. **Principal:** If the issue remains unresolved, schedule an appointment with the principal through the school office.

Student Achievement Reports

- **Progress Reports:** Quarterly mid-term and grade reports for grades 1-6.
- **Achievement Reports:** iReady Reading & Math, MAP ELA, Math, and Science for relevant grades.

Weekly Newsletter: Each teacher will send home weekly communication to you about the week ahead. It will include reminders of homework, school events and provide an outline of what your scholar is learning.

YEARBOOK

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

At our school, we are committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. Our discipline process emphasizes the importance of cooperation between school staff, parents/guardians, and students. It recognizes that student behavior directly impacts academic success and involves the collective responsibility of teachers. We follow all district policies and board guidelines in our approach to discipline.

Discipline Philosophy

We believe that effective discipline includes:

- **Positive Relationships:** Building strong, supportive relationships between students and staff.
- **Classroom Management:** Implementing effective strategies for maintaining a productive learning environment.
- **Instruction:** Providing high-quality teaching that meets the needs of all students.

Behavior Intervention and Support

We utilize a range of strategies and frameworks to support positive behavior:

- **Behavior Intervention Support Team (BIST):** Helps students manage their behavior in ways that do not disrupt their own learning or that of others. This includes:
- **Safe Seat:** A designated area in the classroom where students can regain control of their behavior while continuing their work.
- **Buddy Room:** An alternative classroom where students can work until they are ready to return to their own class.
- **Cross Grade Level Room:** If necessary, students may be moved to a different grade level's classroom to continue their learning.
- **Restorative Practices:** Focuses on repairing harm caused by misbehavior, fostering understanding, empathy, and accountability through a collaborative process.

Behavioral Expectations

We have clear expectations for student behavior, which are consistent throughout the school. Our behavior management system involves:

- **Understanding Harm:** Students learn about the impact of their actions and work to repair relationships.
- **Empathy Development:** Encouraging students to understand and empathize with others.
- **Accountability:** Promoting responsibility through reflection and a collaborative process.

Discipline Procedures

Classroom Management:

- **Level 1 Behaviors:** Minor offenses such as not following directions or excessive talking are managed by the teacher. Documentation and at least one parent contact are recommended.
- **Level 2 Behaviors:** More serious issues like back talking or refusing to work are also handled by the teacher with documentation and parent contact.

Office Referrals:

- **Level 3 Behaviors:** Serious offenses, including fighting, bullying, or theft, are referred directly to the administration. An office referral form must accompany the student, and parents will be contacted.

Suspension and Expulsion

Certain behaviors, such as severe harassment, possession of weapons, or significant bodily harm, may result in immediate suspension or expulsion. The school will follow due process as outlined in district policies.

Electronic Equipment and Personal Items

Policies regarding the use of electronic devices, toys, and cards will be specified separately.

Drugs and Related Items

Strict policies are in place concerning the possession and use of drugs, vapes, and drug paraphernalia.

ACADEMICS

At our school, we are dedicated to providing a well-rounded education that supports the academic, social, and emotional development of every student. Below is an overview of our academic policies and procedures.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to foster continuous growth and development across various subject areas, including:

- Reading
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Communication Arts
- Writing
- Health/Physical Education
- Art
- Music

Assignment and Reassignment to Classrooms

To optimize educational outcomes, students are assigned to classrooms with diverse academic abilities and behavioral characteristics. We consider teacher input and student compatibility when making these assignments. While parent requests for specific teachers are considered, they are not determinative.

If a classroom setting does not meet a student's learning needs, parents/guardians can request a change by submitting a written request with specific educational justifications. A meeting with the parent, current teacher, and principal will be arranged to discuss concerns and possible solutions. If the issue is not resolved after two weeks, a formal request for a transfer can be made. Documentation of unsuccessful strategies will be required.

Homework

- Homework is assigned to reinforce classroom learning and develop study habits. It may also be used for enrichment purposes. Regular homework helps students build independence and self-reliance in their studies.

Homework Guidelines

- Homework assignments are determined by the classroom teacher and should be manageable for students. Recommended homework times are as follows:
 - 1st Grade: Up to 10 minutes
 - 2nd Grade: Up to 20 minutes
 - 3rd Grade: Up to 30 minutes
 - 4th Grade: Up to 40 minutes
 - 5th Grade: Up to 50 minutes

Progress Reports:

- Issued eight times a year, with midterm reports provided halfway through each quarter and report cards at the end of each quarter. Report cards are sent home with students, and final report cards are provided on the last day of school.
- Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers about student performance.

Grades

- First quarter grades are given to parents at Parent/Teacher conferences. Progress reports are sent home midway through each quarter, and report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter.
- Academic grades and effort grades are issued for grades Kindergarten through 5th.

Grade Reporting:

- Academic Grades:
 - **M** = Meets the standard
 - **W** = Working towards the standard
 - **N** = Not meeting the standard
- Effort Grades:
 - **+** = Satisfactory
 - **-** = Needs improvement

Grade Retention

- Students advance to the next grade level based on their ability to meet content standards in language arts and math. Retention may be considered if it is in the student's best educational interest. Parents will be informed prior to any decision on retention. State law requires retention for students reading below a third-grade level if they do not show improvement after remediation efforts.

Student Support

- **SAFE Team Process:** Early intervention strategies are implemented if a student is not meeting academic goals. This includes identifying and addressing specific needs and providing support as necessary.

Student and Parent Portal

- Parents and students can access the Student Parent Portal to monitor academic progress, check grades, and review assignments. This portal is a valuable tool for staying informed about student performance and school activities.

Technology

- Students must follow the district's technology use policy, using school devices and internet access responsibly and for educational purposes only.
- Personal devices, including cell phones, should be turned off and kept in backpacks during the school day.

Textbooks and Supplies:

- Textbooks, iPads, and library books are provided by the district. Students are responsible for lost or damaged materials and will be charged for replacement costs.
- Students should regularly check and maintain their supplies, including pencils and paper.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our school offers a variety of extra-curricular activities designed to enrich the student experience beyond the standard curriculum. These activities provide opportunities for students to explore their interests, develop new skills, and engage with their peers in a supportive environment.

Athletics:

- Athletic programs are offered to promote physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Details about available sports teams and activities, as well as tryout schedules, will be communicated to students and parents.

Clubs and Organizations:

- A range of enrichment clubs will be available, including:
 - Lego League
 - Photography
 - Running
 - Dance
 - Drama
 - Art

These clubs typically start in October and provide students with the chance to pursue interests and talents outside the classroom. Participation in clubs may require parental consent and could have associated costs for materials or fees.

National Honor Society

- Students in upper grades have the opportunity to join the Elementary National Honor Society (ENHS). Membership is based on academic achievement, leadership, and character. Further details will be provided during conferences.

School Dances:

- School dances are organized throughout the year to foster school spirit and provide students with social opportunities. Information about dates, themes, and ticket purchases will be provided in advance.

Miscellaneous Information

- CARING FOR KIDS: Truman Elementary partners with several area churches and 2 businesses to better meet the needs of the families and staff that we serve. If your organization or business would like to partner with us, please contact Donna Hoch at St. Luke's United Methodist Church 9420 James Reed Road. (816-763-8444)
- YEARBOOK: Creating a yearbook is contingent upon having a staff member that is willing to take upon the responsibility. If a child moves, we cannot guarantee their picture will be in the yearbook. Yearbooks will be sold to interested families throughout the school year and will be distributed in the spring. Once the yearbook goes to the publisher, no changes can be made.
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*School policies and procedures are subject to change to be in accordance with district directives.