

Bob Lanier Middle School

A Vanguard Magnet and International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme

Student & Family Handbook



2026–2027

Principal: Marcus Williams



Bob Lanier Middle School

A Vanguard Magnet and International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme

ESTABLISHED	1926
MASCOT	Purple Pups
SCHOOL COLORS	Purple, White, and Red
NAMED TO HONOR	Bob Lanier, former Mayor of Houston
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Section 1: Welcome & School Overview

MISSION STATEMENT

At Lanier Middle School, we provide a relevant rigorous academic curriculum in order to encourage students to become self-directed lifelong learners who are innovative problem solvers, effective communicators, open-minded thinkers, and caring participants in their local and global communities.

VISION

The vision of Lanier Middle School is to provide a quality education in a safe, student-centered learning environment that facilitates high quality educational opportunities for every student. Both faculty and staff will generate teaching and learning that supports critical thinking, high achievement, ethical behavior, and respect for intercultural diversity. Leadership, service, and positive character traits will be nurtured by and for all. Teachers, administrators, staff, students, and parents alike are charged with preparing each student to be productive citizens in a technological and global society.

CORE VALUES

- Respect for Self and Community
- Continuous Improvement
- Life-long Learning
- Safety

HOUSTON ISD CORE VALUES

- **Core Value #1:** All students can learn and reach their potential.
- **Core Value #2:** Effective teachers make the most difference in student academic performance.
- **Core Value #3:** For every child to succeed, we must hold students and ourselves to high expectations.
- **Core Value #4:** We value parent engagement and community support.
- **Core Value #5:** We rely on clearly defined outcomes to guide our work and to which we hold ourselves accountable.
- **Core Value #6:** We value equity and commit to reducing inequities inherent in the education system.

SCHOOL HISTORY OF THE IB MYP

Lanier Middle School is proud to be the first International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) in Houston ISD. An IB World School since 2003, Lanier is a wall-to-wall IB school meaning all students participate in the programme. The IB MYP framework emphasizes intellectual challenge. It encourages students aged 11 to 16 to make practical connections between their studies and the real world, preparing them for success in further study and life.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MISSION STATEMENT

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments, and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, may also be right.

LMS LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

As members of the LMS Leadership team, we strive to provide the best educational experience possible for each and every one of our students. Please know that we are here to assist with anything you may need. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please reach out to your student's assigned administrator. The Leadership Directory and Staff Directory may also be found on the Lanier Middle School website.

* **Bilingual:** English and Spanish

ROLE	NAME	EMAIL
Principal and Head of School	Marcus Williams	mwilli43@houstonisd.org
Lead Assistant Principal	Zachary Lyons	zachary.lyons@houstonisd.org
Assistant Principal- 6th Grade	Tyesha Beller	tyesha.beller@houstonisd.org
Assistant Principal- 7th Grade	Tyler Lofton	tyler.lofton@houstonisd.org
Assistant Principal- 8th Grade	Meredith Bolen	meredith.bolen@houstonisd.org
Assistant Principal- MTSS/504	Melvin Miller	melvin.miller@houstonisd.org
Coordinator: IB MYP Program	Eileen Bell	eileen.bell@houstonisd.org
Coordinator: Campus Magnet Program & Gifted & Talented	Jennifer Garza Pender	jgarza8@houstonisd.org
Coordinator: Testing & Athletics	Stephen Cabell	scabell@houstonisd.org
At-Risk Program Administrator/Wraparound	Greta Valle*	greta.valle@houstonisd.org
8th Grade Student Success Lead (School Counselor)	Joy Love	joy.love@houstonisd.org
7th Grade Student Success Lead (Social Worker)	Emeka Okonkwo	emeka.okonkwo@houstonisd.org
6th Grade Student Success Lead (School Counselor)	Liliana Hernandez	Liliana.Hernandez@houstonisd.org
ARD (IEP Meetings) Facilitator	Damian Shelvin	Damian.Shelvin@houstonisd.org
School Nurse	Nassiba Delhoum	Nassiba.Delhoum@houstonisd.org
Registrar/Student Information Rep	Sandra McNeill*	sandra.mcneill@houstonisd.org
6th Grade Clerk	Jaclyn Calderon*	Jaclyn.Calderon@houstonisd.org
7th Grade Clerk	Mayra Hernandez*	Mayra.Hernandez@houstonisd.org
8th Grade Clerk	Camilla Kao	Camilla.Kao@houstonisd.org

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATORS

DEPARTMENT	POINT OF CONTACT	EMAIL
Language & Literacy (Reading Language Arts)	Meredith Bolen	meredith.bolen@houstonisd.org
Mathematics	Melvin Miller	melvin.miller@houstonisd.org
Science		zachary.lyons@houstonisd.org
Individuals & Societies (Social Studies)	Tyler Lofton	tyler.lofton@houstonisd.org
Fine Arts	Melvin Miller	melvin.miller@houstonisd.org
Design/CTE		zachary.lyons@houstonisd.org
Foreign Language	Meredith Bolen	meredith.bolen@houstonisd.org
Movement (PE, Dance, Karate)	Tyler Lofton	tyler.lofton@houstonisd.org
Special Education	Tyesha Beller	tyesha.beller@houstonisd.org
Gifted & Talented Vanguard Magnet Program	Jennifer Garza Pender	jgarza8@houstonisd.org
Special Education/Success Programs/ARDs	Damian Shelvin	Damian.Shelvin@houstonisd.org
Dyslexia	Damian Shelvin	Damian.Shelvin@houstonisd.org
Section 504	Melvin Miller	melvin.miller@houstonisd.org
Transportation	Jennifer Garza Pender	jgarza8@houstonisd.org
Nurse/Medical	Nassiba Delhoum	Nassiba.Delhoum@houstonisd.org
Student Resources and Supports At-Risk Coordinator	Greta Valle*	greta.valle@houstonisd.org
Office Manager SchoolPay	Rachel Saldaña*	rsaldana@houstonisd.org
Assistant Office Managers	Teri Traylor & Samuel Braziel	teri.traylor@houstonisd.org sbraziel@houstonisd.org

Section 2: Academic Programs & Instruction

IB FRAMEWORK

The MYP provides a framework of learning that encourages students to become creative, critical, and reflective thinkers. It emphasizes intellectual challenge, encouraging students to make connections between their studies in traditional subjects and the real world. It fosters the development of communication skills, intercultural understanding, and global engagement—qualities that are essential for life in the 21st century. The MYP meets and exceeds the requirements for students being post-secondary ready. It builds knowledge, skills, and attitudes while preparing students to meet the academic challenges of the IB MYP and Diploma Programmes.

The IB Middle Years Programme:

- addresses students' intellectual, social, emotional, and physical well-being.
- enables students to understand and manage the complexities of our world, and provides them with the skills and attitudes they need in order to take responsible action for the future.
- ensures breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding through the study of eight subject areas.
- requires the study of at least two languages to support students' understanding of their own culture and of others.
- provides the opportunity for students to undertake an independent project in an area of personal interest.

The Middle Years Programme (MYP) helps students develop both subject-specific and interdisciplinary understanding. The [MYP framework](#) includes:

- Approaches to learning (ATL), helping students learn how to learn by developing skills for research, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and self-management
- Key and related concepts, helping students explore big ideas that matter
- Global contexts, helping students understand the relevance and importance of their study for understanding their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet.

The MYP culminates in a [Service Project](#). Students complete a significant piece of work over an extended period of time, encouraging them to consolidate their learning and reflect on the outcomes of their work.

SERVICE AS ACTION PROJECT

The Service as Action project focuses on community and service and gives students an opportunity to develop awareness of needs in various communities and address those needs through service learning. As a consolidation of learning, the community project engages in a sustained, in-depth inquiry leading to service as action in the community. The Service as Action project is completed individually or in groups of a maximum of three students from the same eighth grade study lab. The choice of the topic for the project is made in consultation with an IB teacher who has the responsibility for supervising the development of the project according to the Assessment Criteria (provided to students in their PUPS/Enrichment period) which is based on IB guidelines.

GIFTED & TALENTED INSTRUCTION

Lanier Middle School is a Vanguard Magnet campus committed to serving Gifted and Talented (G/T) students. Our Vanguard program provides rigorous, engaging learning experiences across the four core academic areas— math, science, language & literacy (English, language arts, and reading), and individuals & societies (social studies).

G/T instruction at Lanier is delivered through a cluster model, where G/T-identified students are grouped together in the core subjects and receive instruction alongside their gifted peers. At Lanier, G/T students thrive in independent practice, critical thinking, research, and communication, evidenced by innovative assignments and performances that showcase their creativity, individuality, and advanced abilities.

Our Vanguard classes incorporate opportunities for research and independent study, allowing students to deepen their knowledge and skills as they progress through their middle school experience. Over 70% of Lanier's student body is identified as gifted and talented, actively participating in our Vanguard program. This strong, supportive community fosters a collaborative atmosphere where students are continually challenged and encouraged to reach their full potential.

CLUSTERS

Each grade is organized into three clusters (L, M, and S), with faculty members from math, science, language and literature, and individuals and societies. Randomly grouping students in clusters allows our teachers to build a support system for the students that fosters collaboration and builds positive relationships to ensure our students are developing to their highest potential. There are unique instances in which cross-clustering happens, meaning a student will have teachers spread throughout one or more clusters for one or more reasons that are unique to that student and situation. We do not and will not cross-cluster upon request.

COURSE LIST & NAMING CONVENTIONS

Families are encouraged to review our "live" course list that provides information on each course offered at Lanier MS as well as explains what certain abbreviations and terms mean.

You may access the live link here:

 [Student/Family Facing Version: Lanier MS SY26-27 Easy To Understand Course Catalog](#)

READINESS CRITERIA & PLACEMENT: ALGEBRA 1

Lanier MS operates in accordance with the Houston ISD implementation of SB 2124 related to scheduling of accelerated math courses in sixth and seventh grades providing an opportunity to take Algebra 1 in the eighth grade for all students determined by readiness criteria outlined in the Houston ISD implementation of SB2124. Outside of this program, Lanier MS provides academically qualified seventh graders an opportunity to take Algebra 1 in the seventh grade and Geometry in the eighth grade. Readiness criteria for students (sixth graders during SY26-27) to take Algebra 1 in the seventh grade will consist of the following academic readiness requirements:

- Score "Masters" on SY26-27 Math STAAR examination
- Meet both middle of the year and end of the year NWEA/MAP student growth goals in Math (these are determined by beginning of the year NWEA/MAP performance and individualized for each student).
- Score in the 90th-100th percentile in achievement as determined by the EOY Math NWEA/MAP examination.
- Score an 80% or higher on the May 2027 math (combined 7th and 8th grade math) skill readiness exam.
 - Students will have resources available to support independent practice and preparation for this exam outside of school.
- Completion of parent/family Algebra 1 overview (June 2027)

A student must meet all of the aforementioned readiness criteria to place into Algebra 1 in seventh grade.

READINESS CRITERIA & PLACEMENT: INTEGRATED PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY

Lanier MS offers Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) as an eighth grade science option for students determined qualified per academic readiness criteria. Families should be aware that IPC counts as an additional/elective science course for the purposes of graduation requirements in the state of Texas. Dependent upon where a student enrolls in high school, most students start with Biology. Students that take IPC in the eighth grade must still take the eighth grade science STAAR exam due to federal requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act. Readiness criteria for students (seventh graders during SY26-27) to take IPC in eighth grade will consist of the following academic readiness requirements:

- Score “Masters” on SY26-27 Math STAAR examination
- Meet both middle of the year and end of the year NWEA/MAP student growth goals in Math (these are determined by beginning of the year NWEA/MAP performance and individualized for each student).
- Score in the 90th-100th percentile in achievement as determined by EOY Math NWEA/MAP.
- Meet both middle of the year and end of the year NWEA/MAP student growth goals in Science (these are determined by beginning of the year NWEA/MAP performance and individualized for each student).
- Score in the 90th-100th percentile in achievement as determined by EOY Science NWEA/MAP.
- Score an 80% or higher on the May 2027 science (8th grade science) skill readiness exam.
 - Students will have resources available to support independent practice and preparation for this exam outside of school.

A student must meet all of the aforementioned readiness criteria to place into IPC in eighth grade.

ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS: CLEVER, GOOGLE CLASSROOM, ETC.

CLEVER is the centralized single sign on for all online platforms in use at Lanier Middle School. For the 2026-2027 school year, Google Classroom is being utilized and provided to all teachers for access to instructional resources, classroom information, etc. At this time, we are awaiting further information and will communicate it and update this resource once received. Once finalized, students and families should make it a habit to regularly check Google Classroom and the other digital resources utilized to stay informed and support academic success throughout the year.

POWERSCHOOL (HISD Connect)

The district's Student Information System (SIS), [HISD Connect by PowerSchool](#), includes:

- student contacts
- enrollment
- demographic information
- grades
- online resources.

The three most critical areas you may find more information on related to your student in PowerSchool are: attendance, grades, and their schedule.

Parents are given a unique code, or access ID, for each of their students and are able to use those codes to set up an account to access their students' profiles through the parent portal. Parents who haven't received their student's access ID should contact their school. If you have not received your access code or need assistance, please contact the Enrollment Office/Registrar.

How-To Videos:

- [Getting Started with HISD Connect Parent Portal](#): How to create your account and associate your student's information

- [Completing Forms in HISD Connect Parent Portal](#): How to navigate to and complete forms after you are logged in to Parent Portal
- [Student Verification in HISD Connect Parent Portal](#): How to complete the Student Verification steps after you are logged in to Parent Portal
- [HISD Connect Parent Portal: A Complete Guide](#): How to create your account, associate your student's information, complete forms, and complete Student Verification in Parent Portal

COMMUNICATION & PARENTSQUARE

Houston ISD has launched ParentSquare, a new platform to connect families and schools. ParentSquare will be the primary way Lanier Middle School shares important information with families.

Developing and promoting effective communication channels among teachers, families, students, and administrators helps to reach and meet the needs of each stakeholder of the Lanier community. It is our goal to create a streamlined space where all information may be accessed in a primary and easily accessible location. Among our stakeholders, ongoing communication will occur in clusters and departments enabling teachers to be learners and educators. In the classroom, a greater emphasis will be placed on collaboration and learning experiences that will enhance students' interpersonal skills. Ultimately, we want to provide as many opportunities as possible for parents to interact with the teachers and students on campus.

ParentSquare provides a safe way for district administrators, school principals, teachers, staff, and parents to send and receive information, such as:

- Weather-related closings & delays
- Urgent safety information
- School and class information
- Calendar items
- Upcoming class activities

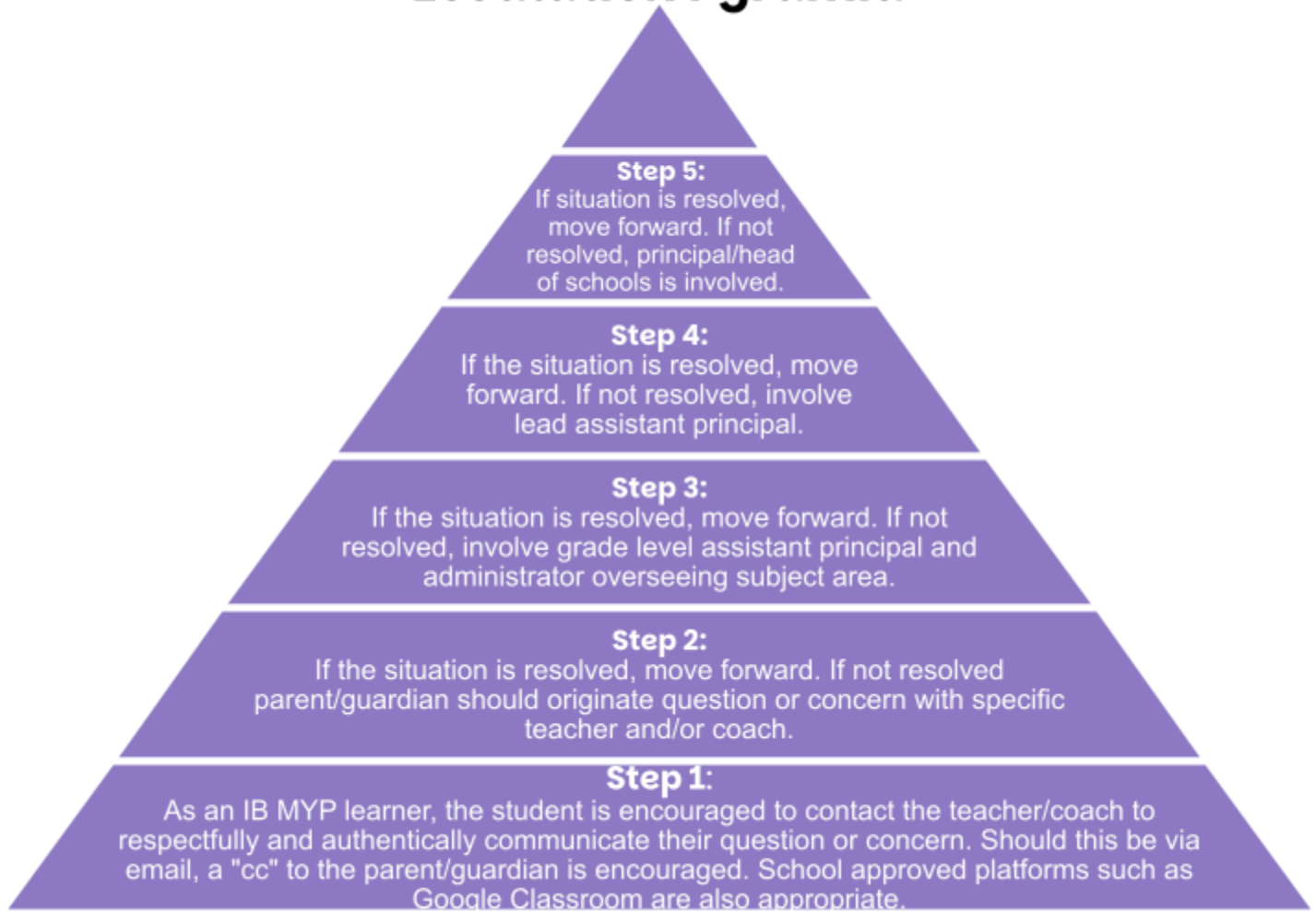
We're using ParentSquare to build a more connected Lanier. Link to download ParentSquare:

- [Get it on Google Play](#)
- [Download on the App Store](#)

ESCALATING COMMUNICATION

Effective communication and clear protocols are essential to collaboration leading to student success. The most appropriate avenue to troubleshoot and address concerns is, first and foremost, directly with the campus.

Escalation Pyramid



Section 3: Academic Policies & Grading

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty or academic misconduct is any type of cheating that occurs in relation to a formal academic exercise. Academic misconduct may present an opportunity for learning. Teachers should use these occasions to correct misunderstandings and guide students toward the most principled actions in the future.

In Houston ISD, academic misconduct is considered a Level II disciplinary offense requiring referral to an administrator. The disciplinary response to Level II offenses depends on the offense, previous actions, and the seriousness of the misbehavior.

Disciplinary responses to academic misconduct may include any of the following:

- A zero in the gradebook for the assignment, with a notation of academic misconduct.
- Deduction of a level in the reported conduct grade on the cycle report card.
- Parental contact by phone and written or oral notification to parent or guardian.
- Administrator/student/parent conference.
- Discipline Referral resulting in detention or placement in in-school suspension.
- Other disciplinary actions deemed appropriate for the circumstances by administration.

Academic Dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- **Plagiarism:** any representation of the ideas, words, or work of another person without proper, clear, and explicit acknowledgment, whether intentional or unintentional. The use of translated materials, unless indicated and acknowledged, is also considered plagiarism.
- **Collusion:** supporting academic misconduct by another student, for example allowing one's work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another.
- **Duplication** of work: the presentation of the same work for different assessment components and/or IB Service Project requirements.
- **Misuse of Artificial Intelligence:** students are expected to acknowledge the use of any artificial intelligence tools in the development of their work, ensuring that AI-generated content is properly cited, and that the final submission reflects their own understanding and original thought, in accordance with the IB's commitment to academic integrity.

Examples of misconduct during an examination include:

- Taking unauthorized material or electronic devices into an examination (whether the student uses it or not).
- Behavior that disrupts the examination or may distract other students.
- Communicating with another student during the examination.
- Failing to comply with the instructions of the invigilator (test monitor) or other member of the school's staff responsible for the conduct of the examination.
- Stealing examination papers.

Also considered misconduct:

- Obtaining material intended for assessment through any means.
- Offering or distributing material intended for assessment.
- Impersonating another student.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) USE POLICY

Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly AI tools including, but not limited to, ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, and Google Gemini offer wonderful opportunities to support and enrich our learning process. Whether brainstorming ideas, dissecting complex texts, or honing our grammar and writing style, these tools may provide assistance and spark creativity. However, it is important we use them in a way that upholds our principles of academic integrity, and that we remember the true purpose of our work here at Lanier Middle School.

At Lanier, our mission is to nurture critical thinking, refine our communication skills, expand our academic horizons, and stoke our creativity. Assignments are not merely tasks to complete; they are chances to explore and express our ideas, to learn from each other, and to grow personally and academically.

Below is a list of guidelines that students must adhere to:

- **AI as a Tool, Not a Crutch:** AI is here to assist us, to inspire and clarify. But remember, the thoughts, analysis, and crafting of your assignments should be primarily your own.
- **Cite Your Sources:** Just as we acknowledge human sources, any significant insights or phrases you borrow from AI should also be properly cited. As with any source, it should be limited to a quotation of no more than a couple of sentences, as AI may be used to support your work but not be your work.
- **AI for Understanding, Not for Shortcuts:** Use AI to clarify your doubts, to seek further understanding. Do not use it as a way to avoid reading, thinking deeply, or authentically engaging with your assignments. Use AI to give you feedback on your writing with suggestions for improvement before the assignment is submitted. Do not ask AI to rewrite it for you beyond your capabilities and submit the rewrite.
- **AI for Learning, Not Just Task Completion:** Aim to understand and develop skills, not just to finish an assignment.
- **Tutor not Reader:** While reading a text, just as you might chat with a friend about what you are reading, AI may help you to understand parts of the reading that you need further clarification on. However, bypassing the reading and doing the hard work of comprehension yourself is not acceptable.

The following table provides examples of acceptable and unacceptable uses of artificial intelligence tools such as Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, or ChatGPT. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list.

Acceptable Uses of AI (Supporting the learner with a focus)	Unacceptable Uses of AI (preventing the learner from fully engaging)
Using AI to make difficult readings easier or to help learn how to analyze a reading passage.	Using AI to find the main ideas of a text without trying to understand it yourself.
Getting AI to help clear up confusing parts of a reading.	Asking AI to answer specific questions or assignments without thinking about it yourself.
Using AI to suggest more books or references about the topic.	Having AI summarize or paraphrase a text so you don't have to read it.
Asking AI to help understand difficult words or complex sentences.	Asking AI to write a whole essay or report for you without doing the research or writing.
Asking AI to show examples or explanations of things like metaphors or similes.	Using AI to find quotes from a text to use in your work without finding them yourself.
Using AI to assist you in understanding and interpreting a reading passage.	Having AI write a whole analysis of a reading passage without your own thinking or effort.
Asking AI to show examples of good writing techniques from the reading.	Asking AI to create fake examples or give content for copying.
Using AI for guidance on how to cite sources in an essay or project.	Asking AI for a ready-made list of sources without doing the research yourself.

Acceptable Uses of AI (Supporting the learner with a focus)	Unacceptable Uses of AI (preventing the learner from fully engaging)
Asking AI for suggestions on analyzing character development or themes in a book.	Asking AI for a detailed plot summary or book review without reading the book.
Using AI to get feedback on your writing with suggestions for improvement before the assignment is submitted.	Asking AI for direct answers to multiple-choice questions or quizzes without trying first.

Note: not following these guidelines will result in a violation of our academic integrity policy.

In order to verify that students have genuinely learned from the assignment and have not resorted to using AI or cheating students should be able to discuss the topic verbally and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of anything submitted. An inability to support/extend work through conversation or extension questions will demonstrate a need to relearn the material and provide new evidence of the learning.

Remember, the ultimate goal of education is student growth and learning. AI may be a fantastic tool to aid us in this journey, but it may not replace your active engagement and effort. Ensure that anything you submit is an accurate representation of your learning and capability. Let's use AI responsibly, and let's make this a year of meaningful learning and creativity.

CHEATING

Cheating includes the following:

- Obtaining work or information from someone else.
- Using unauthorized notes, study aids, or information from another student or student's paper on an examination.
- Communicating answers with another person during an exam.
- Altering graded work after it has been returned, and then submitting the work for re-grading.
- Allowing another person to do one's work.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades will be based solely on achievement of course/grade-level standards. Student grades will be determined by teacher evaluation of growth attained during significant learning activities conducted by the teacher in a grade reporting cycle.

CONDUCT GRADES

Students at Lanier are expected to embody the ten IB character traits: **Reflective, Inquirers, Thinkers, Open-Minded, Balanced, Caring, Principled, Knowledgeable, Risk-Takers, and Communicators.**

Students are expected to follow the directions of every employee (i.e., teacher, secretary, custodian, bus driver, and cafeteria worker). Campus rules, as well as classroom rules, are to be always observed. Students are expected to always behave in a manner respectful of their teachers, peers, and the physical environment of our campus. Conduct grades are given by each classroom teacher. Grades are reflective of the students' conduct throughout each six-week grading cycle.

Under no circumstances may conduct infractions be used to affect the student's academic grade. Conduct marks may affect a student's participation in activities and awards and/or may cause them to be exited from the school if they are attending the campus on a transfer, including magnet. Before a conduct grade of a "P" (poor) is given, the following process should have taken place:

- Personal conference with the student to determine the problem.
- Inform parents by phone, in writing, by email, or through personal conference, of the problem.
- Document teacher intervention.

A conduct grade of a "P" (poor) or "U" (unsatisfactory) may not be given without approval from Administration.

While all grades are reported as numeric scores, these scores will represent various levels of achievement that may be compared to letter grades. The following is HISD's grading scale:

Grading Scale		Conduct Grades
A	100-90	E = Excellent
B	89-80	S = Satisfactory
C	79-75	P = Poor
D	74-70	U = Unsatisfactory
F	69-0	

GRADING CATEGORIES

All teachers should have a descriptive and current gradebook with no less than two grades per week. No single assignment may be worth more than 20% of the cycle grade. Teachers must grade student work and post in PowerSchool within 5 school days of the assignment due date. Summative assessment due dates should allow for retake possibilities.

All teachers across the campus utilize the same category names for their gradebook with language that aligns to the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme.

Gradebook Categories:

- **Preparative/Practice Assignments** (*Homework, Do Now activities, etc.*): These are brief learning checks tied to daily TEKS instruction and may be completed in or out of class.
 - Teachers must have a minimum of 1-2 Preparative grades per week.
- **Formative Assessments** (*Classwork & Quizzes*): These are larger learning activities completed during the learning process to give feedback and guide instruction.
 - Teachers must have a minimum of 1-2 Formative grades per week.
- **Summative Assessments** (*Tests & Projects*): These are demonstrations of mastery of the comprehension unit after the unit has been taught.
 - Teachers must have at least two summative assessments per grading cycle.
- **IB Achievement Level**: A 1-8 range to assess performance against specific criteria within subjects, with higher scores indicating stronger proficiency. Scholars' IB grades are based on their performance as measured by IB MYP assessment rubrics. IB grades are separate from traditional grades on students' LMS report cards and reflect performance measured by IB standards. These are not factored into graded coursework, they are essential to the IB experience of Lanier MS.
- **Objective Testing Assessments**: These are comprehension assessments that include, but are not limited to diagnostic assessments, demonstrations of learning (DOL), or exit tickets.

All teachers will use the same five grading categories and weight:

- **Practice/Preparation:** 10%
- **Formative:** 50%
- **Summative:** 40%
- **IB:** 0%
- **Objective Testing:** 0%

Teachers are required to take a minimum of two grades per week within a grading cycle (unless otherwise indicated). All grades must align with the appropriate category based on the material being assessed (example: A Do Now or Homework assignment may not equate to a summative grade). DOLs/Exit Tickets shall not be placed or weighted in any category other than the Objective Testing (0%) category.

TEST REASSESSMENT

Per HISD Guidelines, students should be allowed one opportunity to retake or redo any assignment for which they received a failing grade. (Final Exams are excluded from the retake policy: No retakes permitted on Final Exams, per district policy.) The following guidelines apply to students requesting to retake a summative assessment:

- Original assignment must be turned in on time.
- It is the responsibility of the student to request retake.
- Retake must be completed under supervision of the teacher of record (before school, after school, or during homeroom).
- Retake may be a different assignment but it measures the same TEKS.
- Students will have two weeks to retake an assignment from the time the grade is posted in PowerSchool.
- All retakes must be turned in by the Friday before the cycle ends.
- The teacher will post the new grade in PowerSchool under the original assignment with a notation in the document column of the original grade within one week of completion.
- Retake grades shall reflect demonstrated mastery of TEKS, with 70% representing minimum proficiency.

LATE WORK (NOT ASSOCIATED WITH AN ABSENCE)

Late work is any assignment or homework that is not submitted by the time class starts on the due date. Students are expected to turn assignments in by the due date; however, we understand that situations may arise that cause an assignment to be late from time to time.

- One class period following the due date: 20-point deduction from raw score
- Two class periods following the due date: 30-point deduction from raw score
- Three class periods following the due date: 50-point deduction from raw score
- After five days, teachers may use professional judgment to determine appropriate grading based on student work quality and mastery demonstration. This must be communicated to the parent immediately.

Assignments not turned in will be recorded as 0% (zero percent).

MAKE-UP WORK and ABSENCES

In accordance with Texas Education Code 28.0216(3), — students shall be provided a reasonable opportunity to make up or redo assignments for which they received a failing grade, with timeline and format determined by the teacher based on academic necessity and instructional objectives.

Students who are absent for extracurricular activities should request their assignments in advance or during the first class period upon returning to campus. It is a campus-wide expectation that students take initiative in requesting make-up work immediately after any absence—teachers are not responsible for tracking down students to inform them of missed assignments.

Students who are absent will be given an opportunity to make up work missed upon return to school.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain any work missed immediately upon the student's return to campus. During an extended absence (three days or more), work may be requested with 48-hour notice from the teachers.

- Students who have excused, unexcused, or prearranged unexcused absences will be permitted to make up regular coursework and receive the actual grade earned.
- Students who miss class due to truancy will be allowed to make up the work; however, a maximum grade of 70 will be recorded for the completed assignment.
- Students returning to class following an absence or a tardy are responsible for conferencing with the teacher to determine what work is to be completed and establish a date for such completion. Normally, two school days are allowed for each day absent; more time may be given in extenuating circumstances. However, assignments that are done in class (classwork, homework, quizzes, tests) on the day a student is absent for a field trip or extracurricular activity are due at the next class meeting. Work assigned prior to the absence(s) is due on the first return day, including tests. Teacher discretion may be used for cases involving more severe situations, such as illnesses, etc.
- All work is to be done as scheduled by the teacher. Zeroes will be given if the make-up work plan is not followed.
- Make-up work, especially tests, may be of an alternate version.
- Make-up work will be graded in a manner similar to the grading of the original assignment. The teacher has the option to alter assignments and grading, as long as the alterations are applied consistently to all students.
- Teachers will make notes available, when needed, and offer other assistance to students who have had excused absences for significant periods of time.

INCOMPLETE SIX-WEEK AVERAGES

Pending the campus principal's approval, a teacher may give a grade of "Incomplete" for a grading cycle to any student who does not complete assignments or assessments due to excessive absences or other extenuating circumstances. The grade of "Incomplete" must be resolved by the end of the next grading cycle immediately following the grading cycle in which the incomplete was first given.

MIDTERMS AND FINAL EXAMS (HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES ONLY)

In all high school credit courses, the final exam will count for 10% of the student's final grade. A student may not retake a final exam to improve their grade.

GRADE CHANGES

Teachers must initiate all grade changes and obtain campus principal approval. The principal or assistant principals may not arbitrarily change grades issued by teachers. The only reasons for changing a student's grade after it has been recorded are

- If there was an error in the computation of the student's grade; or,
- If an error was made in entering the student's grade.

REPORTING PERIODS

Lanier Middle School uses a [six-week grade reporting calendar](#). There will be three grading cycles each semester. In high school credit classes, the final average in a course will be determined by three cycle grades, each counting 30% of the total grade, and a final examination counting 10% of the total grade. All cycle grades will be reported on a range of 0-100. In middle school, most courses are on an annual promotion basis and the final average at the end of the school year will be determined by the average of the six-cycle grades.

GRADE REPORTING

A progress report will be sent home after the third week of each grading cycle. Current grades contained in the progress report should be based on the student's academic achievement (proficiency) for the first three weeks of the six-week period. If a student's average falls below 70, or the unexcused absences exceed 10% after the scheduled notice of progress reports has been sent home, the teacher should send a progress report home immediately. It is imperative that extra effort be made to give students and parents advance notice of a pending failing grade before the report card is sent home.

GRADES AND UIL ELIGIBILITY

A student must maintain an average in each course of no less than 70% to be eligible for University Interscholastic League (UIL) extracurricular activities. Students receiving an INC (Incomplete) grade for a cycle will NOT be eligible for UIL extracurricular activities. Under the State's "no pass, no play" law, eligibility for participation in UIL extracurricular activities during the first six weeks of school is based on whether or not they were promoted to the next grade level prior to the start of the new school year. After the first six weeks, a student who receives an INC or a grade lower than a 70 in any course, is ineligible to participate in UIL extra-curricular activities during the first three school weeks of the next grading period. During that time the student may continue to practice or rehearse with other students; however, they may not take part in any competition or public performance.

PROMOTION STANDARDS

To be promoted from one grade level to the next, a middle school student (grades 6 through 8) must attain the following standards:

- **Grades:**
 - Yearly average of 70% or above in English, Math, Science, and Individuals and Societies.
 - Failure to maintain a 70% in core classes will result in a requirement to attend summer school.
- **Attendance:**
 - If a student exceeds the absence limit for a semester or for the year on an annual promotion course, an asterisk (*) will appear next to the grade on the report card for the appropriate cycle. The absence limit for all courses is set by Texas law at 10%. This is calculated and posted by the computer, based on the number of days the course is scheduled during the semester. When a student exceeds the unexcused absence limit during the first three grading cycles, an NG will appear in place of the Semester Average on the report card. This indicates the student has had credit denied due to the accumulation of an excessive number of unexcused absences. The asterisk (*) / NG will appear if the student's unexcused absences exceed 10% of the class meetings. Excused absences do not apply to any district policies regarding grading or promotion standards.

Section 4: Attendance & Scheduling

Student attendance is one of the most important factors influencing academic success, school culture, student achievement, and long-term educational outcomes. Research consistently demonstrates that students who attend school regularly are more likely to perform at grade level, pass state assessments, earn high school credit, remain connected to school, and graduate prepared for college and career opportunities. Conversely, chronic absenteeism has been identified as one of the strongest predictors of academic failure, course retention, behavioral concerns, and eventual dropout risk.

By sixth grade, chronic absenteeism is considered one of the strongest indicators of future dropout risk. HISD attendance guidance also notes that students who miss approximately 10% of school days (17-18 days annually) are significantly more likely to experience academic difficulties.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

Official state reported attendance is taken at 10:15 a.m. each day. In accordance with Texas Education Code Section 25.092 (Attendance for Credit/90% Rule), a student of any grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 shall not be given credit or final grade for a class unless the student is in attendance 90% of the days in which the class is offered. Though attendance is recorded on a daily basis for Average Daily Attendance (ADA) with the state of Texas, the 90% Rule is applied on a class-by-class basis.

Excused Absences: If a student is absent, they must provide a written excuse from their parent or guardian or doctor's office to the attendance office with the reason for the absence. Written excuses should be in the school's possession no later than three school days after the date of the absence or tardy. The three-day period begins with the day the student returns to school. While religious holy days, partial day absences for healthcare providers (with documentation), and mandated court appearances do not count toward compulsory attendance requirements, they must still be used for calculating whether a student has been in attendance 90% of the days a course was offered to receive credit.

Unexcused Absences: Students who do not bring an email or note will be given an unexcused absence. Failure to turn in proper notification to the attendance office within three (3) school days of the absence may result in an unexcused absence. The three-day period begins on the day the student returns to school. Excessive unexcused absences may result in the student failing to be promoted to the next grade level.

CHRONIC ABSENCES/No Grade (NGs)

Missing more than 10% of the grading cycle, excused or unexcused, of school a year may lead to a student not receiving credit or being retained. Students will receive an asterisk on their report card for the cycle in which the NG occurs. More importantly, it represents lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity to learn. For complete details on HISD's attendance policy, please refer to the Houston ISD Attendance Policy.

CREDIT RECOVERY/CREDIT APPEALS

The principal will appoint staff to serve on the attendance committee to hear petitions for class credit from students with less than 90% attendance. The committee may give class credit to these students because of extenuating circumstances.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE EXEMPTIONS

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for the following activities and events, as long as the student makes up all work:

- Religious holy days.
- Required court appearances.
- Activities related to obtaining U.S. citizenship.

- Documented health care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences related to autism services, if the student returns to school on the same day of the appointment and brings a note from the health care provider.
- Absences resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student's attendance infeasible, with certification by a physician.
- For students in the conservatorship of the state, any activity required under a court-ordered service plan or any other court-ordered activity, provided it is not practicable to schedule the student's participation in the activity outside of school hours.
- For children of military families, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian going to, on leave from, or returning from certain deployments.

ATTENDANCE INTERVENTION FRAMEWORK

Students receive progressively intensive interventions as absences increase, beginning with preventive outreach at three absences, followed by parent conferences and an attendance improvement plan at ten absences, a formal attendance contract at eleven absences, and referral to the Harris County TRIAD program if the contract is violated. If attendance concerns persist despite these interventions, the campus may initiate a Truancy Court referral in accordance with state law and district procedures.

REQUIRED REPORTING OF ABSENCES

In case of absence, the student must bring a note to the attendance office before school on the day of returning to school. This note needs to be written and signed by the parent or guardian stating the following:

- student's name
- exact day(s) absent
- reason for the absence

If the note is sent via email, it must be sent from the parent/guardian's email account to the attendance clerk(s) and include the following information:

- parent/guardian's legal name
- student's legal name
- student HISD ID#
- date of absence
- reason for absence
- contact number

All emails and notes are kept on file in the attendance office.

TARDIES

Students are expected to be in class before the bell rings. Arriving late to class will be considered tardy. Tardies for the period that does not take ADA attendance must be marked in PowerSchool. Parents will be notified of consequences due to tardies.

UNEXCUSED TARDIES

Students should arrive at school by the initial bell at 8:20 AM; instruction begins at 8:30 AM. If a student arrives late to school, they will report to class and their tardiness will be documented.

EXCUSED TARDIES

HISD bus riders who arrive after 8:30 AM should report to the attendance office to pick up an excused late arrival pass. Students who arrive late due to an appointment must submit a medical note to the attendance office upon arrival to receive an excused late arrival pass.

SIGN OUT PROCEDURES

For middle school students, a parent or authorized adult must come to the office and show identification (an official driver's license or state issued identification card) to sign the student out. The student will not be

released to any unauthorized adult not listed in PowerSchool (HISD Connect). Under no circumstances will a student be released during instructional hours unaccompanied.

A campus representative will ask the student to report to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we will not allow any unescorted adult to go to the classroom or other area to pick up the student. If the student returns to campus the same day, the parent or authorized adult must sign the student back in through the main office upon the student's return. Documentation regarding the reason for the absence will also be required.

APPOINTMENTS

Our state-required daily attendance is taken every day at 10:15 AM. Please schedule your appointments (dentist, doctor, orthodontist, etc.) after school. In the event it is necessary to miss instructional time for an appointment, please schedule the appointment so that you do not leave class until after 10:15 AM. Students checking out of school for the day during a given class period will be recorded as absent. Students must be present for at least 60 minutes of a 90-minute class period in order to be considered in attendance unless on an activity approved by the principal or school. Also remember to keep track of the 90% Rule when scheduling appointments, as the 90% Rule is applied on a class-by-class basis.

EARLY PICKUP

Students who leave school early must have a parent or guardian come to the attendance office to sign your student out. Please allow enough time for the attendance office staff member to retrieve the student from class. **There is no pick-up from 3:30 PM–4:00 PM;** therefore, families should not plan appointments that would require a pick-up time during the last 30 minutes of school. Additionally, please do not schedule appointments during state-mandated exams (STAAR, EOC). Testing dates will be posted on Lanier's website and shared with families through ParentSquare.

Missing School = Missing OUT <i>Make sure your child is in school every day!</i>	
Did You Know?	What Can You Do?
Your child may suffer academically if they miss 10 percent (about 18 days) of school. That may be just two days a month and that can happen before you know it.	For younger children, set a regular bedtime and morning routine. Lay out clothes and pack a backpack the night before.
It doesn't matter if these absences are excused or unexcused. All absences represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity for your child to learn.	For older children, you may set up homework and bedtime routines. Make sure that when the lights go out, so do the cell phones, video games and computers.
Attendance matters as early as kindergarten. Studies show that children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade have trouble mastering reading.	Try not to schedule medical and dental appointments during the school day. If absolutely necessary, schedule appointments after daily attendance at 10:15 a.m.
By 6th grade, chronic absence is a leading warning sign that a student will drop out.	Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomachache or headache may be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.

<p>Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.</p>	<p>Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure may lead to skipping, while students without many friends may feel isolated.</p>
<p>Attendance is an important skill that will help your child graduate and do well in college and at work.</p>	<p>Set an example for your child. Show them that attendance matters to you and that you won't allow an absence unless someone is truly sick.</p>
	<p>You can turn to your school for help. If your child or family is having challenges with transportation, housing or health issues, reach out to our student resource and support staff.</p>

15/15 RULE

The first and last 15 minutes of each class are critical for instruction and important announcements. Students should use the restroom or refill water bottles during passing periods, not during these times. To maximize learning, no one may leave class during these periods except for emergencies or with a 504/IEP (Individual Education Plan) accommodation. No student is allowed out of class without a pass from their teacher.

COURSE SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedules will only be changed as required by federal, state, or district requirements/reasons. There is no change of mind window once school starts. Balancing and leveling of classes is a normal occurrence once the school year starts and may result in an administrative schedule change in order to optimize learning spaces and class sizes.

Section 5: Student Behavior & Expectations

BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to follow the directions of every employee (i.e., teacher, secretary, custodian, bus driver, and cafeteria worker). Campus rules, as well as classroom rules, are to be always observed. Students are expected to always behave in a respectful manner. For detailed information, please refer to the [Houston ISD HISD Code of Student Conduct](#)

BULLYING

Students who believe that they have been bullied are encouraged to promptly report such incidents to a teacher, social worker/counselor, assistant principal, or principal. Failure to promptly report alleged bullying may impair the ability to investigate and address the behavior(s). If an incident of bullying is confirmed, campus administration will notify the parents of the victim and of the student(s) who engages in bullying. Appropriate disciplinary consequences may result, pending the results of the investigation. Refer to FFI (LEGAL and LOCAL) and to the [HISD Code of Student Conduct](#) for the state definition of bullying and other related information and policies.

CYBERBULLYING

Defined by section [37.0832 of the Education Code](#) as bullying that is done using any electronic communication device, including through the use of cellular or other types of telephone, computer, camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, social media application, internet website, or any other internet-based communication tool.

CONFERENCES

Arrangements may be made for parent conferences with teachers through cluster teachers and grade-level administrators. These meetings must be pre-arranged. Contact your student's teachers by email to schedule a conference. Messages will be returned within 2 school days. A parent who wants to meet with a teacher may call for an appointment during the teacher's conference period or may request that the teacher call the parent during a conference period or at another mutually convenient time. All teacher emails may be found in the [Lanier Middle School staff directory](#). A variety of meeting types are available, specifically in-person and/or virtual via Microsoft TEAMS.

Students and parents may expect teachers to request a conference (1) if the student is not maintaining passing grades or achieving the expected level of performance, (2) if the student exhibits conduct or behavioral problems, or (3) in any other case the teacher considers necessary.

Parents/Guardians are urged to avoid walk-up/unannounced requests for conferences on the spot. It is a best practice to schedule any conference or meeting request with any school personnel, to include administrators, in advance.

SPECIAL EDUCATION and 504 COORDINATOR

Families served by special education and related services in addition to section 504 will be engaged throughout the year and are direct participants and team members in the development of either the IEP or 504 plan. Families will receive notice when annual meetings/reviews are scheduled. Questions regarding the referral for and creation/implementation of an IEP should reach out directly to the campus ARD facilitator. Inquiries related to section 504 should be directed to the assistant principal for multi-tiered (MTSS) systems of support and section 504. Lanier Middle School is required to be in compliance with all federal, state, and district requirements related to the implementation of special education and related services along with Section 504.

LANIER STUDENT SUCCESS LEADS (COUNSELORS & SOCIAL WORKER)

Counseling and support services are available to all students. Conflicts, grades, high school planning, social issues, and personal issues are just a few areas your student success lead may provide assistance/guidance for students and their families. Please feel free to ask questions/request assistance at any time. If a student would like to visit with their student success lead, they may send an email to their assigned lead or request an appointment via the [Student Assistance Form](#). As necessary, faculty and staff will also initiate referrals for support for students in accordance with applicable district, state and federal policies and procedures.

CELL PHONES & ALL PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

In accordance with [Texas House Bill 1481](#) and to ensure an academically focused school environment, the use of personal communication devices is prohibited by law on school property during the instructional day*.

Personal communication devices, as defined by law, include the following:

- Cell phones
- Tablets
- Smartwatches or wearable communication devices
- Any electronic device capable of digital communication
- Headphones or earbuds
- AI/Smart Glasses

Students shall not:

- Use phones or other devices for any reasons (calls, texts, photos, social media, internet access, etc.) during the instructional day.
- Display or visibly carry phones during the instructional day.
- Use smartwatches or other wearable communication devices during the instructional day.
- Have phones or other devices on school property that are visible or audible at any time during the instructional day.

At Lanier Middle School, our expectations are that:

- Students must leave their phones or devices at home or turned off and stored in backpacks in lockers while on school property during the instructional day.
- Phones and devices must remain out of sight and unused on school property.
- Phones may not be carried in clothing, carried in student backpacks/tote bags/drawstring bags, or worn visibly at any time during the instructional day.
- Students follow and adhere to the HISD student code of conduct at all times.

The following devices are prohibited from use on school property during the instructional day.

The following devices are **prohibited from use** on school property during the instructional day.



**Cell
Phones**



**Smart
Watches**



Tablets



**Headphones
and Earbuds**



**AI/Smart
Glasses**

Devices **must** be:

- ✓ Kept at home or stored away
- ✓ Turned off in backpacks or lockers

Only District-provided devices are approved for use during class time.

Exceptions only for:

- Approved medical needs
 - A documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician
 - Special Education needs (as outlined in the student's IEP or 504 plan)
-
- **The instructional day is defined as follows:** From the time a student arrives on campus in the morning until the final period of the day concludes. Lunch and passing periods are included.
 - Once a student exits the building, they may turn on their personal devices.
 - Lunch and passing periods are included. The instructional block extends beyond regular school hours to include after-school instructional activities such as tutorials, academic interventions, and extracurricular clubs. During these times, students are expected to be fully engaged, focused, and immersed in the learning or activity taking place.
 - Any personal communication device used during the instructional day, including after-school instructional activities, is subject to confiscation in alignment with state law and school policy.
 - If a student needs to contact home, they may request to use a school phone in the front office or with a staff member. In the event of an emergency, parents may also call the school office directly, and staff will ensure that students receive the message.

Only district-provided devices are approved for use during class time.

Exceptions, as approved by HISD with the appropriate paperwork, are only for:

- Approved medical needs,
- A documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician, or
- Special Education needs (as outlined in the student's IEP or 504 Plan).

Though students are allowed to bring cell phones and other electronics with them to school, the school accepts no responsibility for loss, theft, or damage of any personal items. We will not look for lost or stolen devices as the owner accepts all risks and responsibilities associated with it. Personal communication devices may only be used before entering the building and after leaving the building. Once a student enters the building all personal devices must be turned off and put away. This includes passing periods, lunch periods, emergency drills, practices for extracurricular events, and field trips.

Using a cell phone to record or video is prohibited and against HISD school guidelines (II-19). Headphones may not be visible or worn during school hours unless required by an IEP or 504 Plan as confirmed by the case manager.

If a personal communication device is seen, heard, or used during the school day:

1. The device will be confiscated by staff.
2. Staff will place the device in an envelope and label it clearly with the student's full name, the date, and time of confiscation, and the name of the staff member who confiscated the device.

3. Staff or administration will deliver the device to the office for secure storage, and retrieval by the parent/guardian.
4. Upon parent/guardian retrieval, the parent will sign a copy of the state law, HISD policy, and confirm receipt of the device.
5. HISD will not be held responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged devices confiscated due to the violation of the law and district policy.

If a student is found in violation of this policy, the following discipline will be administered:

- **1st Offense** → Device held until the end of school day. Parent/guardian retrieves device after school and signs the Parent/Student Acknowledgement.
- **2nd Offense** → 7 full school days Parent/guardian must review and sign the *Extended Device Confiscation Agreement.
- **3rd Offense** → 14 full school days Parent/guardian must review and sign the *Extended Device Confiscation Agreement.
- **4th Offense** → 30 full school days Parent/guardian must review and sign the *Extended Device Confiscation Agreement.
- **5th Offense** → 10-day DAEP Placement. If there is a personal communication device infraction at DAEP, the home campus will confiscate the device for the remainder of the semester.
-

****Students that refuse to turn in the prohibited device(s) constitute an instructional environment disruption warranting disciplinary action up to and including out of school suspension (OSS) in accordance with the HISD student code of conduct.**

[Click here](#) for additional information about Houston ISD's Personal Communication Device Policy.

GUM POLICY

Students are **not** permitted to chew gum on campus at any time.

HALLWAYS

The first and second floor hallways are one way during passing periods. The hallway's direction is a counter-clockwise pattern. Students should go directly to their next period. The third floor is a two-way hallway, but students should stick to the right-hand side.

SHARPIES/PERMANENT MARKERS

The personal possession of Sharpies or any other permanent markers by students is strictly prohibited. Students are not permitted to draw on their body, or deface any school property, using Sharpies or other permanent markers.

Section 6: Technology Use & Digital Citizenship

DEVICE ACCESS IN CLASS

Lanier Middle School does not provide students with one-to-one technology or devices for personal use or to take home. Classroom teachers have access to class sets of devices (chromebooks, iPads, etc.) to utilize as necessary to enhance or support instruction during class. Students are expected to use the device, when provided, appropriately and for the purposes of the instructional activity. Students and parents should review the [Houston ISD Electronic Services Acceptable Use Policy](#) regarding the use of these resources; violations of this agreement may result in the withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action. Students and parents should be aware that electronic communications (email) using District computers are not private and may be monitored by District staff. The student's parent or guardian is responsible for supervising and monitoring all computer usage that occurs outside the HISD network.

Additionally, Lanier requires all students to follow the acceptable use policy for district technology. A violation of any of the guidelines will result in the assignment of an appropriate disciplinary consequence including possible loss of device access. Students must abide by all laws, regulations, [Student Code of Conduct - Houston Independent School District](#), the Acceptable Use Policy, and other related HISD security policies. Examples of violations include but are not limited to, using inappropriate language, copyright violations, saving/accessing games, saving/accessing pornography, deleting or modifying files, changing device settings without permission, photographing or videoing other students, or using another person's account. Any attempt to bypass the District's firewall will result in immediate disciplinary action.

Students and their parents/guardians should be aware that electronic files including email communications that are sent, received, or stored anywhere in the HISD system are not private and may be monitored by District staff. Students and their parents/guardians should be aware that all issued technology and resources must be returned in working order when requested/required.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Google Classroom is Lanier Middle School's online learning platform, designed to help students access assignments, instructional materials, classroom announcements, and learning resources in one convenient location. Students should regularly check Google Classroom to stay informed about coursework, due dates, and teacher expectations.

Guardian Email Summaries

Parents and guardians can stay connected to their student's learning through **Google Classroom Guardian Email Summaries**. These summaries provide a snapshot of student activity and help families monitor assignments and classroom updates.

Guardian email summaries include:

- **Missing Work** – Assignments that were not submitted as of the time the summary was sent.
- **Upcoming Work** – Assignments due soon, including work due today, tomorrow, or during the upcoming week.
- **Class Activities** – Recent announcements, assignments, questions, and updates posted by teachers.

Please note: Guardian summaries do not include student grades. For information regarding grades and academic performance, please contact your child's teacher or review grades through the district's official grading platform.

How to Receive Guardian Email Summaries

To receive Google Classroom Guardian Summaries, follow these steps:

1. **Receive an Invitation**
A teacher or school administrator will send an email invitation to the address provided to the school.
2. **Open the Invitation Email**
Locate the Google Classroom Guardian Invitation in your email inbox.
3. **Accept the Invitation**
Click **Accept** within the email invitation. If you received the invitation in error, select **I'm Not the Guardian**.
4. **Confirm Your Participation**
Click **Accept** again to finalize the connection to your student's account.

Once accepted, both you and your student will receive a confirmation email.

Additional Information

- Guardian summaries can be sent to any valid email address.
- Families may choose the frequency of summaries (daily or weekly) when using a Google Account.
- A Google Account allows guardians to manage settings, update preferences, change time zones, and view connected students.
- Guardians may unsubscribe from email summaries at any time.
- Students must be enrolled in Google Classroom using their school-issued Google Workspace account in order for guardian summaries to be available.

Managing Your Guardian Account

Parents and guardians can manage their Google Classroom notifications and settings by:

- Updating email summary preferences
- Changing the email address used to receive summaries
- Unsubscribing from summaries
- Removing themselves as a guardian if needed

For additional assistance with Google Classroom Guardian Summaries and account settings, please visit Google's support page:

Google Classroom Guardian Guide:

<https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6386354>

Regularly reviewing Guardian Email Summaries is a great way to stay informed, support your child's academic progress, and maintain strong communication between home and school throughout the year.

Section 7: Logistics & Operations

CAMPUS HOURS OF OPERATION & SUPERVISION

Assigned teachers and support staff supervise the arrival of students in the morning and the release of students at dismissal. Aftercare is available through an approved third-party vendor. Information is available in the main office and campus website. Parents are required to arrange for their students to arrive on campus after 7:45 a.m. and be picked up by 4:15 p.m. No student should be on school grounds any earlier than 7:45 a.m., as there is no supervision until 7:45 a.m. Students remaining on campus after 4:15 p.m. will be escorted back into the building and documented as a late pick up/unaccompanied student. Students are not permitted to wait outside the building or loiter at nearby establishments. Car riders are required to be picked up from Woodhead to ensure the safety and well-being of students.

TRAFFIC PATTERNS AROUND CAMPUS

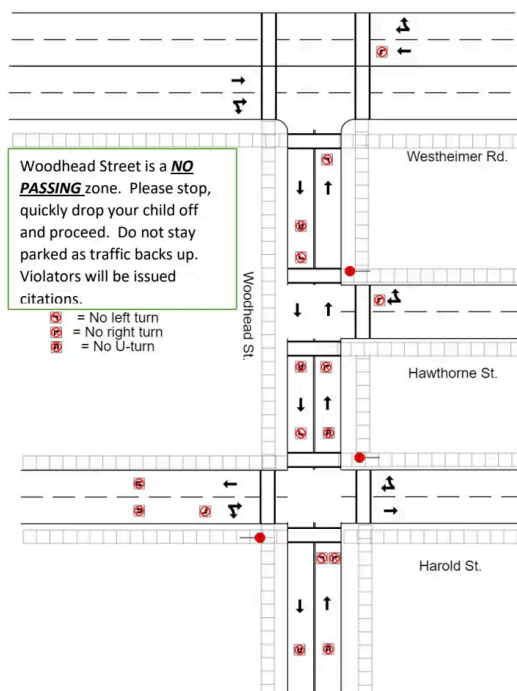
Please review this map to see how traffic flows around campus/in the neighborhood.

- The carpool line moves southbound on Woodhead from Westheimer toward Harold.
- There is no parking or standing in the carpool line.
- There is no stopping northbound on Woodhead.
- Pedestrians must use crosswalks. Do NOT block crosswalks with vehicles. No J-Walking.
- Please observe ALL posted speed limits, traffic laws, and posted parking restrictions.
- Please be considerate of our neighbors and nearby businesses. Avoid blocking driveways, trash/recycling cans, or entering restricted areas.

Parking in the administrative lot and cafeteria lot is strictly prohibited by parents/families. This includes picking up and dropping off students.

If you are attending a school related event, you are free to park on a side street or in the parking lot by the football field. Please avoid dropping off or picking up students in this lot though, as it can cause congestion for faculty and staff.

Always park in the direction of traffic. Be aware of signage around the neighborhood to avoid parking in a restricted area or a restricted time.



STUDENT DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

- The dismissal bell rings at 4:00 PM; students who are not participating in after-school activities MUST be picked up by 4:15 PM.
- Students that are not picked up by 4:15 PM will be brought back inside the building to wait for a parent/guardian.
- Students routinely picked up after 4:15 PM will be referred for student success support to ensure timely and safe pick up/after school supervision.
- Walkers will exit the front of the building; all walkers must leave campus by 4:05 PM.
- Bus riders will report directly to the cafeteria and wait for their bus.
- Car riders will sit on benches by the red bricks and areas designated by school staff.
- Students are not allowed to play on the lawn, all students waiting must be seated.
- Once students leave campus they are not allowed to return unless they are with a parent or guardian.
- Students are discouraged from loitering at neighboring businesses before or after school.

CARE OF BUILDING, GROUNDS, & EQUIPMENT

Students are expected to respect all school property, including the building, grounds, furniture, and equipment. Any damage caused intentionally or through negligence may result in disciplinary action and restitution. Keeping our campus clean and well-maintained helps ensure a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Students may not consume food in areas of the building not designated for food. Additionally, food should not be kept overnight in lockers or other spaces. Deliberate and willful destruction of school property may result in the student and/or parents being held financially responsible and/or other disciplinary action to be taken. This includes social media trends.

BUS RIDERS

Houston ISD school buses and buses chartered by HISD are extensions of the classroom, and as such, expectations for student behavior are the same as during the regular school day. Failure to abide by the rules and regulations set by your bus driver may result in suspension or removal from transportation privileges. HISD Transportation Services may utilize cameras to record video and audio of student activity on school buses.

K-12 general education students attending their zoned or magnet schools are eligible for bus transportation if they meet the specified criteria outlined by the school district for transportation. To request transportation for your student, please complete the [transportation request form](#). Once the Routing & Scheduling Department receives your request, it will be processed within 10 business days. Only students eligible for transportation based on HISD's transportation eligibility requirements will be approved for transportation.

Eligible students are assigned a bus stop in accordance with HISD transportation protocols.

BACKPACKS

Students are permitted to use any school-appropriate backpack to transport their learning materials to and from school. The general size of the backpack, however, must fit in the students' locker. **Students may not bring a full-size backpack into class. Only a drawstring bag or a tote bag may be brought to class. The drawstring bag or tote must be no larger than 44cm x 36cm. Lunch kits/packs/bags should be left in lockers until the lunch period and should not be brought back into the classroom.**

Students will be expected to carry their materials with them throughout the academic day in their drawstring or tote bag. The bag must be able to hang on the back of a classroom chair. As a safety and security consideration, backpacks will not be left in the hallways outside of the classroom. Backpacks should be free of any inappropriate language, graphics, or other imagery.

LOCKERS (FOR GYM)

The physical education staff will assign a gym locker to students. Never bring valuables to school, and always make certain that your locker is locked. A lock is provided to all students with PE uniform purchase on SchoolPay. Do NOT share your gym locker or locker combination with any other student. Lockers remain HISD property and are subject to search.

LUNCH & CAFETERIA

Lanier provides all students free breakfast. As lunch is not free, all families are encouraged to submit an application for free or reduced priced meals to determine eligibility status for free or reduced price lunch. Students may choose to eat in the cafeteria or the designated patio, weather permitting. To sit on the patio, students must have their ID badges. All other areas are off-limits during lunch including classrooms.

The assigned lunch period is an opportunity to enjoy being with friends and enjoy a well-prepared lunch from the cafeteria or a sack lunch from home. Students who need lunch must immediately get in the lunch line. Once students enter a lunch location, they are not allowed to leave. Students must ask permission to leave a designated area to get water or go to the restroom.

All students must be on time to lunch. Students are expected to sit immediately unless they are getting food or snacks in the lunch line. Students must be principled by throwing away your trash at the designated times. In the patio there will be 2 people to a bench, in the cafeteria one person to a seat.

- Students are not permitted to move from table to table during lunch.
- All students must take personal responsibility to throw away their trash before leaving the cafeteria or patio.
- Students are not permitted to take food or drink outside of the cafeteria.
- Lunch assignments are determined by a student's P3/R7 class period.

LOST AND FOUND

- Lost library books are turned into the library.
- Articles of clothing, valuables, and other lost and found items are held in the cafeteria and the lost and found bin in the front foyer.
- Lost glasses are held in the school clinic.
- Lost cellphones and other personal technology are turned into the office and held in accordance with HB 1481 requirements related to the ban on cell phones and other personal devices in school. Lanier MS staff are not responsible for lost personal devices and phones and are unable to investigate instances of lost/stolen personal devices that are prohibited in the school environment.

Students may look for lost items before or after school. Students may not leave the classroom to look for lost items. Articles not claimed will be donated to a charitable organization at the end of each week.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Parents bringing medication to school must take it directly to the front desk clerks in the foyer, who will notify the nurse to meet them in the foyer to receive the medication. Medicine drop-off is from 8:00-8:30am. The medication must accompany an [HISD-issued medication consent form](#) completed by the student's doctor. This form is available online at www.houstonisd.org and from the nurse. Such medication must be in a prescription bottle, with a prescription label in the student's name. Medications administered at school may only be maintained by the school nurse and ONLY for the treatment of long-term or chronic medical conditions. Short-term or over-the-counter medications are not dispensed by the school nurse and should be managed outside of school hours. Students may never be in possession of prescription or over-the-counter medications.

ADULTS ON CAMPUS

All visitors and guests to Lanier Middle School must check in with the front desk clerks in the foyer. All visitors must show identification (an official driver's license or state issued identification card) to access the campus. Temporary identification badges will be provided to all visitors before they proceed into the building. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, Lanier will not allow any unescorted adult to move beyond the foyer – throughout classrooms or the building.

VOLUNTEERING/VOLUNTEERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

All volunteering is at the discretion of campus administration. Volunteering and volunteer tasks are strictly for the assigned purpose and focus area and at assigned locations. All volunteers are required by Houston ISD to complete the [Volunteers in Public Schools \(VIPs\) accreditation](#).

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

Lanier has an active Parent-Teacher Organization. For information on their activities and to register for their weekly electronic newsletter, the Purple Page, please visit LanierPTO.org.

DELIVERIES TO STUDENTS

When homework, clothing, equipment, instruments, etc. have been left at home, those items may be brought to the school and left in the care of front desk personnel for retrieval by your student during the next passing period or lunch. You should email your student's grade-level clerk to notify them of the drop off. We do not notify students as this disrupts instruction. Food drop offs are permitted up until our designated cutoff time of 10:30 a.m. Deliveries attempted after this time will not be accepted. Please be mindful of signage posted on the doors.

To avoid unnecessary classroom disruptions, messages, materials, and acknowledgements (such as balloons, food, and flowers) will not be delivered to students while they are at school. Messages will be delivered to students in class only in cases of emergency and with the approval of the grade-level assistant principal.

DELIVERIES FROM LOCAL RESTAURANTS/DELIVERY SERVICES

Students may not receive food delivery from restaurants or delivery services.

PETS

Lanier is a pet free building unless the animal is a service animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

PESTICIDE APPLICATION

As required by law, the school district is providing this notification that the district periodically applies pesticides at school sites. Information concerning these applications may be obtained from the District's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator - 1417 Houston Ave, Houston, Texas 77007, (713) 220-5018.

Section 8: Extracurriculars & Student Life

ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

After-school clubs typically begin meeting in mid-September, after the first few weeks of school. Joining after-school clubs at Lanier Middle School helps students explore their interests and discover new passions outside the classroom. Clubs provide a space for students to build friendships, develop leadership skills, and grow as individuals. These experiences enrich their education and prepare them to become well-rounded, engaged members of their community. A full list of clubs and activities is maintained by the campus clubs coordinator and is posted throughout the campus for students to easily reference.

AFTER-SCHOOL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

For the purposes of after-school event types and activities, Lanier MS recognizes two types of event categories: athletic and non-athletic.

Related to athletic events, Lanier MS operates in alignment with Houston ISD's athletic events policies which can be found here through the following link: [Athletics Event Policies - Houston Independent School District](#)
Specifically:

Only approved bags listed below may be brought into the facility/campus:

- Clear bags or clear backpacks up to 12" x 6" x 12"
- Clear purse, clutch, or fanny pack up to 5.5" x 8.5"
- One gallon clear plastic bag
- Clear diaper bag of any size
- Medically necessary bags (subject to inspection)

The following bag types are not permitted:

- Regular backpacks
- Drawstring bags
- Grocery bags
- Large non clear purses
- Mesh bags

The following entry requirements will be in effect:

- All spectators under the age of 18 must:
 - Present a student ID (a photo of the ID on a phone is acceptable).
 - Be accompanied by an adult.

Exceptions

The following spectators do not need an adult chaperone:

- HISD high school students
- Competing UIL student athletes

Student ID is still required.

For the purposes of non-athletic events (Students are to be picked up no later than 15 minutes after a school event or activity ends (i.e. sports games, dances, rehearsal, concerts, game night, etc.). If students are not picked up within 15 minutes they will no longer be able to attend after school events/activities for the remaining semester or school year.

ATHLETICS

Lanier Middle School has a strong athletic program. Participation in UIL athletic activities is subject to the “No Pass, No Play” restriction. UIL athletic programs are open to all 7th and 8th-grade students: Basketball, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Dance, Football, Soccer, Swimming, Track, and Volleyball. Club sports include: Softball, Baseball, and Tennis. Club sports are open to students in all grade levels and there may be a fee associated with participation.

Families should ensure all required paperwork is completed well in advance of any try-outs or competitions. While school administrators may sign in place of a notary on the insurance requirement form, families should not expect to obtain a signature at the last minute or on a walk-in basis.

Fall Sports (August - October)

- Football - 7th and 8th grades only
- Volleyball - 7th and 8th grades only
- Cross Country - 7th and 8th grades only
- Cheer (continues into the winter) - 7th and 8th grades only

Winter Sports (November - February)

- Basketball - 7th and 8th grades only
- Swimming - 7th and 8th grades only

Spring Sports (February - May)

- Baseball - all grades
- Softball - all grades
- Soccer - 7th and 8th grades only
- Tennis - all grades
- Track & Field - 7th and 8th grades only

Athletics are before and after school activities and do not replace the physical education credit students take during the school day.

EXTRACURRICULARS

The purpose of the extracurricular activities and organizations at Lanier Middle School is to promote loyalty, school spirit, and sportsmanship. Each student is encouraged to become a part of the extracurricular life of the campus. To participate in any extracurricular activity, a student must be passing all subjects as indicated by UIL standards at reporting periods and demonstrate exemplary behavior. Additionally, students without a doctor's note who are NOT present at recording of official daily attendance at 10:15AM will not be allowed to participate in afterschool activities on that day, including dance, tryouts, games, competitions, practices, etc.

Note: All non-UIL activities will be held to the same academic, conduct, and attendance standards as those that are UIL sanctioned such as softball, baseball, dance, tennis, etc.

FIELD TRIPS

Lanier teachers search the community for the best opportunities for off-campus learning experiences to emphasize and support the content-area curriculum. Field trips are held in accordance with district requirements. It is critical that students participating meet the criteria to attend the field trip and all other requirements as set forth in the approval information provided.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY PROGRAM & TIMELINE

Students interested in participating as 8th graders in the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) should be mindful of attendance, grades, conduct and discipline, especially in 7th grade. The NJHS sponsors communicate application timelines and requirements through a variety of mediums in both the spring of 7th grade and the beginning of 8th grade.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM & TIMELINE

Students (7th graders) interested in participating in the student leadership program as 8th graders should await specific details and information provided by the Leadership program sponsor/teacher that typically occurs in the spring. This is a program and process open to all Lanier students; however, students must meet specific requirements related to grades, conduct and discipline, secure teacher recommendations as well as participate in an interview process and performance task. Students should be mindful of grades, attendance, and discipline early and throughout the year. Feedback is provided to applicants throughout the process and notifications come directly from the teacher/sponsor. Students know before the end of their 7th grade school year if they were selected for Leadership in 8th grade, the summer Leadership Camp training requirements, and any associated costs.

Section 9: Dress Code & Uniform Policy

All students attending Lanier Middle School will be required to follow the Lanier Dress Code. All articles of the uniform are to be maintained and worn in a way that represents the individual students and the school in a positive way. Students are required to wear the uniform to school and throughout the entire day until leaving campus. The provisions of the dress and grooming code shall be enforced equally with regard to all students to whom the provisions apply.

Lanier Polos and other Lanier gear must be purchased from the [Lanier School Store](#).

TOPS	BOTTOMS
<p>Shirts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polos & Lanier t-shirts must be purchased from the Lanier PTO store (also available online) Students must wear a Lanier polo Monday-Thursday Students may choose any color polo we offer; there are no grade level specific colors Every Friday, Lanier spirit shirts may be worn Solid-colored long-sleeved shirts may be worn under school polos and spirit shirts Shirts and sweatshirts may not be altered and/or personalized <p>Jackets and Outerwear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ONLY Lanier sweatshirts and Lanier jackets may be worn in the building No hoods may be worn in the building School ID must be visible at all times Non-Lanier coats and jackets must be placed in the student's locker upon entering the building and remain in the student's locker throughout the entire instructional day <p>Head Coverings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hats, hairnets, bandanas, and any other headgear that is deemed to be a distraction to the learning environment are NOT permitted to be worn in the building 	<p>Pants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Khaki or navy uniform pants- fitted at waist (no sagging) Denim jeans are permitted on Fridays, blue color only. Jeans must be free of rips, holes, and tears NO: Cargo pants/shorts, khaki jeggings/leggings, corduroy, spandex, stretch pants, leather/pleather and khaki jean pants <p>Shorts and Skirts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Khaki or navy uniform shorts, skorts, or skirts only Shorts, skorts, and skirts must be no more than 3 inches above the top of the knee Solid-colored leggings may be worn under skirts and shorts NO: Corduroy shorts, cargo shorts, stretch shorts, jean shorts, tennis skirts and athletic shorts/skirts <p>Footwear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed-toed and closed-back shoes ONLY NO: Flip-flops, sandals, slides, Crocs™, platforms, or house shoes/slippers

DANCE, KARATE, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.) UNIFORMS

Students must wear the official uniform in PE, dance, or karate class. The PE uniform is to be worn only in the PE class and is not to be worn as a spirit shirt. Individual instructors will provide information on where and how to obtain PE, dance, and karate uniforms.

The following items are **PROHIBITED** by the Lanier Dress Code while on campus or at campus-sponsored events:

- Sweatpants
- Pajamas
- Non-Lanier Logo Long sleeved shirts/sweatshirts/hoodies unless under the Lanier Polo
- Head coverings of any kind, with the exception of coverings related to religious or medical requirements
- Accessories depicting or making references to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vulgar or obscene language, sexual promiscuity, the occult, death, violence or gang-related activities
- Spiked dog collars, spiked bracelets, linked chains (for wallets or necklaces)
- Rosaries
- Metal rakes and metal combs
- Sunglasses
- Tattoos and henna markings with inappropriate or vulgar messages must be covered and not visible
- Expensive or irreplaceable jewelry should not be worn to school
- Any other clothing or accessory that causes a distraction to the school environment
- Alteration of the school dress code is not acceptable including, but not limited to hemming, writing/painting on, or any alteration of the school dress code

ACCESSORIES AND GROOMING STANDARDS

- Shoes must be closed toe with a back strap around the heel and have a rubber sole. The thickness of the heel and/or sole may not be more than one inch.
- For safety reasons, platform shoes, spiked heels, combat boots, steel-toed boots, or any backless shoes (including flip flops, slides [including "Croc" style]), and house shoes are prohibited.
- Knee-high socks/stockings may not be worn.
- Tights/stockings should be plain, neutral in color, and not have any words or patterns.
- School-issued student ID badge must always be attached to a school lanyard and visible when on school property and school-sponsored trips, including the school bus. Students are not allowed to deface identification cards. Information on the ID must be clearly visible.
- Jewelry and makeup are permissible unless they are distracting or disruptive in the classroom.
- Bracelets with metal spikes are not permitted.
- No writing with markers or pens is allowed on any article of clothing.
- Exposed tattoos and/or the use of pens, pencils, or markers to make marks on the skin are also inappropriate for school and expressly prohibited.
- No hats, hoods, animal ear headbands, or head-coverings are permitted other than those required by religious practice or in IEP/504.
- Smartwatches are not permitted.
- Blankets are not permitted at school.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND EVENTS

- On Fridays, students may choose to wear approved Lanier spirit, club, or organizational shirts
- Team uniforms are permitted to be worn only on game days, with administrative and coach approval.
- School Functions - Students must wear regular dress code attire when attending a school function on campus.
- Field Trips – Students must wear regular dress code attire when attending a field trip, even if the trip is on a Friday or Theme Day.
- On Theme Days, students are expected to maintain dress code standards with the following exceptions:
 - A collared shirt is not required, but a shirt with sleeves must be worn.
 - Pajama apparel, sweatpants, yoga pants, and Spandex-type pants are never appropriate for theme days.
 - Additional criteria may be announced for special days.

Other Dress Code Violations		
	Monday through Thursday	Friday ONLY
	<p>Students must wear the Lanier IB polo Monday-Thursday even when it is cold.</p> <p>Students may wear Lanier cold-weather clothing with the Lanier IB polo.</p> <p>All cold weather clothing such as jackets, sweaters, hoodies, and sweatshirts must have the Lanier logo or be approved by Mr. Williams directly if not purchased in the Lanier School Store.</p> <p>When it is below 40°F outside, Mr. Williams will announce other options for cold weather gear.</p>	<p>Students may wear a Lanier Spirit shirt or polo on Friday even when it is cold.</p> <p>They may wear Lanier cold-weather clothing with the Lanier spirit shirt.</p> <p>All cold weather clothing such as jackets, sweaters, hoodies, and sweatshirts must have the Lanier logo or be approved by Mr. Williams if not purchased in the Lanier School Store.</p>
Monday - Friday		
Backpacks	<p>Backpacks must be placed in their locker before 8:30 and may not be used again until 4:00 pm.</p> <p>Students must use a drawstring or a tote bag to carry items to class. This bag must hang on the backs of chairs and may not be placed on the floor.</p>	
Shoes	No slippers, house shoes, Crocs™, or shower shoes are allowed	
ID Badge	<p>Student IDs must be worn on a school lanyard and be visible at all times. Information on the ID must be clearly visible and not defaced. A student ID is needed for attendance purposes, to check out a book from the library, and to attend school-sponsored events.</p> <p>Consequences will be assigned if a student chooses to use another student's ID badge or fails to replace their missing badge.</p> <p>Replacement ID badges must be purchased from SchoolPay for \$5.00. IDs will be available for pick-up in Office B.</p> <p>Students who come to school without an ID will be noted and provided a warning and reminder. Continued violations will escalate to campus discipline procedures.</p>	

Failure to comply with the Lanier Middle School Uniform Policy will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Houston ISD student code of conduct. Teachers may notify their grade-level assistant principal that students are out of the dress code at any time during the school day. If the assistant principal determines that a student's grooming or clothing violates the school's dress code, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem. If a LMS administrator determines that a student's dress violates the school's dress code, disciplinary action may be taken.

Lanier Middle School administration reserves the right to determine if a student's dress/grooming is a disruption to the educational process. All such decisions are final.

Section 10: Testing & Assessments

TESTING

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) program includes annual assessments for middle schoolers in mathematics grades 6–8, reading language arts (RLA) at grades 6-8, science at grade 8, social studies at grade 8, and end-of-course (EOC) assessments for Algebra I.

In addition to routine summative/module testing and other measures of achievement, students will take national/state assessment tests such as [NWEA](#), [PSAT](#) for 8th graders only, and [TELPAS](#).

Questions about testing, testing policy, and acceptable resources may be directed to the campus Testing Coordinator.

Section 11: Support Services

AT-RISK RESOURCES & SERVICES

Student and staff safety is a top priority for Lanier Middle School. We believe that safety and security, student wellness, and positive relationships between and among staff, students, and families are all important components of student success. Lanier's At-Risk Coordinator provides a vital link to services, resources and/or programs that offer a comprehensive approach to student support that aims to develop the physical, mental, cognitive, and social-emotional development of students and mitigate barriers to their academic success. For more information or assistance, students, parents, or guardians should contact Lanier's At-Risk Coordinator.

IMMUNIZATIONS

All students must have up-to-date immunizations as required by law, and parents are responsible for providing accurate immunization records to the school. Students may not attend school without documentation unless exempt for approved medical or religious reasons with proper paperwork on file. For more information or assistance, parents/guardians should contact the school nurse.

LIBRARY

The Lanier Middle School Library is a welcoming, inclusive space designed to support literacy, research, and a love of reading for all students. Our library offers a diverse collection of fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, and digital resources to meet the academic and personal interests of our student body. The Lanier Library is open and available to teachers seeking to collaborate with the media specialist on a classroom lesson driven by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), IB MYP model, and effective instructional practices. Checking out books and resources can take place during PUPS/Enrichment in collaboration with the media specialist and homeroom teacher.

TRANSCRIPT & TEACHER RECOMMENDATION REQUESTS

All Lanier Middle School student transcript requests must be submitted to the Registrar in writing (email is acceptable). The student's name and ID number are required to process all transcript requests. Requests for teacher recommendations must be submitted directly to the desired teacher(s). All transcript and recommendation requests require a minimum of 5 business days to be processed.

Section 12: Appendices & Resources



YEARLY CALENDAR 2026-2027

JUNE • 2026

4Last day for students
5.....Staff PD Day (no classes)
9.....5th Quarter Staff PD
10-30...5th Quarter
19.....Juneteenth

JULY • 2026

1-17...5th Quarter
2.....Recess (no classes)
5.....Independence Day observed
20-29...School Leaders' Induction and Preparation
30-31...All Staff Induction and Preparation

AUGUST • 2026

5-7.....All Staff Induction and Preparation
10.....First Day for Students

SEPTEMBER • 2026

7Labor Day
21.....Staff PD Day (no classes)

OCTOBER • 2026

9.....Staff PD Day (no classes)

NOVEMBER • 2026

6.....Staff PD Day (no classes)
23-27...Recess (no classes)
26.....Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER • 2026

21-31...Recess (no classes)

JANUARY • 2027

1.....New Year's Day
4.....Staff PD Day (no classes)
18.....MLK Jr. Day

FEBRUARY • 2027

15.....Staff PD Day (no classes)

MARCH • 2027

8-12...Recess (no classes)
26.....Recess (no classes)

APRIL • 2027

16.....Staff PD Day (no classes)

MAY • 2027

28.....Last day for students
31.....Memorial Day

JUNE • 2027

1.....Staff PD Day (no classes)
7.....5th Quarter Staff PD Day
8-30...5th Quarter
18.....Juneteenth

JULY • 2027

1-15...5th Quarter
2.....Recess (no classes)
5.....Independence Day observed
16.....5th Quarter Staff PD Day

JUNE 2026

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JULY 2026

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AUGUST 2026

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SEPTEMBER 2026

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OCTOBER 2026

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NOVEMBER 2026

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DECEMBER 2026

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JANUARY 2027

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FEBRUARY 2027

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MARCH 2027

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APRIL 2027

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MAY 2027

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JUNE 2027

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JULY 2027

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AUGUST 10, 2026	 LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS MAY 28, 2027	LAST DAY FOR TEACHERS JUNE 1, 2027
 Holiday (no classes)	GRADING CYCLES Aug. 10 - Sep. 18 Sep. 22 - Oct. 30 Nov. 2 - Dec. 18 Jan. 5 - Feb. 19 Feb. 22 - Apr. 15 Apr. 19 - May 28	REPORT CARD Sep. 25 (Friday) Nov. 6 (Friday) Jan. 8 (Friday) Feb. 26 (Friday) Apr. 23 (Friday) Jun. 2 (Wednesday)
 Recess (no classes)		
 Staff PD (no classes)		
 5 th Quarter		
 5 th Quarter Staff PD Day (no classes)		
 School Leaders' Induction and Preparation		
 All Staff Induction and Preparation		

Updated 4/6/2026

LEARNER PROFILES



INQUIRER

To search and find new information

To understand information about certain things

KNOWLEDGEABLE



COMMUNICATOR

To share a message to someone or an audience in any way

To think about problems and ways they can be solved

THINKER



OPEN-MINDED

To be positive and creative about new things that you may not like at first

To think about the right and honest thing to do

PRINCIPLED



RISK-TAKER

To try something new that you would not normally do

To look after things, people and the world around us

CARING



REFLECTIVE

To look back on how much improvement you have made

To think about all the positives and negatives

BALANCED





Lanier MS



School Year 2026–2027 Cluster List

Cluster 6L	Cluster 6M	Cluster 6S
Guo- Math Shelton- Lang & Lit Duncan- World Cultures Lehaci- Science <i>S. Rodriguez</i> <i>Thelander</i>	Bujnoch (Deshotels)- Math Blackwell- Lang & Lit Williams- World Cultures Peete- Science <i>D. Thompson</i> <i>Ruiz</i>	Tatum- Math Murrell - Lang & Lit Kelso- World Cultures Valerdi- Science <i>Migala</i> <i>Swann</i>
Cluster 7L	Cluster 7M	Cluster 7S
Rosas- Math/Algebra 1 Foreman - Lang & Lit Blossom- TX History Arter (Moses)- Science <i>Beserra</i> <i>P. Graham</i>	Pathak- Math/Algebra 1 Gardner- Lang & Lit Guerra- TX History Ward- Science <i>Slobody</i> <i>Dimitrijevic</i>	Harvey- Math/Algebra 1 Rogers- Lang & Lit Moessner- TX History Shaner- Science <i>Terrel</i> <i>Lun</i>
Cluster 8L	Cluster 8M	Cluster 8S
Coyoy- Algebra 1/Math 8 H. Thompson- Lang & Lit Vaclavik - US History Talamantes- Science <i>Prehu</i> <i>Mann</i>	Murali-Algebra 1/Math 8 Grow- Lang & Lit Sandoval - US History Bano- Science <i>Castillo</i> <i>Messick (Farquharson)</i>	Gamit- Geometry/Algebra 1 Samkutty - Lang & Lit Humble- US History Saad- Science <i>Cantu</i> <i>Marshall</i>
Additional Homeroom Teachers	7 out of 8 Teachers	Additional Teachers for Supervision
Morris	Hill	Phillips
Hardy	Wolfe	Regev
Karr	Joseph	Goudeau
Wight	Urquieta	Krolczyk
Ollivierre		Cole
		L. Hernandez
		Garrett

BELL SCHEDULE



Lanier MS



2026-2027 Bell Schedule

Class Period	Timeframe	Minutes
P1/R5	8:30-10:00	90 minutes
P2/R6	10:04-11:34	90 minutes
P3/R7	11:38-1:38 A Lunch: 11:34-12:04 B Lunch: 12:13-12:43 C Lunch: 1:08-1:38	120 minutes
P4/R8	1:42-3:12	90 minutes
PUPS/Homeroom	3:15-4:00	45 minutes

Achievement with Honor

Advanced Mathematics Information & Course Sequencing

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Accelerated Math Pathway	ACCL Math 6	ACCL Math 7	Algebra I PreAP MS or Math 8
Accelerated Math Pathway with early Algebra I * (please note that this is specific to Lanier MS only)	ACCL Math 6	Algebra I PreAP MS	Geometry PreAP

Lanier MS offers math course pathways and sequencing in alignment with HISD's implementation of Texas Senate Bill 2124 (88R). Lanier MS hosts a math night where families can learn more about math opportunities available for their student at Lanier and associated supports.

Placement in accelerated math is determined by either Gifted and Talented identification (if the student is GT) or academic achievement data such as STAAR and NWEA/MAP scores for non-GT students.

- 6th Grade Accelerated Math – Students will take the 6th Grade STAAR.
- 7th Grade Accelerated Math – Students will take the 8th Grade STAAR.
- 8th Grade Math- Students will take the 8th Grade STAAR.
- 7th and 8th Grade Algebra – Students will take the Algebra I STAAR.
- 8th Grade Geometry – Students are required to take the Grade 8 STAAR. Since they already completed the Algebra I EOC in 7th grade, geometry students must take the Grade 8 STAAR, as English and Math assessments are required for every student in grades 3–8.

To find out more about advanced math courses in Texas, please visit the following link:

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/subject-areas/mathematics/middle-school-advanced-mathematics-program>

Athletic Teams & Coach Contact Information

Sport	Grade Level	Coach	Email
Baseball	All	Stephen Cabell	scabell@houstonisd.org
Basketball (Boys)	7th & 8th	Emeka Okonkwo	Emeka.Okonkwo@houstonisd.org
Basketball (Girls)	7th & 8th	Stephen Cabell	scabell@houstonisd.org
Cheer	7th & 8th	Stephen Cabell	scabell@houstonisd.org
Cross Country (Boys)	7th & 8th	Niv Regev	niv.regev@houstonisd.org
Cross Country (Girls)	7th & 8th	Patrick Harvey	patrick.harvey@houstonisd.org
Football	7th & 8th	Stephen Cabell	scabell@houstonisd.org
Soccer (Boys)	7th & 8th	Steven Mann	steven.mann@houstonisd.org
Soccer (Girls)	7th & 8th	Kevin Phillips	kevin.phillips@houstonisd.org
Softball	All	John Morris	john.morris@houstonisd.org
Swimming (Boys & Girls)	7th & 8th	Kevin Phillips	kevin.phillips@houstonisd.org
Tennis	All	Aleta Cole	acole4@houstonisd.org
Track & Field (Boys)	7th & 8th	Jordan Duncan	jordan.duncan@houstonisd.org
Track & Field (Girls)	7th & 8th	Marissa Goudeau	marissa.goudeau@houstonisd.org
Volleyball	7th & 8th	Marissa Goudeau	marissa.goudeau@houstonisd.org