



Pawprints

The Lyons Elementary Newsletter

August 20, 2026

Dear Lyons Family,

I warmly greet all returning members of our school family—students, parents, and staff alike—and extend a sincere welcome to those joining us anew. As I enter **my third year as your principal**, I am deeply grateful for the relationships we have built and inspired by the opportunity ahead. Together, we are ready to move **ONWARD & UPWARD!**

My vision remains to nurture an environment where excellence, inclusivity, and teamwork are the foundations. I believe that every student can succeed, and I am dedicated to supporting and championing each one in their unique journey toward greatness.

I am committed to being a receptive, adaptive, and proactive leader, inviting your perspectives, innovations, and critiques. In collaboration, we will steer this academic year toward a trajectory of progress, accomplishment, and joy. I look forward to all that we will achieve together over the next 10 months. #letitwork

Have a wonderful week!

Principal Nekia L. Petry



Paw Message from Mrs. Petry

"Believe you can
and you're halfway there!"



E.A. "Squatty" Lyons Elementary School

800 Roxella Street

Houston, TX 77076

(713) 696-2870

<https://www.houstonisd.org/lyonses>

School Hours

Monday- Friday

7:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Instruction begins at 7:30 A.M.

Tardy Slips begin at 7:40 A.M.

Dismissal begins at 3:00 P.M.

Office Hours

Monday – Friday

7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Social Media

Follow us on Facebook:

Lyons Elementary School-HISD

Follow us on Twitter:

@LyonsElementary

Important Dates for the Week:

Tuesday, August 18 - Thursday, August 20:

NWEA Testing Kinder-5th

August 2026



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
17	18 NWEA - Math	19 NWEA - Reading	20 NWEA - Science	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29
31 PK STORY HOUR					

September 2026



	1	2	3	4	5
	PK STORY HOUR				
7 NO SCHOOL Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17 OPEN HOUSE 4-6:00	18	19
21 NO SCHOOL PD Day	22	23	24	25	26
	BOOK FAIR				
28	29	30	31		
BOOK FAIR					

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!! EVERY STUDENT! EVERYDAY!

LYONS NEWS

Pawprints is a weekly newsletter that contains school information, news, and upcoming events. It is available online every Thursday.

<http://www.houstonisd.org/LyonsES>

If you do not have a computer or internet access, there will be some newsletters available in print in the front office.

IN MEMORIUM:



It is with a heavy heart that we share one of our Lyons family, Criselda Castillo, has passed. For those who were blessed to know her, you know she was one of the most courageous, selfless, optimistic and loving person who lived life to the fullest and encouraged all of us to do the same.

She dedicated more than 20 years to teaching elementary students in Houston ISD. Teaching was never just a job to her – it was her calling. The love she poured into her students, the countless hours she spent planning lessons, and her commitment to helping every child grow cannot be forgotten.



We love you, Mrs. Castillo! Lyons will carry your memories forever.

NO SCHOOL:



There will be **NO SCHOOL** Monday, September 7, 2026 due to the Labor Day holiday. School will resume on Tuesday, September 8.

REMINDER:



Please remember to label your children's coats, jackets, sweaters, backpacks, lunch kits, water bottles, etc. This makes it much easier for us to get lost / misplaced items back to the students. Our Lost & Found box fills up quickly and unmarked items don't always get back to the students. Every Friday and table is set up by the reception desk for students and parents to look through. At the end of the month, all unclaimed items are donated to a charitable organization.

WELCOME BACK!:



Welcome back – we hope everyone had a wonderful summer vacation and is ready to start a new school year with enthusiasm.

A **BIG WELCOME** to the following new members to the Lyons team this year:



Asst. Principal	Chelsea Noel
Pre-K	Mayte Abshire
Kindergarten	Ashley Mandujano
	Rosanne Mora
1 st Grade	Tayyaba Rajgarah
2 nd Grade	Irenia Fernandez
4 th Grade	Sarah Izquiedo
	Judith Garcia
5 th Grade	Nadia Duarte
SPED	Tania Rangel
	Criselda Rodriguez
PE	Ashley Ortega

TA's	Leopoldo Alana
	Rocio Anaya
	Xenia Granados
	Delilah Maya
	Daisy Ortiz
	Cristal Vazquez
	Dezirae White
	Norma Zavala-Pecina
Security	Omarion Lundy

FROM THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE:



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!! At Houston ISD, missing school can lead to a student not receiving grades or being retained. This includes those students under an IEP (individualized education plan) and Section 504 plans. Students should not miss more than 10% of the school year.

What to do if your child is absent:

- Call the attendance office to report child's absence and reason. HISD automatically calls parents/guardians when student is marked absent
- Absence excuses should be turned in **NO LATER THAN 3 DAYS AFTER DATE OF ABSENCE.**
- Only 3 written/mailed excuses from parent per semester are permitted per school year
- All excuses may be emailed to gracine@houstonisd.org or sent thru Parent Square
- Remember to obtain and turn in to attendance office all excuses from doctor/dentist office, funeral home, other needed appointments, etc.
- The counselor, Mrs. Nzei, will reach out to families of students with more than 3 absences.

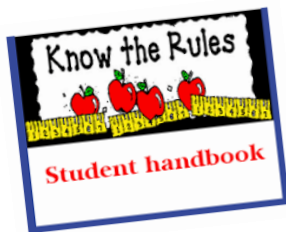
PLEASE NOTE: Call the school office if your child is absent – the office calls parents of absent students on a daily basis. If you call beforehand, this will save time and an interruption of your daily routine.

TARDIES:



It is very important that students come to school on time everyday! School begins at 7:30 a.m. The tardy bell rings at 7:45. Tardy slips will be issued to the students who arrive late. Parents must accompany their child into the school and sign the tardy book. When students come to school late, they lose valuable learning time and it causes an interruption in the classroom. Students with more than 3 tardies will not be able to participate in any extra-curricular activities or clubs. This time will be used for the student to complete the work that was missed from being tardy.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS:



The Lyons Student Handbook has been distributed to students. The student handbook contains procedures and policies for students, parents and visitors. ***Please sign and date the Student Handbook Acknowledgement located on the first page and return to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Both parent and student must sign this form.*** Parents are to keep the handbook for future references. Please refer to the following section of the student dress code:

1. Students should be fully clothed, neat, and clean.
2. Students must always wear shoes for their own safety and protection. **Crocs**, Slippers, flip-flops, sandals, clogs, and high heels are not permitted.

TENNIS SHOES MUST BE WORN ON P. E. DAYS

3. Mini-skirts and mini-dresses are unacceptable. Skirts/skorts length must be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee.
4. Pants and shorts should not be distressed nor ripped holes; that is, they should not be skintight. **Leggings and bicycle shorts may not be worn.** Shorts must be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee.
5. T-shirts, tops, blouses, shirts, etc. must be free of inappropriate graphics, pictures, and wording/language. Clothing must not expose midriff or back. Crop tops are not acceptable.

LUNCHES FROM HOME:



If your child brings lunch from home, please send it with them when they arrive at school in the morning. To protect instructional time and minimize classroom interruptions, we are unable to call classrooms for lunch deliveries during the school day.

GT APPLICATIONS:



GT applications for students in Kindergarten through 5th grades is now open. To apply, please go online. And scan the QR code.

FROM MS. PERKINS, SCHOOL NURSE:



HAZEL HEALTH PROGRAM

Welcome to Lyons 2026-2027 school year! We have an exciting new program for free telehealth visits for the students this school year. Houston ISD offers all students free access to telehealth physical and mental health services powered by Hazel Health, available both during the school hours and at home. The service is at no cost to families. One important component is obtaining consent from parents. Parents can now access the consents for Hazel Health Telehealth services in HISD Connect or the parent can ask the school nurse for a copy of the consent form. Students cannot be seen without a consent form completed and on file. Students 5 years and under **MUST** have a parent present during a Hazel Health telehealth visit. Some over the counter medications may be ordered by Hazel Health and can be given by the school nurse at no cost to families. If a medication is prescribed, the parent or guardian will be responsible for the co-payment. You can find more information at my.hazel.co/houstonisd.

MEDICATIONS:



All students requiring medication during school hours **MUST** have a NEW 2026-2027 medication form completed by their physician on file. Please contact the office for the form. Medication **MUST** match indications on medication form. **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Please note that school personnel are not allowed to administer any non-prescribed medications to students

Such as aspirin, cough drops, creams, etc. please do not send any kind of medicine to school with your child. This is for the safety of your child and other students.

HEALTHY HABITS & CAMPUS ETIQUETTE:

We appreciate your support in reinforcing positive habits and expectations at home. Please remind students about:



Washing hands regularly and using hand sanitizer appropriately

Using restrooms respectfully and responsibly



Demonstrating courteous and respectful behavior in the cafeteria



Your reinforcement at home makes a meaningful difference and helps us maintain a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment for all students.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURE:

STUDENT SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY – in order to make the dismissal process move with ease and be safer for students, Lyons Elementary has once again implemented the Dismissal Tag system. We appreciate your patience during the first few weeks of school to establish the dismissal routine. Weather conditions will not affect the dismissal process.

Two dismissal tags have been issued to all students. The issued tag **MUST BE DISPLAYED** on the rear view mirror of vehicle while in the dismissal line. Cell phone pictures of tags, copies of tags, and/or non-Lyons tags will **NOT** be accepted.

- Parents who do not have their dismissal tag available, will need to park their vehicle and go into the main office and present a Texas driver's license or picture ID for verification to obtain a temporary tag.
- If parents have multiple children, **ALWAYS** pick them up at the grade level of the youngest student, even if the child is absent. You will not need the tags of the older students. Please display the tag of the lowest grade **ONLY**.
- Pre-K, Kindergarten, and SLL students, along with any siblings, will be dismissed from the **Roxella St.** (front driveway of school) Pre-K/Kinder side of school.
- 1st-5th grade students will be dismissed from the McGallion side of school (cafeteria/multi-purpose room).
- Private bus riders will be picked up from their classrooms and taken to the cafeteria. They will be escorted to their bus.
- Independent walkers are students that walk home on their own without an adult picking them up.

- *If a student needs to walk home on their own, parents will need to request an Independent Walker form from the student's teacher or front office.*
- *The form must be signed and returned to the teacher before the student will be allowed to leave the campus without supervision.*
- *For safety reasons, students cannot loiter on campus.*

IF DISMISSAL TAGS ARE LOST/DAMAGED, A NEW ONE WILL NEED TO BE PURCHASED FOR \$5 EACH FROM THE FRONT OFFICE (CASH ONLY)

FORMS AND DOCUMENTS:



The following forms have been sent home with students. Please fill these out completely and return to school immediately:

- ✓ **ENROLLMENT CARD** – must be filled out completely with either black or blue ink, **NO PENCIL OR WHITEOUT**. Must have 3 working phone numbers listed. Please remember to include email addresses. Contacts #1 and #2 should be parent or guardians, **NOT** a friend, neighbor, or other relations. On the back side you may list emergency contacts.
- ✓ HISD offers free breakfast and lunch to students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Parents will not be required to submit a free/reduce meal application, however, HISD requires families to complete the **Socioeconomic Information form** in order for the district to receive funding. It is important that we continue to collect this information in order to keep compensatory funding in place. In order for campuses to receive their Title I funding, HISD is still required to collect and report the socioeconomic status of each student to the Texas Education Agency
- ✓ Lyons Student Handbooks, containing Houston ISD and Lyons' school rules and procedures, was distributed to all students and can be found on our Lyons website – please sign and return the attached form (first page) acknowledging that you have received, read, and understood the handbook.

Houston ISD is requiring parents to fill out other required documents online. Please do so immediately. Please see the flyer on the last page for instructions.

VISITORS:



Houston ISD requires **ALL** visitors who come to our campus to enter through the main entrance and register at our reception desk. A valid driver's license, ID or passport is required to sign in, you **must register** every time you visit our campus. A volunteer or visitor pass must be worn and be visible at all times while of campus. Any other doors are not to be used as an entrance or exit. This is for the school's security and our students' safety.

VOLUNTEERS:



Houston ISD requires **ALL** school volunteers to pass background checks. The background checks may take up to 2-3 weeks so if you wish to volunteer for a field lesson, help out with a school event, and/or attend a classroom event, you ***MUST*** be a registered VIP.



WE NEED YOU!

Volunteer In HISD Schools!

VOLUNTEER IDEAS

- Classroom assistance
- After-School Programs
- Field Trip Chaperones
- Career Education Speakers
- Office/Front Desk Help
- Community Service Projects
- Parent Organizations
- Booster Clubs



- Volunteer activities vary from school to school
- Background check can take up to 3-5 days
- Once you are approved you will receive an email from donotreply@raptortech.com
- Find more information by scanning this QR Code:

HOW DO I VOLUNTEER?

- 1 Scan the QR Code to complete the VIPS orientation and background check


- 2 Start volunteering! Sign up on the VIPS website or at your campus





HISD | Family and Community Engagement
EMPOWERING FAMILIES. ADVANCING LEARNING.

FROM MRS. PEÑA, LYONS LIBRARIAN:



2026 LYONS SUMMER READING CHALLENGE - all Summer Reading Challenge materials are due in the library by Friday, August 21, including the Summer Challenge reading log, Bingo choice board with pictures of completed activities and artifacts from the HPL summer reading activities. Free passes and coupon tickets will be issued for the Fall Festival to all Lyons students who completed the 2026 Lyons Summer Reading Challenge before September 1. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Peña at carrie.pena@houstonisd.org



2026/2027 READ-A-THON kicks off during the week of August 17; watch for communication flyers to be sent home and register to participate right away. Each month will have a new reading challenge associated with the Read-A-Thon. The August challenge requires students to register for our Read-A-Thon, send 10 email notices to friends and family, post the Read-A-Thon on your Facebook account, and record at least 30 minutes of reading in our Read-A-Thon platform. All Students who meet the August challenge by August 31st will receive a snack pass for ancillary snacks on September 10. Watch for information about our September Read-A-Thon Challenge. Students who meet the September challenge will receive a pass to Family Movie Night in October. Students should log all reading in the Read-A-Thon platform daily. Our campus goal is to log 250,000 reading minutes this school year and earn \$6,000 to support Lyons library initiatives, including new books, author visits, literacy events and Community of Readers events. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Peña, our campus librarian.



AUTHOR ALDA DOBBS VISITS Lyons for a dinner presentation of her book, Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna. Families are invited to attend this special Community of Readers event on August 27 from 5:00-6:30 PM. Dinner will be served for just \$5 per family. And the first 20 families to register will receive a complimentary copy of her book. Contact Mrs. Peña for more information.



LYONS LIBRARY HOSTS PREK STORY HOUR monthly beginning August 31-September 4. PreK families are invited to attend library ancillary with their child for a read-aloud. Families take home a copy of the book read to begin building their child's at-home library. Younger stay-at-home siblings are welcome to attend as well. All children who attend will receive a copy of the book read. Families also participate in various literacy stations. Watch for PreK Story Hour communication flyers this week and plan to attend. If you have questions, please contact our campus librarian, Carrie Peña for additional details.

PARENT SQUARE:



ParentSquare

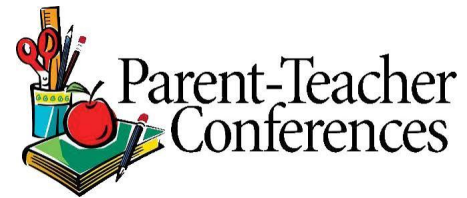
At HISD, communication is one of our top priorities. We all must work together to ensure that our students are successful, which is why Parent Square is a great way for us to quickly and efficiently contact you about campus emergencies and other important district and campus events.

If you have not received a Parent Square message from Lyons or the district, please contact the school to make sure we have your correct phone number on file. Please see the following flyer on how to register with Parent Square.

TEACHER CONFERENCES:

Communication is key in your child's success! If you would like to speak with your child's teacher, please call the front office to leave a message so that you may set up a time to meet or have a phone conference during their conference period.

Grade	Conference Time
Pre-K	10:55 - 11:45
Kinder	8:15 – 9:05
1 st	11:45 – 12:40
2 nd	10:00 – 10:55
3 rd	9:05 – 10:00
4 th	1:10 – 2:05
5 th	2:05 – 3:00
SLL K-1	8:15 – 9:05
SLL 2-3	10:00 – 10:55
SLL 4-5	1:10 – 2:00
Ancillary	7:30-8:15



DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 10	First Day of School for Students
August 14	GT applications open – scan QR code online
August 18-20	NWEA Testing
September 7	NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY return to school Tuesday 9-8-26
September 17	Open House 4:00-6:00 <i>Fall Book Fair will be open from 3:30-5:30</i>
September 17-28	Fall Book Fair
September 21	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS return to school Tuesday 9-22-26

Approved:

Nekia L. Petry

Nekia L Petry, Principal
NLP /vc

It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District and E. A. "Squatty" Lyons Elementary School not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap, or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status or political affiliation in its education or employment programs and activities, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended



Complete Today!

Update your child's information for the 2026–27 school year!

This quick update includes:

- Update Contact Info – phone, address, email
- First Day of School Forms – district-wide acknowledgements & forms required for all students

Need help? 📞 *Contact your school directly for assistance.*

Visit HISD



<https://www.houstonisd.org/our-schools>

REMINDER: The latest a student can be checked out of school early is 2:15. The end of the day is just as important as the beginning of the day! Teachers are reviewing, wrapping up, passing out notices, etc.