Lawhon Elementary School Handbook

Wesley McCullough, Principal
140 Lake Street
Tupelo, MS 38804
662.841.8910

Table of Contents

Administration, Faculty and Staff . . . 3, 4
A Note from Your Principal . . . 5
TPSD Administration and Board of Trustees. . . . 6
TPSD Beliefs and Goals . . . 7
Arrival and Dismissal Procedures . . . 8, 9
Checkout procedures . . . 10, 11
Attendance . . . 11, 12
Safety and Security . . . 12, 13
Good Citizenship/Discipline . . . 13, 14
Guidance Counselor/Character Education . . . 15
Bullying Prevention . . . 15, 16
School lunch and breakfast . . . 16,17
Parent School Communication/Conferences . . . 17,18
PTO . . . 18
Student Support Services . . . 18-20
Special Programs and Clubs . . . 20, 21
Information and Policies. . . . 21-23
Inclement Weather . . . 23
Medications . . . 24
Specials: Art, Music, PE, PLTW, Technology . . . 25, 26
Procedures to Register/Enroll . . . 26, 27
Procedures for Withdrawing . . . 28
FERPA and Title Programs . . . 28-30
Grades, Promotion, Retention . . . 30
TPSD Dress Code Policy . . . 31, 32
Student Code of Conduct . . . 32-36
TPSD Discipline Ladder . . . 37-39
TPSD Calendar. . . . 40
Lawhon House System . . . 42
Student and Parent Acknowledgement Form . . . 43

www.tupeloschools.com

Administration, Faculty and Staff, 2026-2027

Office Staff

Wesley McCullough	Principal
Kama Smith	Assistant Principal
Missy Tello	Guidance Counselor
Lesley Berry	Guidance Counselor
Theresa Belcher	Office Manager
Susan Dorrough	Secretary
Tina Watson	Data Entry

Teachers and Support Staff

April Gray	Instructional Coach
Maggie Herndon	MET Chair
Anna Beth Williams	Media Specialist
Molly Walker	Physical Education
Josh Funderburg	Music
Ellen Boyles	Art
Mandi Howell	Project Lead The Way
Candance Smith	Technology Lab
Haley Lackey	Social Emotional Learning Therapist
Taylor Hill	Special Education
George Emison	Special Education
Aleigha Franks	Special Education
Maggie Herndon	Special Education
Taylor Hill	Special Education
Sedia Hamilton	Special Education
Carla Weldon	Special Education, Self Contained
Kerri Locastro	Speech/Lang. Therapist
April Steele	Speech/Lang. Therapist
Tori Daniel	Certified Reading Tutor
Leah Carpenter	Certified Interventionist/Testing
Shannon Carlisle	Challenge
Ashley Freeman	Challenge
Dana McGinister	Challenge
Marchell Graham	School Nurse
Katie Hall	LifeCore Support Therapist
Mary Strange	LifeCore Support Therapist
Lauren Burroughs	Medical Assistant
Marisa Hunter	Medical Assistant
Dee Miller	Permanent Substitute
Jamie Patterson	Interventionist

Ana Parker	Interventionist
Madison French	Interventionist
Jolie Kyle	Interventionist
Laken Daniel	Interventionist
Nancy Anderson	Interventionist
Monica Williams	Interventionist
*	Interventionist
Willie Ware	Campus Enforcement Officer
Seth Simmons	School Resource Officer
Mary Ann Griggs	Cafeteria Manager

Classroom Teachers

Paige Lyle	Second Grade
Sarah Leblanc	Second Grade
Holly Kincaid	Second Grade
Cassandra Williams	Second Grade
Caroline Turney	Second Grade
Mary Reeves	Second Grade
Amy Wyatt	Second Grade
Amy Young	Third Grade
Tony Ward	Third Grade
Laura Bennett	Third Grade
Joyce Juarez	Third Grade
Kenzie Cooper	Third Grade
Lacey Stebbins	Third Grade
Amanda Sanders	Third Grade
Hayden Claypool	Fourth Grade
Sydney Frandsen	Fourth Grade
Erin Holloway	Fourth Grade
Lauren George	Fourth Grade
Kaylee Sanders	Fourth Grade
Pattie Shelley	Fourth Grade
Kenya Doss	Fifth Grade
Dixilee Frassetto	Fifth Grade
Angel Collier	Fifth Grade
Ashley Beard	Fifth Grade
Hope Wheelington	Fifth Grade
Kadin McCullough	Fifth Grade

Phone Numbers

Main Office, Principal, Conferences.....662-841-8910
Counselor.....662-841-8933
TPSD District Office.....662-841-8850

A Note from Your Principal…

On behalf of the staff and administration at Lawhon Elementary School,
I want to say welcome! I am so excited to work alongside you in our journey towards academic excellence. Our goal at Lawhon Elementary is to grow our students both academically and personally. Our daily mission will be to provide our students with the tools they need to become successful, lifelong learners, and productive members of society.

As lifelong learners, we all share a role in our students' success stories. We will do everything in our power to support our students and provide them every opportunity for academic and personal success. At Lawhon, we are committed to doing whatever it takes to create and maintain a safe, disciplined learning environment. Working together, we will reflect, evaluate, and strive to always make sure that everything that we do is in the best interest of our students.

Whenever there is proven student success and progress, there is almost always a great number of stakeholders involved that are actively pouring into that child. We want to encourage you as parents/guardians to walk with us on your child's educational journey. Your dedication to excellence and your support will be vital in ensuring the success of our school and the development of our students. We have high expectations for administration, teachers, students, and staff; together, we will work to grow a culture and climate that is welcoming, safe, and conducive to learning of all kinds. Working together as one unit, ONE SINGLE HEARTBEAT, we can achieve our goal of academic excellence and personal growth. I am so excited to grow with you as we move forward into new opportunities to positively impact young lives.

All the best,
Wesley McCullough

Lawhon Administrative Staff

♦♦♦

Wesley McCullough, Principal
Kama Smith, Assistant Principal
Missy Tello, Guidance Counselor
Lesley Berry , Guidance Counselor

TPSD Administration/Central Office

♦♦♦

Dr. Robert Picou, Superintendent
Dr. Brock English, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Melissa Thomas, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary
Mr. Art Dobbs, Assistant Superintendent, PreK – 5

TPSD Board of Trustees

♦♦♦

Mr. Jon Milstead, President
Mr. Paul Mize, III Vice-President
Mrs. Sherry Davis, Secretary
Mrs. Hope Huey, Board Member
Mrs. Amy Tate, Board Member

Tupelo Public School District's Beliefs

The Tupelo Public School District is guided by a set of core beliefs. We believe that:

- The future of our community depends on an excellent public school system.
- The purpose of public education is to develop thoughtful, knowledgeable and inquiring citizens who are prepared to pursue further study or meaningful employment and to contribute actively and fully to the success of their communities.
- Each student is a unique individual, with his or her own defining qualities, special strengths and specific needs.
- Learning starts long before a child enrolls in school and never stops.
- An excellent public school system consists of superb schools, which depend on high-quality staff, who are performance driven, motivated to succeed and are themselves life-long learners.
- Superb schools require a safe and supportive environment, where students are able to learn and develop to their full potential.
- Families are our valued partners; their active and knowledgeable participation is essential to educational success.
- Schools are connected to the broader society; the values, commitment and support of all parts of the community, are critical elements of an excellent public school system.

Tupelo School District's Goals

1. Increase student achievement across the District
2. Provide a safe, secure and orderly environment in all schools
3. Attract and retain all stakeholders
4. Maintain sound financial stability

Lawhon Mission Statement

The mission of Lawhon Elementary School is to serve our community by challenging each student to reach his or her potential by providing a strong foundation that meets the individual needs of the students. In a comfortable, safe environment each student will be provided the opportunity to become a confident, self-directed, life-long learner.

Arrival

The safety and security of our children is our top priority! Walkers and car riders should not arrive before 7:30 a.m. Carpool students should be dropped off in the carpool lane on Lake Street near the fourth/fifth grade building from 7:30 a.m. until 7:55 a.m. where staff members will be on duty assisting and greeting students. **Please drop off only at that location.** Please do not enter the parking lot to drop off or pick up students**.** Only the first four cars should unload at one time with staff supervision. Children are allowed to open their own car doors and exit onto the sidewalk. Often staff members open the car doors to expedite the process. When there is a long line of cars, it is preferable that children open their own car doors to allow them to get into the building in a timely manner. Buses arrive on campus at 7:30 a.m. Students will go directly to their classrooms. Students choosing to eat breakfast will pick it up in the cafeteria and take it to their classrooms. Those students not eating breakfast will walk directly to their classrooms at 7:30 a.m.

Students desiring to have breakfast and arriving at school after 7:45 a.m. will be provided a "grab and go" breakfast. Instructional time begins promptly at 8:00 a.m.

Times To Remember

Tardy

A student is considered tardy if he/she arrives after 8:00 a.m. Five unexcused tardies will result in referral to the attendance officer. **If the student is tardy, the parent is required to walk his/her child into the office and sign-in for class.** Please do not drop off your child in front of the building after 8:00 a.m. There will not be a staff member present to ensure their safety. Gates are locked at 8:00 a.m. Tardies are excused with a doctor's note or parental excuse if presented within 2 days.

Dismissal

Bus and Daycare Riders

- Bus and daycare riders will be dismissed at 2:50 p.m. to the loading areas. Bus and daycare riders will be loaded on Wayside Street. Second and third grade bus riders leave through their back gate on Wayside Street to load buses. Fourth and fifth grade students are dismissed through the gate by D building to load buses. Daycare students will remain in their classrooms until their specific daycare is called. Grades 2 and 3 will load daycare vans on Lake Street outside of A building. Grades 4 and 5 will load daycare vans on Lake Street outside the gated area between C building and the main office building.

Car Riders

• All car riders will be dismissed to the loading area at 2:50 p.m.

• All car riders will be picked up at the front of the school near the gym. Cars will form double lines along the front of the school on Lake Street. Children will wait in the gym until their names are called. They will line up to be loaded by staff. The guardian of a car rider will be issued a name plate with his/her child's name on it. This should be displayed in the front windshield so that a duty teacher can call the child's name prior to when the vehicle reaches the front of the line. Please remember your name plate when picking up your child.

• Parents should enter the loading zone from Veterans Boulevard traveling to Canal Street then to Hankins Street directly to the parking lot across from the school on Lake Street. Looping around from the parking lot to the loading zone near the gym on Lake Street will allow sufficient space for all cars and avoid traffic jams on East Main Street. **Please do not enter from Main Street.**

Bus Rider Policy

Bus riders may only ride their assigned bus to and from school. **Do not send notes requesting for your child to ride a bus other than his/her assigned bus.** District policy does not allow children to ride on any bus other than the one to which they have been assigned according to their home address. We strictly enforce this policy.

Change of Transportation Home

- Always notify your child's teacher, in writing, of any change in procedures or change in person(s) picking them up. Only persons listed on the student emergency card will be allowed to check the student out. Students will be dismissed in the same way every day unless written notice is received informing us of the change.
- If an emergency arises and you must change your child's transportation during the school day, the office must be notified, no later than 2:00 p.m. **For the safety of all children, changes cannot be made after dismissal is in process.**

It is imperative that parents pick up students promptly at afternoon dismissal, which is 2:50 p.m. For the safety and protection of the children, all students who have not been picked up by 3:05 p.m. will report to the main foyer.

Early Departure from School (Checkout procedures)

Parents are strongly encouraged to schedule their child's doctor, dental, and other appointments after school hours. If this is not possible, send a note to the teacher on the day of the appointment. Upon arrival, come to the office to sign out your child. Only persons listed on the student emergency card will be allowed to

check out the student. While you are signing the checkout sheet, the office staff will page your child to come to the office. The school office is extremely busy from 2:00 p.m. through dismissal. Checkout for students after 2:30 p.m. will not be permitted unless an emergency arises. More than five checkouts without a doctor's excuse will be reported to the attendance officer. If there is a medical reason, please submit a medical excuse.

Please note that new state law requires that students are present for 63% of the instructional day - this excludes recess, lunch and breaks. So that your student is considered "present" for the day, please check in your child no later than 10:00 a.m and check them out no earlier than 2:00 p.m.

Importance of Instructional Time

Getting to school late or leaving early is detrimental to the education of your child. Please help us model respect for the school day. Instructional time is valued and protected by our staff. Teachers continue with instruction until dismissal. We encourage all parents to allow their child/children to remain in class until the instructional time is complete. It is very important for us to have as much time as possible in order for your child to meet his/her instructional objectives. **Early checkout to avoid traffic will not be allowed. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated as we work to protect instructional time.**

Unloading/Loading Students

In the mornings, from 7:30 a.m. until 8:00 a.m., car riders may unload in front of the school on Lake Street. Students should always exit/enter their vehicle from the right side nearest the sidewalk. Before 8:00 a.m., parking in front of the buildings is not permitted. After 8:00 a.m., parents must park their vehicle, walk their child(ren) to the office, and sign them in. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep the students safe. As you pull away from letting your child(ren) out, please stay in line and follow the car ahead of you. This keeps accidents from occurring. Also this is not a time for conferring with staff members. Traffic goes much smoother if parents drop off and move on.
Bus riders load and unload in back of the school. Daycare students unload with car riders in the morning and load on Lake Street in the afternoon. At 2:30 p.m., Wayside becomes a one-way street until 3:45 p.m. where entrance is to be made only from East Main St. Parents are not permitted to drop off/pick up their children in this area on Wayside Street.

Parents and Other Visitors

To ensure that we provide a safe and secure environment for all students and staff**,** we require **ALL visitors and parents to come to the office, sign in, and get a visitor badge.** All visitors and parents are also asked to use the FRONT entrance <u>only</u>. **Visitors are not permitted in classrooms during instructional time without prior permission from the principal. If you need to conference with a teacher, please arrange a meeting**

outside of the instructional times of 8:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. unless it is during a planning period. Instructional time is protected at Lawhon.
The principal is responsible for all persons in the building and on the campus and will schedule through his/her designee visits from parents, community members, and other educational professionals. The following policy applies to all visitors entering a school other than for attendance at a scheduled activity open to the general public: In order to assure that no unauthorized persons enter the school with wrongful intent, all visitors will report to the school office when entering to receive authorization and identification passes to visit elsewhere in the building. Parents or citizens who wish to observe a classroom while school is in session must arrange such visits in advance with the principal so that classroom disruption will be minimal. Principals are authorized to refuse entry onto school grounds to persons who do not have legitimate business at the school and to request any unauthorized person or persons engaging in unacceptable conduct to immediately leave school property. Principals are further authorized to request assistance of law enforcement officers in cases of emergency and to seek prosecution to the full extent of the law when persons violate the intent of the Board policy. If you would like to communicate electronically with your child's teacher(s), e-mail is a great way to make contact. All teachers' e-mail addresses can be found at www.tupeloschools.com.

Parent/Visitor Parking
Please do not park in front of the school during drop off and pick up times. This will block the traffic flow and can become a safety hazard.

ATTENDANCE

To be considered as having attended school for a full day, a student must be present for 63% of his/her instructional day as fixed by the Board for each individual school. For purposes of reporting absenteeism, a student who has an absence that is more than 37% of the student's instructional day shall be considered absent the entire school day.
1. Excused Absences shall include:
a. Parental Excused Absences
Students are allowed to have a maximum of three (3) excused parental absences per semester. Parental absences must be substantiated in writing within 2 school days of the absence. A parent/guardian can substantiate the absence by sending a signed note, emailing or faxing to the school attendance office. The note must have the child's name and date of absence(s). A parent signed checkout will also substantiate a parental excused absence. A parental excused absence may be for one class, any 30-minute period within a class or an entire day.
b. Medical Excused Absences
Students are allowed excused medical absences when the absences result from illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school; a medical or dental appointment; isolation ordered by the county health officer, and State Board of Health or appropriate school official. Excuses from the doctor or dentist must be substantiated in writing within 2 school days of the absence.
Unexcused Absences- Any absence, tardy or dismissal, which does not meet the criteria of an excused absence, shall be considered unexcused. No absence will be considered excused when it is due to suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary action.

Make-up Assignments
If your child is absent, homework assignments can be requested by 10:00 a.m. by calling the school office at 662-841-8910. This will allow teachers ample time to collect assignments for your child. These assignments can be picked up after school in the main office. Please communicate with your child's teacher to establish a

timeline for turning in missed assignments due to absences. All students with five or more unexcused absences will be referred to the State Attendance Officer.

60% Days
On those days, school will be dismissed at 12:15 p.m.

Fact: Students who check out frequently, those who are late to school frequently, and those who are absent frequently are more likely to have serious academic problems. Almost all of the children who fall into these categories have to repeat at least one grade before third grade. As a parent you owe your child support in getting to school on time, being at school every day, and staying at school all day.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

AED PROCEDURES
The AED machine is located in the main office.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRILLS
- Earthquake, fire, lock down, and tornado drills are held at regular intervals throughout the school year. Visitors present in the buildings during drills must participate.
- Help your child remember these basic rules during drills:
  - No talking
  - WALK
  - Move quickly and quietly to the designated area.
- The instructions and routes are posted in each classroom next to the door (or an exit) and throughout the building and will be discussed with all students.

OTHER SAFETY REMINDERS
- **Evacuation sites**: In case of evacuation of the building, due to a fire or other threatening situation, East Heights Baptist Church, East Main Church of Christ, and Connect Church Tupelo will serve as our evacuation sites.
- Students should bring to school **ONLY** the materials which are necessary and requested.
- Items that are distracting to others and disruptive to the learning process should not be brought to school (Yo-yos, wrestling materials, whistles, chewing gum, and fad toy items are examples of distracting materials.)
- Also, because of the possibility of loss or damage, radios, cell phones, iPads, large amounts of money, and other items of significant value should not be brought to school. **The Tupelo Public School District is not responsible for the loss of such items.**
- Absolutely no weapons, including knives or look-alike (toy) weapons of any kind, may be brought to school. Any student who brings a weapon or look-alike weapon to school will be disciplined in accordance with District policy.

** Lawhon Elementary has a detailed Crisis Management Plan in place to deal with various situations as they may arise.

Good Citizenship/Behavior/Discipline

In the Tupelo Public School District, students are expected to exhibit responsible behavior and to maintain positive attitudes that will contribute to their own well-being as well as the well-being of others. One goal is to promote an atmosphere within the schools conducive to learning, and another is to help children become responsible for good personal conduct at school.

Rules and procedures are in place for the children's safety and to ensure good conduct among the students. Each teacher sets a standard of conduct for students that they are expected to follow. However, the guidelines below provide what are general expectations of our students. Please discuss these guidelines with your child to ensure a successful school year.

16 Required Social Skills to be a "Compliant" Student

1. Follow Instructions: not only needed for the social aspects of the class but also for the academic components
2. Getting the Teacher's Attention: varies from class to class, how do students get attention in class
3. Accepting "No" for an Answer: students are usually expected to accept "no" as an answer without responding back
4. Accepting Criticism or a Consequence: can be in regards to a student's behavior and/or a needed correction on an assignment
5. Asking for Help: students need to learn the appropriate and polite way to ask for help in his/her classroom
6. Asking Permission: students need to know the polite way to ask permission and accept answers calmly
7. Disagreeing Appropriately: students need to be able to explain why they feel differently in a polite voice and be able to listen to others' opinions
8. How to Resist Peer Pressure: students need to know how to say "no" to their peers and be able to "save face"
9. Waiting Your Turn: students must learn patience and how to wait for materials and attention
10. Working with Others: students need to listen to others' ideas and work on tasks cooperatively
11. Giving Criticism: students need to learn to be specific and use a pleasant tone in correcting another student
12. How to Apologize: students need to learn when to say, "I'm sorry" and how to do it with sincerity, which will show that they care about others
13. Listening: students need to learn how to listen politely without interrupting and respond appropriately
14. Staying on Task: students will learn to plan the steps needed to complete a task and stay focused on the task.
15. Mind your Own Business: students will learn to keep comments to themselves and ignore distractions
16. Use an Appropriate Voice Tone: students will learn to adjust their voice level to various situations.

3 Universal Expectations of All TPSD Students

1. **Be Respectful – Respect the rights and property of others.**
2. **Be Responsible – Be responsible for your own actions.**
3. **Be Safe – Provide a safe environment that is conducive to teaching and learning.**

Expectation Matrix

EXPECTATIONS	CLASSROOM	HALLWAY	CAFETERIA	BATHROOM	RECESS	BUS/DAYCARE /CAR AREA	ASSEMBLY
Be Respectful	1. Listen and follow directions the first time. 2. Say only kind things to others and about others.	1. Walk quietly. 2. Show pride and be polite to guests and visitors. 3. Follow all adult directions. 4. Respect school property.	1. Use good manners (i.e. eating with mouth closed, not playing with food.) 2. Obey cafeteria workers and monitors. 3.Use a quiet voice at all times.	1.Give each other privacy. 2.Refrain from writing on bathroom walls. .	1.Line up promptly when teacher signals. 2.Keep from teasing and name calling.	1.Obey all teachers and monitors.	1.Show pride and be polite to guests and visitors. 2.Obey all teachers and assembly leaders.
Be Responsible	3. Arrive to school on time and have work and supplies. 4. Follow all routines and procedures. 5. Have a positive attitude toward others.	5. Walk on the right side of the hall in a straight line.	4. Know your lunch number and get everything you need the first time. 5. Walk quietly to the disposal area when dismissed by your teacher. 6. Clean up the area around you.	3. Flush toilet, wash hands, and put paper towels in trash. 4.Enter and exit the bathroom quietly and quickly without playing.	3.Enter and exit the building quietly and in an orderly fashion.	2.Move quietly and orderly in all arrival and dismissal areas. 3.Listen and move to the proper area when your bus, daycare, or name is called.	3.Enter and leave the assembly quietly.
Be Safe	6. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.	5.Keep hands, feet , and objects to yourself.	7.Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.	5.Stay off bathroom walls and stalls.	4. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. 5. Keep from bullying and rough play.	4.Stay in the proper line when moving to dismissal areas. 5.Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.	4.Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. 5.Stay with your class at all times.

When students are unable to follow these guidelines, appropriate discipline will be administered. Students who follow the rules are often rewarded. To encourage good behavior and wise decision making, Lawhon uses a positive behavior approach. Students strive to earn daily points that aid in earning quarterly rewards.

Encourage your child to make good choices in behavior *every* day!

For more explanation, please see the Student Code of Conduct at the back of this handbook.

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

Guidance Counseling/Character Education

Each school has a certified guidance counselor who provides one-on-one and group counseling. The guidance counselor also conducts classes and workshops for the students in their classroom as needs arise. Topics include goal setting, time management, responsibility training, and citizenship.

Positive Behavior Support provides unique programs designed to help decrease discipline referrals and increase positive and appropriate behaviors. The programs build self-esteem and provide students with many opportunities to be responsible. Students also become aware of socially acceptable behaviors and positive character traits. When we provide direction and security, students often respond quickly with better behavior and improved academic performance. We want our students to have lives filled with satisfying work, meaningful achievements, and good relationships. We want them to make good decisions, and we want them to be active participants in their democracy.

Character must be consciously taught, developed, and practiced. This teaching has always been a parent′s job, but there are also critical supporting roles to be played by everyone in a community. After all, character really counts in school, in the workplace, and in life. Acknowledging student demonstrations of good character is important. We expect the student to do the right thing even when there′s no one around and there will be no immediate reward. Therefore *recognition* is emphasized more than *reward* when it comes to reinforcing positive character traits for long-lasting effects. Examples of recognition strategies abound. Staff and students alike send notes to anyone living out a character trait; assemblies, parties, and picnics are great opportunities for school communities to celebrate progress and publicly acknowledge TPSD′s commitment to character education.

Drug abuse prevention instruction is incorporated into the regular classroom through the use of a curriculum that is taught by the teachers. In addition, Red Ribbon week is celebrated at each school annually. During this week, special activities are planned that emphasize drug and alcohol prevention. These might include special assemblies, games, special guests, videos, and wearing red ribbons by staff and students. Many schools sponsor a Red Ribbon parade and an I Can Do Better Things Than Drugs Fair. DARE is offered for fifth grade students.

Bullying Prevention

Bullying prevention and violence prevention activities are emphasized during the spring Be Smart Week. Throughout the school year, activities district-wide, school-wide and in the classrooms teach and reinforce the importance of respect and treatment of others. Students are taught the importance of treating others with kindness and respect.

Practically speaking, bullying is an unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. Behaviors are repeated or have the potential to be repeated, over time, and most often occur away from the eyes and ears of adults. Children who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose are universal examples.

There are four types of bullying: verbal bullying, social bullying, cyber-bullying, and physical bullying. Verbal bullying is saying or writing hateful things including teasing, name-calling, inappropriate sexual

comments, taunting, and threatening to cause harm. Social bullying involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships such as leaving someone out on purpose, telling other children not to be friends with someone, spreading rumors about someone, and embarrassing someone in public. Cyber-bullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology, can occur 24-7, and reach a student even when he or she is alone. Physical bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions and involves hitting, kicking, pushing, taking or breaking someone's things, and making mean or rude hand gestures.

Bullying can happen during or after school hours. Our administrators have the power to suspend students for any on-campus or off-campus behavior that causes a disruption to the school environment or threatens the welfare of students and teachers.

The Tupelo Public School District and Tupelo Police Department school resource officers (SRO) work with students K-12 to develop positive habits and behaviors. This enables our students to deal with character issues directly and at an age that is developmentally appropriate. Our students work with a good role model in a positive environment.

Through many learning opportunities, TPSD emphasizes teaching and recognizing positive behaviors and good citizenship.

School Breakfast and Lunch Program

The Lawhon Cafeteria serves two nutritious meals every school day – breakfast and lunch.

- **Breakfast** is served beginning at 7:30 a.m. After 7:50 a.m. a "grab and go" breakfast is given.
- **At lunch**, students will have 2 meal choices. The menu is posted in the classroom and on the school website.
- Although lunches may be purchased on a daily basis, students are encouraged to pay for the meals on a weekly or monthly basis. An envelope, if needed, will be provided each Friday to be returned back to school on Monday. Online payments for meals can be made through **myschoolbucks.com**. At no charge, parents may create an account in order to have emails sent to their home or phone to notify of low meal balances. Parents may check their child's meal account balance at any time at no charge. A small fee is charged when parents prepay money into their child's meal account online. This online service includes breakfast and lunch meals.
- Students who bring their lunches are encouraged to pack a healthy, nutritious meal. They may purchase milk from the cafeteria.
- **FREE & REDUCED lunches/breakfast**: All students will be given an application for free or reduced meals. The Tupelo Public School District is required to provide every parent with the opportunity to apply. The application is also available online through the TPSD website under Child Nutrition.
- Each day, students will have a snack/milk break. Students should bring a healthy snack to school.

MEAL PRICES
Breakfast (full price)…….. $2.00 a day/ $10.00 a week
Breakfast (reduced)……30 cents a day/ $1.50 a week
Lunch (full price) ……. $3.00 a day/ $15.00 a week
Lunch (reduced) ……40 cents a day/ $2.00 a week
Milk/Juice……40 cents a day/ $2.00 a week
Staff/Guest Breakfast……..…….. $2.75
Staff/Guest Lunch……..…….$4.25

QUALITY PARENT-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Effective communication includes knowing how and to whom to direct a suggestion, an inquiry, or a problem. The guidelines furnished below are designed to assist you in communicating effectively with the personnel at our school.

HOW SHOULD A SUGGESTION, INQUIRY OR PROBLEM BE DIRECTED?
Questions, suggestions, or problems should be presented in a positive way with the assurance that school personnel want to do a good job. Schedule a mutually convenient time, gather, and clarify information that applies and work cooperatively toward a satisfactory conclusion. **If you need to conference with a teacher, please arrange a meeting outside of the instructional times of 8:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. unless it is during a planning period. Instructional time is protected at Lawhon. Conferences with the principal or assistant principal should be requested through the office manager or clerk in the main office.**

TO WHOM SHOULD A SUGGESTION, INQUIRY OR PROBLEM BE DIRECTED?
Direct your communication to the person in the position closest to the situation.

- **FIRST**, see if your child can take care of the problem without your assistance. This is always the best solution. If the problem is not solved, then contact the teacher.
- Contact the **TEACHER(s)** in specific situations involving an individual or classroom. These people have the most direct contact with the students and are the most familiar with their responses to other students, procedures, instructional goals, and evaluation.
- Contact the **PRINCIPAL** in general situations involving more than an individual or classroom OR if satisfaction is not gained after talking with the teacher. The principal is responsible for the overall management of the school and its personnel, general student discipline, teacher direction and evaluation, implementation of District policy, and the total school program.

SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT MAY HELP YOU WORK THROUGH SCHOOL PROBLEMS:

- Please listen to your child carefully and ask clarifying questions. Be sure to remember that is the version of the situation as the student views it, and remember that there are always two sides.
- Your child is learning from the model behavior that you show as an example. If you want to shape and help your child, this is a "golden moment" to illustrate the rational way to respond to situations.
- Give the school personnel the benefit of the doubt. Assume that they want to help you and will try to do so if they understand the situation. Often, the adding of the teacher's vantage point and additional information helps make the situation clearer.
- Encourage a positive attitude and work to build bridges between your children and the school whenever possible. Explain whom they might have asked or what they might have done. The goal is for them to learn to handle things in the best way possible. **Teacher/Parent communication is essential to a successful school year.**

Other Means of Communication:

- Lawhon has a website available on the TPSD website (www.tupeloschools.com then click on Lawhon)
- Newsletters – Students will be provided a weekly newsletter
- Lawhon Links

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The PTO is an organization of parents and teachers who work together to improve and enhance the school environment. Everyone is invited to join and to share in that partnership of support. Through monthly general meetings (every 2nd Tuesday of the month) and PTO newsletters, parents are kept up-to-date on the plans and progress of our school. Be sure to join!

The PTO sponsors several projects during the school year such as:

- Spring Festival
- Book Fairs
- Teacher Appreciation
- School Yearbook
- Fundraisers

PTO Officers 2025-2026

President- Andrea Jones
Vice President- Hillary Headings
Secretary- Amanda Walker
Treasurer- Kory Hunter
Fundraising Chair- Chasity Hampton
Special Events Co-Chairs- Molly Nolan
Hospitality Chair- Erika Thompson

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

BEHAVIORAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL INTERVENTIONISTS

Staff interventionists work with classroom teachers to implement prescribed interventions to help students improve behaviorally and/or academically. Tier II and Tier III interventions are carried out by the interventionists under the direction of the classroom teacher and the Teacher Support Team.

Teacher Support Team (TST) and Response to Intervention (RTI) The TST is a group of educators along with the student's parents who meet to determine interventions for students who are experiencing difficulty in the classroom. Interventions are developed to assist the student in becoming successful. The Teacher Support Team is part of the Response to Intervention (RTI) process which involves implementing interventions when students have academic or behavioral difficulties resulting in lowered classroom performance. Interventions are designated as Tier 2 and Tier 3, with Tier 2 being teacher implemented through small group interventions and Tier 3 being more intense and individualized to the

student's needs. Parents are invited to be part of this team approach to assisting students.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Complementing the instructional staff at Lawhon is a certified guidance counselor who provides one-on-one and group counseling. As part of the curriculum, the counselor also conducts classes and workshops for the students in their classrooms and in assemblies. Topics may include manners, responsibility training, goal setting, and time management. At Lawhon, we have made a commitment to be partners with parents and the community to ensure that all our children have the best start in life. To help fulfill this commitment, our counselor also provides the link from home to school to community through parent meetings, home visits, and community involvement. Additionally, the guidance counselor serves as Lawhon's Safe and Drug-Free Coordinator. Red Ribbon Week and Be Smart Week are events along with violence and bullying prevention programs that are implemented yearly. Our guidance counselor is also responsible for the district and state testing throughout the school year.

A number of Guidance Services for students and their families are coordinated with community organizations. Several of these services are outlined below. Working with the Junior Auxiliary, Lawhon's Guidance Services provides…

- Clothes Closet – Parents may schedule an appointment with the school counselor for a visit to the Junior Auxiliary Clothes Closet. Children can be fitted with 3 sets of clothing twice per year.
- Medical/Dental/Eye Exams – emergency care can be provided.
- Christmas Assistance – Christmas assistance is provided for families in need.
- Day Camp Scholarships – Two students are sponsored each year to attend Tupelo Park & Recreation Day Camp during the summer.
- Jeans and coat drives are conducted during the year so items can be distributed to disadvantaged students.

The counselor serves as a referral source to all families during their stay at Lawhon Elementary. To arrange a conference with the counselor, you can call the school office at 662-841-8910.

SCHOOL NURSE

The services provided by our school nurse are almost too numerous to list. In general, however, our school nurse:

-provides counsel and answers to the health-related questions of our students and staff
-promotes healthy lifestyles and gives "good health tips" to students and staff
-serves as front-line responder for health-related and injury emergencies in our schools
-trains our staff how to respond and react in the event of medical emergencies
-teaches good hygiene practices to our students
-determines when a child may be too ill to stay at school

School Nurse Marchell Graham is always on call for assistance. Please let your child's teacher know of any special medical needs. Nurse Graham will develop a medical action plan with your assistance to ensure your child's needs are met. The school nurse is available each day at Lawhon.

SUPPORT THERAPIST

Employed by LifeCore, our support therapists, Ms. Kara Ratliff and Mrs. Mary Strange, receive referrals from classroom teachers on children who might benefit from supportive counseling services. These services could include behavior modification and promotion of self-esteem.

BARTON READING PROGRAM

The Barton program is a reading and spelling system influenced by Orton-Gillingham. The instruction takes a simultaneously multi-sensory approach that is explicit and systematic. The program is designed to improve the spelling, reading, and writing skills of children, teenagers, or adults who struggle due to dyslexia or a learning disability. The effectiveness of Barton is supported by independent scientific research that contains all of the essential reading instructions required by the NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT. The Barton program is divided into 10 levels targeting different objectives with each lesson teaching many of the Common Core Standards. It is a small group intervention program provided for students who meet the program criteria.

A Barton student must:

- Be at least 5 years old and in kindergarten
- Can speak and comprehend **spoken** English
  - This is **not** for children with a receptive or expressive language disorder.
  - This is also **not** an ELL program.
  - A **non**-native English speaker must be able to speak and understand spoken English at a second grade level.
- Have an IQ of 70 or higher
- Struggle with spelling when writing stories, and cannot easily sound out unknown words when reading.
  - If someone can already read accurately and rapidly, and spells well, but **only** has trouble with comprehension, then the Barton System would **not** be needed or appropriate.
- Can pass the Barton student screening (Barton Entry)

We also look at students':

Assessment scores, including MAAP and STAR
Repeaters
Reading and Language scores

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

ARTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Arts integration involves infusing the arts into the core curriculum, specifically non-arts subjects. This allows for meeting individual student needs and a deeper level of thinking. Lawhon Elementary teachers are committed to providing arts integrated lessons. Ongoing professional development in this area enhances our ability and extends our commitment to educate our students in and through the arts.

CHORUS (Lawhon Lyrics)

Lawhon Elementary offers a variety of musical experiences that includes chorus opportunities for students. Lawhon's music teacher will coordinate all chorus activities. Proper vocal technique, vowel production, posture, and performance etiquette are emphasized.

D.A.R.E.
D.A.R.E, an acronym that stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education, is a 17-week course for fifth grade students taught by a uniformed police officer. The nationally-recognized program is a joint effort of the Tupelo Public School District and the Tupelo Police Department to help prevent drug abuse.

Little Ripples
Tupelo Park and Recreation Department and TPSD have partnered on Little Ripples, a water safety program offered to every 2nd grader in the District. Lawhon second grade students will attend swim training sessions at the Tupelo Aquatic Center, with parental permission, under the direction of Mrs. Molly Walker, our P.E. teacher, and with support from second grade teachers and other support staff.

CHALLENGE
The Challenge Program is provided for intellectually gifted children in grades two through seven in the Tupelo Public School District. Students are screened in first grade through teacher observations, group intelligence tests, and achievement tests. In some circumstances, students are screened in higher grades. Students who are referred for testing take an individual intelligence test. The Mississippi Department of Education regulations require that all children score at or above the 91st percentile to be eligible for the Challenge Program. Students who are in the program meet for a minimum of four hours each week with the Challenge teacher.

CLUBS
Clubs are led by teachers who volunteer to organize them. They meet on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons, except Lawhon Lyrics which will meet two mornings. Students sign up early in the year and are allowed to participate in two clubs. Examples of club possibilities are: Beta Club, Lawhon Lyrics (choir), and Robotics Club,

INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Assemblies/Performances
Assemblies may be called as the need arises for special purposes. At all times the student's behavior should be refined and courteous. An indication of the cultural level of the school is the conduct of its student body at an assembly. Whether guests are present or not, each student is personally responsible for the impression made by the school as a whole. Unacceptable conduct would include whistling, uncalled-for clapping, boisterousness, and talking during a program. Children should remember to keep their feet, hands, and other objects to themselves.

Active Parent

To Access the ActiveParent Website:

Click on the ActiveParent logo on the district website at www.tupeloschools.com. Active Parent will allow you to view your child's grades and attendance record.

To Request An ActiveParent Account:

- Click on the "Sign up for an Active Parent Account" link on the ActiveParent website.
- Complete all fields in RED on the Request Account screen & Click Next.
- (Username & Password MUST be a minimum of 5 characters.)
- Complete all fields in RED on the Student Information screen & Click Add Student button.
- If additional students need to be added to this account, complete all fields in RED on the Student Information screen & click the Add Student button. Repeat this process until all student names are listed in the box labeled "Student Information Requested For" box.
- Click the Submit Request button after all students that should be associated with your account are listed in the "Student Information Requested For" box.
- A message should appear stating that the user account request was successful. Your student's school will activate your account within 2 school days.

To Log In and Use ActiveParent Once the Requested Account is Activated:

- Enter the User Name & Password that was created during the Account Request process & Click Login.
- Choose the student's name from the "Student" drop-down box.
- Click on one of the Menu buttons on the left side of the screen to view the different areas of information on the selected student. Menu Options are Schedule, Term Grades, and Daily Grades.

Please contact the school office if you have any problems logging in to ActiveParent.

Birthdays and Deliveries to Students

In the interest of safety and well-being of the students and to avoid interruptions during classroom instructional time, deliveries of balloons, flowers, gifts, etc. will not be accepted at school. Remember that invitations to birthday parties should not be handed out at school. For safety/security reasons, please do not ask the school to give out addresses of any of the students.

Community/Family Involvement

Please join us during the year for events such as Open House, Arts Festival, Grandparents' Day Celebrations, awards and citizenship celebrations, and grade level plays. Many more opportunities will be available during the year.

Lawhon Field Trip Guidelines

- Field trips are designed to enhance and enrich learning.
- Field trips may be used to develop background knowledge at the beginning of a unit of study, or its purpose may be to culminate a unit of study.

- Building community within the class and/or grade is also a goal of field trips. Riding the bus and following the trip itinerary contribute significantly to the accomplishment of this goal.
- Chaperones are critical partners in the success of a field trip and assume significant supervisory responsibilities under the direction of the lead teacher.
- Chaperones need to be approved by the Central Office through a background check. These forms should be filled out early in the school year. Participation in the field trip is limited to students, school personnel, and approved chaperones.
- Chaperones will be given specific directions for performing field trip duties.
- Students should ride to and from the destination in the transportation provided by the Tupelo Public School District.
- Only school personnel and students may ride in buses owned by Tupelo Public School District.
- Chaperones may ride in chartered buses as long as there is available space.
- Students should not ride in private cars unless it is with their parent or guardian and prior approval is given. A permission form completed and approved at least one week prior to the trip is encouraged. Permission will be granted if the student must leave the field trip to attend a sporting event, academic competition, or organizational event and the form has been completed.

Inclement Weather Procedure

- It will be our practice to always put the safety of our students and staff first in dismissing school for reasons caused by inclement weather.
- The District will carefully check the conditions for transportation and make the decision to dismiss school after considering all of the information available. Parental discretion is encouraged in cases regarding safety in unusual, specific situations. The final decision for a child to attend school or not during inclement weather rests with the parent.
- There are some times when major thoroughfares are kept open, and we have school even though some roads are still frozen. It would be our plan for buses to run the open roads, where no dangers exist, in order to complete a school day. We would not want to miss an entire day because of the frozen conditions of just a few minor streets.

- If inclement weather should occur during the day making it necessary to close school early, an announcement will be made by the Superintendent. All local news media will be notified by his office, and the radio and television stations will announce the decision for early dismissal, along with notification from the TPSD Communications Director. Please provide a number where text messages can be received. Be assured that every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety and well-being of all students.
- Students will not be allowed to leave the school campus if a tornado warning is in effect. Students may not leave until the warning is lifted.
- Please do not call the school offices, administrators' homes, radio or television stations, or civil defense offices as this ties up lines necessary for notifying the general public.

Highly Qualified Teachers

In the Tupelo Public School District teachers must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree, and may have masters, specialist or doctorate degrees. Teachers with three years of experience may complete the national board certification process. District teachers participate in many days of professional development every school year. The 1200 members of the TPSD faculty and staff embody the core belief that "an excellent public school

system is comprised of superb schools which depend on high-quality staff who are performance driven, motivated to succeed, and are themselves life-long learners"

Lost And Found

Please write your child's name in his/her jackets, sweaters, lunch boxes, backpacks, etc. We will have a lost and found "box" located near the auditorium. Articles found in and around the school will be turned into the office and placed in the lost and found box. The "lost and found" area will be cleaned out during the last week of each month. Items will be donated after reasonable effort has been made to find the owners.

Media Center

Each student will visit the Media Center as one of his/her "special" classes. In addition, the Media Center will be available for flexible use in the mornings prior to special activity periods by individuals to check out books as needed and for research for special projects.

Medication/Student Health/ Healthy Schools Immunization Compliance

Refer to the TPSD Policy JLCD, found on the District website or in the Elementary Student Guidebook. The health of your child is important to all of us. Children who have definite signs of colds or other illnesses should not be sent to school. If a child becomes ill or is injured at school, he or she will be cared for temporarily. Parents will be notified and expected to pick up the child. **It is therefore crucial that emergency telephone numbers are kept current.**

Students who are on medication should have a written permission slip and a copy of the doctor's orders on file in the principal's office. Forms are available in the office. Medication must be in a pharmacy-labeled bottle or container, which will be kept under lock and key and administered only by a designated adult. Headache/pain medication, cough drops, etc. are not available at school, and students are not allowed to bring those items to school.

All students enrolled must have on file the Certification of Immunization Compliance Form 121 (This form may be obtained from the health department or your pediatrician.) *Out of state transfers must take the out of state immunization record to the Lee County Health Department at 532 South Church Street in Tupelo to be issued a Mississippi Immunization Form.

The services of the North Mississippi Medical Center Nurse focus on health education and prevention. The preventive measures include routine screening for vision, hearing, and personal hygiene. The educational components include playground, home, and bicycle safety. The health center nurse also serves as a health resource for problems or illness that may be detected.

Head Lice

The law of the State of Mississippi states: "If a student in any public elementary or secondary school has had head lice on three (3) consecutive occasions during one (1) school year while attending school, or if the parent of the student has been notified by school officials that the student has had head lice on three (3) consecutive occasions in one (1) school year, as determined by the school nurse, public health nurse or a physician, the principal or administrator shall notify the county health department of the recurring problem of head lice with that student."

Personal Items

Children should bring to school only the materials/supplies that are necessary and requested. Items that are distracting to others and disruptive to the learning process are considered nuisance items and should not be brought to school. Toy guns, toy knives, whistles, chewing gum, and fad toy items are examples of distracting materials. Bringing some of these items may result in disciplinary actions. Because of the possibility of loss or damage, radios, CD players, cell phones, iPods, large amounts of money and other items of significant value should not be brought to school. ***The Tupelo Public School District is not responsible for the loss of such items.***

Placement Policy

Children are placed in classrooms with consideration of confidential information from parents and teachers. Requests for specific teachers are not accepted.

School Insurance

School insurance is available to all students. Purchase of this program is optional and between the parent and the insurance company offering the coverage. The school has no responsibility connected to the insurance company or the insurance coverage.

Specials

Each student will have one 60-minute "specials" class per day. These classes will include art, music, physical education, technology, and media. Students will participate in a variety of activities to provide a well- rounded education for each individual.

- ***Art***

Our students enjoy participating in art class! In this class, students gain a better understanding of principles of visual art including color, design and art history. In art, the children learn a variety of techniques, such as water coloring, shading, and dimensions. The artwork of our students can be found at the Tupelo High School Performing Arts Center, our school building, and, in the spring, at the Gum Tree Museum of Art.

- ***Music***

In music class, students explore different styles and genres of music through singing, listening, playing instruments, and movement. Musical skills are developed using the Orff approach as well as traditional methods.

- ***Physical Education***

Physical Education classes provide a time for exercising and participating in cooperative games, as well as competitive games. Our Project Fit America grant will be implemented through the physical education program. Students learn the importance of good sportsmanship and physical exercise. Students will move to music. Our school offers classes that provide cognitive content and learning experiences in a variety of activity areas such as basic movement skills, physical fitness, rhythms and dance, and games. Through many planned physical activities, each student should reach the optimum physical, mental, emotional, and social level of development. Students are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and clothes – dresses are not a good idea on P.E. day. Please let us know if your child ever has any special needs (injuries, sickness, etc.).

- ***Technology Lab***

All students will attend computer classes weekly in the computer lab. Lawhon Elementary School is committed to preparing students for a world of technology by providing instruction in computer ethics, care, and use. Students work on various programs such as Coding in the lab each week. Each individual classroom is also equipped with its own computer station.

➢ ***Project Lead the Way***

Project Lead The Way provides transformative learning experiences for students. We create an engaging, hands-on classroom environment and empower students to develop in-demand knowledge and skills they need to thrive.

➢ ***Media Center***

Every child has an organized time to visit the media center. However, all children have access to the media center every day. During media class, the children learn how to utilize the media center more efficiently and check out books. All books are due in one week but may be returned early or renewed if extra time is needed. Students will not be allowed to check out books if they have two library books that are overdue.

Telephone and Student Messages

- Students may not use the school phones for personal calls except in an emergency and with staff permission. In the event a student receives a call, he/she will be called out of class only in an emergency. Normally, phone calls for students will be handled between classes, during lunchtime and after school.
- Parents, please do not cause class interruptions for messages unless absolutely necessary. When messages are necessary, the best time to call the school office is between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Procedures to Register / Enroll

TPSD offers ONLINE registration through
INFOSNAP -

New Students **or** **Returning Students**.

Once registration has been completed and submitted electronically, a legal parent or guardian must submit 2 proofs of residency to the appropriate school(s).

New students registering in Tupelo Public Schools must submit 2 proofs of residency, birth certificate, and immunization compliance (MS) Form 121.

Acceptable Proof of Residency includes:

A minimum of two proofs is required of ALL students. Please provide one document from each group:

Group 1

Mortgage Documents (dated within last 30 days)
Dated during 2023
· Property Tax Display Form
· Filed Homestead Exemption Application
· Property Deed
· Apartment or Home Lease/Agreement

Group 2

Utility Bill (dated within last 30 days)
· Electric

· Gas
· Water
· Cable

Please note: A driver's license, automobile registration or voter precinct identification are no longer acceptable proofs.
Electronic submission of residency requirements is not an allowed method of submitting this information.

Student's Birth Certificate; if unavailable, other approved documentation pursuant to state law (see policy JFAA)

Certification of Immunization Compliance Form 121 (This form may be obtained from the health department or your pediatrician.) *Out of state transfers must take the out of state immunization record to the Lee County Health Department at 532 South Church Street in Tupelo to be issued a Mississippi Immunization Form.

Documentation requested of the parent or legal guardian at the time of registration:

- A copy of the student's withdrawal form and report card from the school previously attended.

Registration/Enrollment forms given to parent or guardian at the time of enrollment:

Student Enrollment Form

Student Emergency Card

Free/Reduced Lunch Application

Technology Resources: Responsible Access and Use Agreement

TPSD Bus/Transportation Form

Residency Registration and Documentation Checklist

Tours of the school are available upon request to entering families.

Procedures to Withdraw from School

To withdraw a student from school, the parent or legal guardian must contact the school counselor on the day of withdrawal. The parent or legal guardian must sign a withdrawal form provided by the school counselor. The student must return all textbooks and library books to the media center. A record of a student's grades and services received will be provided to the parent or legal guardian at the time of withdrawal. If the student is moving out of state a copy of the immunization records will be provided. The principal/counselor must sign the withdrawal form. Official records will be sent to the new school upon request from the new school.

Asbestos Notification

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulations established by the EPA, all school districts are required to provide an annual notification to all parents, teachers, and employees regarding our asbestos management program. This annual notification informs all persons of their option to review the Asbestos Management Plan for our school district.

To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by an accredited asbestos inspector. Any changes to these materials are recorded in a surveillance report as part of the management plan.
Additionally, an accredited Asbestos Management Planner conducts a comprehensive inspection of all ACM's every 3 years. This 3-year re-inspection has been performed as required and a copy has been filed with the Mississippi Department of Education.

A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is located in the principal's office at each school. In addition, copies of all Asbestos Management Plans for the district are maintained in the Superintendent's office located at 72 South Green Street. If you are interested in reviewing this information, please contact the Central office at 662-841-8853 to schedule an appointment.

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records.

They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading.

3. The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office

Department of Education

Independence Avenue, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

The Tupelo Public School District routinely makes public certain directory information regarding students. This directory information includes the student name, address, telephone number, picture, height and weight of athletes, extracurricular activities, awards, honor rolls, electronic listings, Internet web pages, and other information which is typically found in school yearbooks, programs, bulletins, and student newspapers. In addition, the District discloses names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters upon request. Parents and eligible students shall have from July 15 until September 1 to review this notice and request in

writing to the school principal that all or any part of the directory information not be disclosed without prior written consent.

Title I and Parents' Right to Know

Title I, Part A

On January 8, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. This Act, which redefines the federal role in K - 12 education, is the most sweeping reform of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) since it was enacted in 1965. There are four main principles of the law:

- stronger accountability for results
- increased flexibility and local control
- expanded options for parents
- an emphasis on teaching methods that have been proven to work

Research has shown that students from lower socio-economic environments do not perform as well academically as their peers. The NCLB Act strives to close that achievement gap, and the Title I grant program supports the process by helping to ensure that all students have opportunities to achieve their highest academic potential.
Title I funds may be used in combination with other Federal, State, and local funds in order to upgrade the entire educational program of a school. However, funds allocated to the Title I program may not be used to fund other programs.
Title I funding in the Tupelo Public School District provides vital funding for the Early Childhood Education Center's Pre-K program. This program allows the Tupelo Public School District to provide early intervention for our youngest students.

The qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals employed in schools funded by Title I will be provided upon parent request. Title I School wide Programs are available at the Early Childhood Education Center and the eight K-5 elementary schools. For further information, please contact the principal of the school where your child attends or the Director of Federal Programs. In addition, a parent may request information on the level of achievement of the parent's child on each state academic assessment, and/or a timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Title III, ELL

Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 provides Federal financial support to state and local educational agencies to supplement English language instruction in order to ensure that all English Language Learners, including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic language proficiency in English, and meet the same challenging State academic achievement standards as all Mississippi students are expected to meet.

Title X, Homeless Education

The Purpose of Title X, Homeless grants to local education agencies is to provide activities for, and services to, homeless children and youth including preschool-age children that enable these children and youth to enroll, attend, and succeed in school. These services provide before or after school tutoring, supplemental instruction and enriched educational activities. All activities may be provided on school grounds or at other facilities including sectarian property.

The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youth” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes:

Children and youth who are:
• sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled-up);
• living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
• living in emergency or transitional shelters;
• abandoned in hospitals; or
• awaiting foster care placement;
Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above. For More information, please contact the Tupelo Public School District’s McKinney Vento Liaison Jeni Chandler at 662-841-1083 or Corlis Curry at 662-841-8850.

Free and Appropriate Education of Disabled (Special Education)
The Tupelo Public School District's Department of Special Education is committed to providing accessibility to all needed programs and facilities to ensure a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for approximately 1,089 students with disabilities currently identified within the district. The district is involved in on-going formal activities to identify, locate and evaluate all children from birth through 21 years of age who are suspected of having a disability and who may be in need of special education and/or related services. The goal of Tupelo Public School District's Department of Special Education is to be a service-oriented department that provides specialized programs to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities.

Bell Schedule/Student Schedule
7:30 a.m. Students arrive to their homeroom classes
8:00 a.m. Instruction begins
2:50 p.m. Dismissal bell
12:15p.m. Dismissal bell for 60% day
Each student’s schedule is determined by the grade level they are in since special activity periods are by grade level, and lunch schedules are also grouped by grade levels.

Grades/Promotion/Retention Lawhon follows the district's 10 point grading scale. A student must achieve a final grade of 65 or above to pass a subject. We follow TPSD Board policy IHE regarding promotion and retention decisions. Placement decisions are based on grades earned and reported.
A student scoring at the lowest achievement level in reading on the established state assessment for 3rd grade will not be promoted to 4th grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion.

Honor Roll

Students making all A's or all A's and B's are recognized each grading period for being on the school honor roll.

TPSD Dress Code Grades K-6

1. Students are permitted to wear shorts in warm weather provided the shorts are of adequate size and length. The minimum length for shorts is index finger length with arms extended when dropped from the side. Cut-off blue jean shorts are inappropriate as well as shorts with holes, tears, and/or shreds will not be permitted on any clothing.
2. The length of dresses and skirts will not exceed four inches above the top of the knee and will also be appropriate for bending, stooping, sitting, and working overhead while at school.
3. Transparent clothing without proper underclothing is inappropriate. Transparent wind suits are inappropriate. Wind suits may be worn provided that they are not transparent.
4. Muscle shirts, tube tops, tank tops, razor back tops, spaghetti strap tops and fishnet tops are prohibited.
5. No clothing shall be so low in the front as to expose any part of the breast or shall be so low in the back to expose the shoulder blades.
6. The midriff shall not be exposed while walking, standing, and/or sitting.
7. An over-shirt is permitted as long as a proper undergarment is worn.
8. Any article of clothing which contains or depicts the following is prohibited: substances illegal by law for minors - alcohol, drugs, tobacco; profane, suggestive, and/or violent language; derogatory symbols or remarks directed to any ethnic group.
9. Any jewelry and/or items of ornamentation which depicts weapons of violence or substances illegal to minors are prohibited.
10. Hair shall be free from obnoxious odors, and shall be clean and neat in appearance. Picks, combs, rollers, and bonnets/sleep caps shall not be worn in, nor on the hair.
11. Basketball jerseys shall not be worn without appropriate underclothing.
12. Shoes and/or sandals shall be worn. Shoes designated to be laced shall be laced. Shoes with cleats and house shoes are inappropriate.
13. Loose and/or sagging pants, slacks, and shorts falling below the waist without a belt are prohibited.
14. Leggings/yoga pants/running pants and similar tight fitting pants are only permitted when worn with a top that extends down from the shoulders to mid-thigh of the leg (front and back).
15. Sunglasses shall be removed from the head when entering a building.
16. Hats and caps, unless a part of a special event, shall not be worn in the building.

17. Piercing of exposed body parts that cause a distraction or cause a safety concern are prohibited. This includes body piercings other than ear piercing.
18. Doo-rags, bandannas, and washcloths are prohibited.
19. All fasteners and buckles designed for use with an article of clothing shall be used appropriately at all times.
20. Restrictions on a student's manner of dress or grooming will be determined by:
    (a) where there is a clear and present danger to the student's health and safety; or
    (b) when the attire causes an interference with work, a disruption to the educational environment, or creates classroom or school disorder as a result of such manner of dress or grooming.
21. Trench coats or other items of clothing which could be utilized to conceal dangerous or prohibited items are not allowed.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The primary responsibility for the conduct and personal appearance of a student rests with the student and the parents. Students and parents must recognize that discipline and order will be maintained in the school. Proper conduct and a clear mind are necessary for education to occur. In carrying out school regulations, students, parents, teachers and the administrative staff should observe the following:

A. Administrators and teachers shall hold students to strict account for violations of school policy, infractions of the Code of Conduct and other disorderly conduct as defined below at any school, on the way to and from school, on the playgrounds during recess, at school meetings, programs, functions and activities, and upon school buses. The superintendent, principal or administrator of any school may suspend any pupil from school for good cause in accordance with the policies of the Board.

B. The superintendent, the principal or an administrator shall have the power to suspend a pupil for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed or expelled by the Board. However, such action of the superintendent, principal, or administrator shall be in accordance with the written policies of the Board.

C. The superintendent, principal or administrator is authorized to institute appropriate disciplinary action, including immediate suspension, if warranted, against any student for violations of school policy, infractions of the Code of Conduct and other disorderly conduct or misconduct, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Fighting
2. Assault
3. Physical altercation
4. Disorderly conduct
5. Sexual harassment, intimidation, or threats
6. Disruption of school operations, functions, programs or activities
7. Disobedience
8. Disrespect
9. Insubordination
10. Insulting language
11. Insulting behavior
12. Obscene language/gesture

13. Vandalism
14. Malicious mischief
15. Theft
16. Damage to property, private or school
17. Unauthorized use of school property
18. Unauthorized entry on school premises
19. Loitering
20. Use of tobacco
21. Use of alcoholic beverages
22. Being under the influence of alcoholic beverages
23. Use of illegal drugs
24. Being under the influence of illegal drugs
25. Indecent exposure
26. Public indecent displays of affection including in cars parked in the vicinity of any school building or activity
27. Leaving class, school program or meeting without permission
28. Threat of harm to others or threat of destruction of property
29. Possession of any of the following items:

    Illegal drugs/look-alike drugs
    Alcoholic beverages
    Fireworks, explosives, matches, lighters or incendiary materials
    Knives, firearms, slingshots, any other weapon or look-alike weapon
    Pornographic materials
    Drug paraphernalia
    Stolen property
    Tobacco
    Gang-related paraphernalia
    Cards or gambling paraphernalia
    Noise making devices
    Other disruptive material
    Cell phones
    Hand held games
    Other materials, possession of which is punishable by law
    An offense otherwise punishable by law

D. A student suspended by a superintendent, principal or other administrator shall be entitled to a review of the case in accordance with the policies of the Board.

E. Other disciplinary action may consist of demerits, detention, loss of privileges, lower grade in citizenship, denial of participation in school activities, probation, or a combination of any one or more of such actions, including creative alternative sentences or appropriate constructive assignments, depending on the seriousness and circumstances of the offense and the attitude of the student.

F. Administrators may impose detention as a disciplinary action upon students for violations, misconduct, or disorderly conduct not serious enough to require other disciplinary action. The imposition of a detention by an administrator shall not preclude the imposition of other disciplinary action. Detention classes shall be held at a place and time to be designated by the principal. Such classes shall constitute a school program. Any student failing to report for detention at the place and time designated shall be subject to other disciplinary action. The only permitted activity of students in such classes shall be study and homework. Any student serving detention must provide for his own transportation. A detention shall

be served the day following its issuance or as fixed by the principal. The number of detentions received by a student must be a consideration determining the student's citizenship grade, privileges and participation in student activities. A student accumulating twelve (12) hours of detention may be required to show cause why he/she should not be suspended for repeated violations of school regulations.

G. The teacher is the authority in classroom matters and any decision he/she makes in compliance with the written discipline code of conduct shall be supported. The teacher shall have the right to remove from the classroom any student who, in the professional judgment of the teacher, is disrupting the learning environment. Similarly, a coach, teacher or other supervising staff member shall have the right to remove any student from a bus, activity or school function who, in the professional judgment of said staff member, is disrupting the operation of the school or school related activity. The student shall be removed to the principal or assistant principal, who shall determine the proper placement for the student. The student may not be returned to the classroom until a conference of some kind has been held with the parent or guardian during which the disrupting behavior is discussed and agreements are reached that no further disruption will be tolerated. The conference may be held in person or via telephone. If the parent or guardian does not respond or refuses to participate, the teacher(s) and the principal or assistant principal shall prepare the plan and mail a copy to the parent or guardian. Once the plan is prepared, the student will be notified that he or she may return to the classroom and/or school. If the principal does not approve of the determination of the teacher to remove the student from the classroom, the principal, upon request from the teacher, must provide justification for his disapproval.

H. Any student who is thirteen (13) years of age or older for whom a behavior modification plan is developed by the school principal, reporting teacher and student's parent and who does not comply with the plan shall be deemed habitually disruptive and subject to automatic expulsion on the occurrence of the third act of disruptive behavior during a school year. After the second act of disruptive behavior during a school year by a student who is younger than thirteen (13) years of age, a psychological evaluation shall be performed on that child.

I. The superintendent, or designee, shall have authority to transfer to an alternative education program any student who has been arrested, arraigned for or convicted of or pleaded guilty or nolo contend ere to a serious crime, as defined in this section, which occurred off of school property or away from school-related functions. A serious crime, for the purposes of this section, is an illegal act which indicates the capacity and willingness of the student to injure students and/or employees with bodily harm or to threaten to cause bodily harm, or to place students and/or employees in danger of bodily harm or threaten to destroy property. The superintendent or designee will evaluate the circumstances of the serious crime to determine whether (1) the acts of the student indicate a present and possible danger to the health, safety, and welfare of a student(s) or employee(s) and (2) whether the more restrictive, security oriented environment of an alternative education program would serve the educational interests of the student while preserving the safety of students and employees. The Board shall review the student's placement in any alternative program at the next regular meeting. Serious crimes shall include, without limitation, and as examples only:

1. Assault with a deadly weapon
2. Aggravated assault
3. Rape
4. Sexual battery, stalking, or other sexual crime

5. Armed or strong-armed robbery (or attempted)
6. Sale or distribution of a controlled substance

If the offense involves threat of harm to self, others or property, the student must be evaluated by a private licensed psychologist or psychiatrist to assist in determining appropriate action. The district must receive a report of the evaluation stating whether or not the student, in the opinion of the examiner, is a threat to self, to others, or to property.

Continue of Student Code of Conduct - DEFINITIONS

A. FIGHT: A fight is defined as any violent physical contact between two or more persons, which is intended to cause, or intentionally cause serious bodily harm or injury. If the physical contact was made knowingly and on purpose of sufficient force or character to cause serious bodily harm or injury, then intent is established, intended or not. The determination of intent and of serious bodily harm or injury shall be made in the sound judgment and discretion of the principal or designated school officials. A non-exclusive list of examples of serious bodily harm or injury follows:

1. Any blows to the face or head which cause or could cause bruising, bleeding, broken or chipped bones or teeth, significant swelling, concussion, injury to hearing or sight, severe pain, loss of consciousness
1. Blows to the abdomen or groin
2. Biting
3. Bleeding, internal or external
4. Broken, fractured or chipped bones or teeth
5. Bruising
1. Any wound requiring stitches
2. Burns
9. Loss of consciousness
10. Application of hazardous chemicals
11. Choking/strangulation
12. Sprains/injury to joints
13. Puncture wounds
14. Intentional physical contact resulting in a fall which could cause any of the injuries listed above, or
15. Physical contact by any weapon capable of causing serious bodily injury or harm

Each person who engages in a fight is guilty of a breach of the rules against fighting, regardless of who initiated the confrontation or the violence. Initiation and acceleration of a fight may be considered when imposing punishment, but these are not factors in determining whether or not a person is guilty of fighting. **Self-defense is not an excuse, unless there was no reasonable means of escape or avoidance.**

B. PHYSICAL ALTERCATION/STRUGGLE: A physical altercation or struggle is any disorderly or violent physical contact between two or more persons, which could result, or does result, in bodily harm or injury or in damaged property. A non-exclusive list of examples of physical altercations/struggles:

1. Pushing or shoving
2. Wrestling
3. Slapping or open-hand hitting which is not intended to cause serious bodily harm or injury
4. Grabbing or holding, or
5. Violent physical horseplay

C. ASSAULT: An assault is (a) the attempt to cause or the purposeful, knowing or reckless causing of bodily injury to another person, or (b) the negligent causing of bodily injury with a weapon or other means likely to produce death or serious bodily harm, or (c) the attempt by physical menace to put another person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury.

D. SELF-DEFENSE: Self-defense is the use of appropriate, reasonable force to defend or remove oneself or another person against the assault of an aggressor when there is no reasonable avenue of escape or means of avoidance.

E. DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR: Conduct of a student that is so unruly, disruptive or abusive that it seriously interferes with a school teacher or school administrator's ability to communicate with the students in a classroom, with a student's ability to learn, or with the operation of a school or school-related activity, and which is not covered by other laws related to violence or possession of weapons or controlled substances on school property, school vehicles or at school-related activities. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to: foul, profane, obscene, threatening, defiant or abusive language or action toward teachers or other school employees; defiance, ridicule or verbal attack of a teacher; and willful, deliberate and overt acts of disobedience of the directions of a teacher.

F. HABITUALLY DISRUPTIVE: Actions of a student which cause disruption in a classroom, on school property or vehicles or at a school-related activity on more than two (2) occasions during a school year, and behavior that was initiated, willful and overt on the part of the student and which required the attention of school personnel to deal with the disruption. However, no student shall be considered to be habitually disruptive before the development of a behavior modification plan for the student in accordance with the code of student conduct and discipline plans of the school district.

G. BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION PLAN: A plan developed in a meeting of the principal, reporting teacher and parent of a student, who is at least 13 years old and has been reported by a teacher for disrupting the learning environment, which reflects the agreement of all present at the meeting that no further disruption by the student will be tolerated.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE: ELEMENTARY (GRADES K-5) Policy JK-E1

School is a place that provides rewarding experiences for a large group of students working together from day to day. In order for all to benefit, enjoy, and learn from these experiences in a safe environment; discipline and order must be maintained. The primary responsibility for the conduct of a student rests with the student, the parents, and then the school. Parents should discuss with their children the importance of, and need for, good behavior and a good attitude while in school. Our goal is to promote an atmosphere within the school that is conducive to learning while protecting the rights of students. No student's behavior will be allowed to interfere with the learning opportunities of others. We work to preserve the dignity of the individual while at the same time not allowing them to manipulate the system. In carrying out these guidelines - students, parents, teachers and administrators must be consistent in their decisions and be supportive of each other. Parent involvement

with the school is required for a positive school environment. Parents are required to: attend conferences, make arrangements for children upon suspension, and provide current emergency information.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

All teachers will have a classroom management plan in place based on the following disciplinary guidelines. The plan must be approved by the principal. Each classroom management plan will include some type of parent contact and/or conferencing as one of its steps. The plan will be based on these district-wide elementary rules:

A. Respect the rights and property of others.
B. Be responsible for your own actions.
C. Be resourceful with your assets and abilities.

It should include procedures for:

- Use of classroom space and facilities.
- Use of other parts of the school.
- Whole class activities and seatwork.
- Small group activities.
- Keeping students accountable for their work
- Beginning and end of day activities.
- Administrative and housekeeping chores.
- Special activities and safety rules.
- Time out within the classroom.

Ladder of Consequences

Depending on the severity of the offense, the discipline ladder may be entered at any point.

STEP 1
Warning
Parent/Guardian contact

Step 2
Time-out of class
Parent/guardian contact
Removal from ladder if not referred to office for twenty school days from date of entry unto ladder

Step 3
Overnight Required Conferences
Parent/guardian conference
Removal from ladder if not referred to office for twenty school days from date of entry unto ladder

Step 4
Administrative detention (2 hours)
Parent or guardian conference
Probation for twenty school days

Step 5
½ - 1 day In-School Suspension (ISS)
Parent/guardian conference (SEL Process Review)
Probation for twenty school days

Step 6
2-3 days of In-School Suspension (ISS)
Parent/guardian conference (SEL Process Review)
Probation for twenty school days

Step 7
1- 3 days of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
Parent/guardian conference
Probation for twenty school days

Step 8
Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) - Up to 10 days
Parent/guardian conference
Probation for twenty school days

Step 9
Alternate assignment
OR Out of school suspension up to 10 days pending a district disciplinary committee hearing
Parent/guardian conference prior to hearing

Step 10
Expulsion

DEFINITIONS
Disobedience - Refusal to obey, failure to follow request; insubordination.
Defiance - Open or bold resistance to authority.
Deliberate Mischief - A planned action or conduct that causes damage or trouble.
Rebellion - Resisting authority, opposing any control
Obscenities - (Oral, written, or graphic) something obscene, profane or vulgar, in language, conduct, a remark, an expression, or an act.
Deliberate Falsehood - Planned deception, telling of lies, lying.
Cruelty - The quality of being cruel, inhumane, hard heartlessness, a cruel action, or remark.
Intimidation - To make timid, make afraid with threats of violence such as extortion, teasing, harassing, hurting, frightening, threatening, or tyrannizing others.
Refusing Punishment - To decline to accept discipline that is intended to establish habits of self-control.

EXCEPTIONS
Any of the following offenses can merit Out-of-School Suspension at the discretion of the Principal, or principal designee, without going through any steps of the discipline plan:

A. A shocking or dangerous behavior which may cause physical or emotional harm to the student or others such as inappropriate touching
B. Fighting, physical altercation
C. Weapons or other materials punishable by law
D. Stealing
E. Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia
F. Gang related dress or activity
G. Destruction of school materials and property
H. Inappropriate clothing
I. Sexual Harassment
J. Intimidation
K. Bullying or cyberbullying
L. Assault

Student Search

According to TPSD board policy JCDA, as student, or student's personal effects, may be searched by a certified employee when that employee has reasonable suspicion, at the inception of the search, that the student is in possession or control of weapons, illegal drugs, or other materials that are illegal or in violation of school policy. See policy for more information.

Discipline Supervisors

Dr. Brock English, Deputy Superintendent 9-12
Dr. Melissa Thomas, Assistant Superintendent, 6-8
Mr. Art Dobbs, Assistant Superintendent, PK-5

TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-27 TPSD Calendar

July 1, 2026	Begin FY 2027
July 2-3, 2026	District Holiday (Independence Day Observed)
July 27, 2026	Staff Report
July 27-30, 2026	Professional Development Days
July 31, 2026	Students Report
September 1, 2026	First Quarter Progress Reports
September 7, 2026	District Holiday (Labor Day)
October 2, 2026	End of First Quarter
October 5, 2026	Second Quarter Begins For Students
October 9, 2026	First Quarter Report Cards
October 12, 2026	District Holiday (Columbus Day)
October 13-14, 2026	Fall Break (196+ Day Employees)
October 13-16, 2026	Fall Break (Students and 187 Day Employees)
November 17, 2026	Second Quarter Progress Reports
November 23-27, 2026	District Holidays (Thanksgiving)
December 18, 2026	End of Second Quarter (60% Day)**
December 21, 2026-January 1, 2027	District Holidays (Christmas)
January 4, 2027	Staff Reports (Professional Development Day)
January 5, 2027	Third Quarter Begins For Students
January 7, 2027	Second Quarter Report Cards
January 18, 2027	District Holiday (Martin Luther King Jr Day)
February 9, 2027	Third Quarter Progress Reports
February 15, 2027	District Holiday (President's Day)*
March 8-12, 2027	District Holidays (Spring Break)
March 17, 2027	End of Third Quarter
March 18, 2027	Fourth Quarter Begins For Students
March 25, 2027	Third Quarter Report Cards
March 26, 2027	District Holiday (Good Friday)*
March 29, 2027	District Holiday (Easter Monday)
April 20, 2027	Fourth Quarter Progress Reports
May 21, 2027	End of Fourth Quarter/End of Year for Students (60% Day)**
May 21, 2027	Fourth Quarter Report Cards
May 21, 2027	Graduation
May 24-25, 2027	Professional Development Day/No Students
May 31, 2027	District Holiday (Memorial Day)
June 30, 2027	End FY 2025

*Reserved For Makeup Days **
*Students follow early dismissal schedule ***
First Semester: 90 days
Second Semester: 90 days
Student Day Total: 180 days
Staff Day Total: 187 days

* This Student Handbook is provided as a convenience to the students of Tupelo Public School District. While it contains policies current at the time of printing, we are constantly reviewing and updating policies. Therefore, the Handbook may not always reflect the most current policy. All policies and procedures summarized in this Student Handbook are subject to unilateral change at the sole option and discretion of the Tupelo Public School District.

Literacy Statement

The Tupelo Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, creed, marital status, veteran status, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Director of Human Resources
TPSD Administrative Office
Post Office Box 557
Tupelo, Mississippi 38802
662-841-8850

House System

At Lawhon Elementary, we are excited to implement a House System inspired by the Ron Clark Academy. This system is designed to build a strong sense of community, encourage positive behavior, and help every student feel connected to something bigger than themselves.

Each student is randomly placed into one of four houses and will remain in that house from 2nd through 5th grade. Our houses are:

- **Kindari** – House of Kindness
- **Onora** – Rise with Responsibility
- **Valoris** – Honor in All We Do
- **Viva** – Shine with Joy and Rise with Strength

These houses are built around our "Hound Dog Habits": being respectful, responsible, kind, and maintaining a positive attitude. Throughout the school year, students will earn points for their house by demonstrating these habits in the classroom, hallways, cafeteria, and beyond.

The House System helps create a culture of accountability, teamwork, and pride. Students build relationships with peers across grade levels, celebrate successes together, and learn the importance of contributing to a group. It also provides opportunities for leadership, encouragement, and school-wide celebrations.

Our goal is for every child to feel valued, supported, and motivated to do their best each day—not just for themselves, but for their house and their school community.

Thank you for supporting us as we continue to grow a positive and connected culture at Lawhon Elementary.

Student and Parent Acknowledgment Form

This Student Handbook is provided as a convenience to the students of Tupelo Public School District (TPSD). While it contains some information current at the time of printing, TPSD is constantly reviewing and updating policies, so the Handbook may not always reflect the most current policy. All policies and procedures summarized in this Handbook are subject to unilateral change at the sole option and discretion of the TPSD.

Our signatures verify that we have received a copy of the 2026-2027 Student Handbook, and understand that the handbook is a work in progress document and that changes may be made throughout the school year in response to unanticipated events.

A copy of the current policies of the Tupelo Public School District is available at www.tupeloschools.com as well as in the District Office.

I certify that at the start of the 2026-2027 school year, I was given a copy of the **2026-2027 Student Handbook.**

--- ---

Student signature Parent signature

Teacher's Name

After reviewing this publication, please sign and return this document to your child's school.