

Leadership Preparatory Academy

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July 10, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of LPA Scholars,

Welcome back to what we are declaring to be an **EXPLOSIVE** year of teaching and learning. Get ready to embark on a new dimension of focused student engagement and support. Last school term our Super Heroes were UNITED, this year our Super Heroes have been UNLEASHED!

The teachers, without question, have shown great determination, and they were met with the resilience of our students and parents to continue the learning journey for our students. I cannot **thank our parents** enough for digging in deep and staying steadfast on the journey for our children.

These extraordinary times require an extraordinary team of people. That is exactly what we have assembled at LPA. We would like to welcome Ms. Campbell – 3rd Grade, Ms. Marlowe – ELA 6th – 8th Grades, Mr. Turner – Mathematics – 6th – 8th Grades (no relation to Mrs. Turner), Ms. Williams – 5th Grade (no relation to Dr. Williams), and Ms. Gates – 5th Grade.

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We extend a joyous welcome back to our veteran staff members – Ms. Henry and Ms. Brice – Kindergarten; Ms. Holder and Ms. Echols – First Grade; Ms. Usry-Canty, Ms. McGuire and Ms. Shelton – 2nd Grade; Ms. Oates and Ms. Brooks, 3rd Grade; Mr. Mitchell and Mrs. Barcolleh-Williams, 4th Grade; Mr. Hatchett – Mathematics and Mr. Nasulme – ELA will continue to serve our students in grades 6th – 8th.

Rounding out our team of dedicated veteran team members are Ms. Marshall and Ms. Robinson, Health and PE; Ms. Scurry, Technology; along with Ms. Perkins and Mrs. Reynolds who lead our Special Education department. Mr. Holland will serve as our Gifted Teacher this year. Mrs. Martin, Intervention Specialist, and Mr. Caldwell, Dean of Students, will continue to serve in their respective roles. A very special thank you to Mrs. Turner, who worked tirelessly as our eLearning Director, to ensure that our students stayed on track. She will continue to serve families in that role and to support students who will remain in remote learning. Dr. George has graciously agreed to continue to conduct our Parent University program remotely.

MORE

RECOVER.REIMAGINE. REOPEN

RECOVER

LPA is embarking on its 12th year of providing outstanding educational opportunities for the students in South DeKalb. While this year presented its set of challenges, there were a series of great milestones that we can celebrate. They include:

Successfully being accredited through AdvancEd and the Georgia Accrediting Commission since 2013.

Successfully being funded admission grants through the Atlanta Zoo and the Georgia Aquarium.

Successfully writing and receiving the CSP COVID-19 grant for charter schools in the amount of \$149,000. These funds have been earmarked to purchase electronic devices for our students to utilize during, after, and out of school time.

97% of our students were engaged while attending school remotely.

90% of our faculty and staff have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

98% of our faculty are fully certified or in a program leading to certification.

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REIMAGINE

Early Start for Kindergarten and First Grade Students – To fully integrate and welcome our youngest scholars to LPA, they will have a week in the school exclusively to themselves. This will be the first year for the newly enrolled kindergartens to be in school. Our first graders were never in school as a result of the pandemic. We believe that this special time is needed to assist them in adjusting to school.

Early Check in For Grades Second through Eighth – To ensure that all of our students are ready for school, students in grades second through eight, will enter their Google Classroom for a full day of learning on Thursday, July 29, 2021. Classes will begin promptly at 8:00 am and include their connection class (if scheduled for that day), time allocated for restroom breaks and lunch. The students will receive their Google classroom information from their classroom teacher by Tuesday, July 27, 2021. This is not a required attendance day however; we strongly encourage that your scholar participates.

Small Acceleration Groups – Beginning in September students, will be assigned one day a week for a late pick up time. During this extended day, students will be able to work with their peers on new learning to ensure that they are on track. This is an optional activity but strongly encourage for all families. Students enrolled in iLEAD are automatically assigned to these groups.

Upper School Blended Learning Model – We will continue with our blended learning model by offering our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students the opportunity to enroll in foreign language classes, advanced math classes, and a host of other courses to accelerate learning. All students in these grades will be enrolled in Science and Social Studies through the Georgia Virtual School.

Students will take these classes during the school day. This will provide an opportunity for students to control their own learning by pacing their assignments.

Upper School Accelerated Learning Block – Our students will receive a class in Reading and ELA. The reading class will focus on the developmental skills necessary to comprehend and understand the written text. This will be followed by a separate class in ELA that will focus on writing and speaking conventions, English skills and daily oral reading. Research suggests that middle grade students who spent 30 minutes a day in engaging reading activities were 2x more likely to make benchmarks on college and career readiness preparedness.

Mindfulness/Leadership Studies – We will be expanding our Mindfulness classes and integrating them with our Leadership Studies program. There will be a dedicated block of time to this class reflected on student's individual schedules.

Learning Never Stops – While students are out of school during the various breaks, they will have the opportunity to expand their learning by completing activities that will be housed in Google classroom on their grade level. While this is not a requirement this year, this will be an excellent time for students to remain engaged in their learning and to review skills that they may need to sharpen.

Philanthropy Begins with Us – As you are aware, each year, we select a non-profit charity to raise funds for. In the past they have included Jump Rope for Heart, Moses' Sisters, Pennies for Leukemia, etc. This year we have selected the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI). EJI is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States. Our students will be traveling to Montgomery, AL (provided that it is safe to do so) to present a check to represent our fund raising efforts. For more information, please visit their website <https://justmercy.eji.org/>.

iLEAD Extended Day Program – Ms. Oates will serve as Director of our extended day program. For more information on how to enroll, please visit our website or email her at ilead.lpa@gmail.com.

Panther Tales – Our weekly News Flash is getting a new look and a new name. Be on the lookout each Friday for LPA's *Panther Tales*. In addition to the print version, you will be able to access a recorded version online.

Free Breakfast & Lunch – LPA applied for and receive a waiver to provide free breakfast and lunch to all of our students daily, regardless of income. I want to thank our Area Consultant, Dr. Kathy Hood, for assisting me with the waiver providing this valuable service to our families. This waiver is for this school year only.

REOPEN

SAFETY FIRST

LPA will continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control operational strategy to provide in person instruction by consistently utilizing the prevention strategies, including universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing.

LPA is excited to report that 90% of our faculty and staff have received the vaccine for COVID-19. We strongly encourage all of families to consider receiving the vaccine and vaccinating our scholar when it is safe to do so. For more information about vaccines, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>.

For the safety of all students and staff, masks are strongly encouraged to be worn while indoors. We ask that you provide students with clean, disposable masks each day. There will be masks available at the school in the event a scholar needs one.

We will implement a testing protocol to identify individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection as an additional layer of protection. We are working to provide onsite testing and will encourage families to participate in testing outside of the school. Additional information is forthcoming.

Plexi glass barriers will remain in the classrooms and technology labs.

Physical distance markers are utilized throughout the school.

Isolation rooms are available, if needed.

Sanitation (sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, gloves, first aid kits) stations are in each classrooms.

IN PERSON LEARNING

Students will be required to wear face masks. We prefer the disposable masks that can be changed twice a day. Parents are asked to provide at least two masks each day. In the event the students do not have a mask, the school will provide one. Students will have mask breaks throughout the instructional day.

The morning announcements will include daily safety reminders to reduce the spread of germs in the school, i.e., *don't touch your face with your hands, wash hands frequently, etc.*

Students and staff will be asked to maintain physical distance. Appropriate signs are placed throughout the school to remind students and staff.

Students will have lunch outside on the picnic tables (weather permitting) or in their classroom.

Students will not share any consumable materials.

Students will be assigned to their own electronic device.

Any items used by students, i.e., books, will not be used for at least 24 hours and will be placed in the supply isolation station located in each classroom.

Our building engineers will be cleaning high touch surface areas with disinfectant throughout the instructional day.

Only one class will use a specific set of PE equipment. That equipment will be sanitized and placed in an isolation area for at least 24 hours before it is used again. The PE teachers will design activities to minimize the use of equipment and to maintain physical distance during physical education classes.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Please carefully read the separate letter on arrival and dismissal, arrival and pick up times, drop off and pick up locations that will be posted on the website and reviewed during your virtual Meet the Teacher event. See new arrival and dismissal times at the end of the letter.

Finally, the health pandemic (COVID-19) changed our lives forever. For those of you who were impacted by the loss of love ones as a result of this disease, I extend to you my heartfelt condolences. We will have a special place on our website to celebrate their lives. You will be invited to add those names to our virtual memorial wall in the coming months. May the memory of your loved be a blessing to you.

CARES ACT II and ARP ACT ESSER III FUNDS

You may have attended the town hall meeting for DeKalb County on Cares Act funding. LPA has been allocated funds and we would like your feedback on how to best utilize these funds. There are some very specific categories that have to be considered when we apply for these federal funds. A virtual feedback and review of the funding proposal will be presented on Thursday July 15, 2021, Zoom meeting <https://zoom.us/j/2466079099>. The information will be repeated during the Back to School Town Hall on July 20th.

Sincerely,

Tonya M. Williams

Dr. Tonya M. Williams, Chief Academic Officer/Chief Learning Officer

MORE **SEE BACK TO SCHOOL FAQ**



Here are a few reminders about the back to school:

Supply Lists

We are asking that each student have a plastic pencil box that contains a pair of scissors, 2-3 sharpened pencils, erasers, 1-2 highlighters, crayons and colored pencils. We will provide students with notebook paper, composition tablets, etc.

Personal Protection Items

We are asking each family to provide their child with two (2) clean masks, preferably disposable masks, each day. You may want to consider sending your child his/her own small size hand sanitizer. We will have supplies of these items at the school in case students need them.

Arrival/Dismissal

Your child's teacher will review this information with you during Meet the Teacher, and it will be posted online. All students who are being picked up from LPA must utilize the Curb Smart system for dismissal. YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER WILL EMAIL YOU YOUR CURBSMART NUMBER THE WEEK OF JULY 26TH!! Be sure to pick up your number card from the main office during that same week.

Field Trips

We will schedule field trips to venues that have strict COVID-19 guidelines. Information will be provided if and when field trips are scheduled.

Opt out of In Person Learning

If you would like to opt out of in person learning, please email Mrs. Turner at janel.turner.lpa@gmail.com as soon as possible but no later than the first day of school. This must be done even if you opted out on DeKalb's website.

Nursery Vans/Transportation Services

All nursery vans must be at LPA at the dismissal time in order to pick up your scholar. Please be mindful of this requirement when selecting the van and/or transportation service. **If your transportation service uses a car, they will have to travel through the car pool lane. All transportation services must use the Curb Smart dismissal for students in order for your scholar to be dismissed. Please notify your child's teacher and Dr. Williams at lpamiddle@gmail.com with your child's name and the name and phone number of the transportation service that you are using.**

Uniforms

Uniform information is posted on the website under the Parent Resource Tab. All students will be required to wear the school shirt with the logo on it.



Virtual Town Hall w/ Dr. Williams

July 20, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98516341192?pwd=U2tOc1ZsZzhnUTBiL21NMno2Ujk2QT09>

Meeting ID: 985 1634 1192

Passcode: 135461

Virtual Meet the Teacher

Teachers will email Zoom links and they will be posted online the week of the meeting.

Grades K- 1 – July 21, 2021 @ 5:00 pm

Grades 2 and 3 – July 26 @ 6:00 pm

Grades 4 and 5 – July 27 @ 6:00 pm

Grades 6 – 7 – July 28 @ 6:00 pm

Grade 8 – July 28 @ 6:00 pm

MORE

First Day of School July 26 – Kindergarten and First Grade Students

First Day of School August 2, 2021 for – 2nd – 8th Grade Students

School Start and End Times

Arrival	Dismissal – Staggered for Safety	Dismissal Zone
Kindergarten @ 7:30 am	Kindergarten @ 2:30 pm	Lower School Front
First @ 7:45 am	First @ 2:45 pm	Lower School Front
Second @ 7:50 am	Second @ 3:00 pm	Lower School Front

Third @ 7:50 am	Third @3:00 pm	Lower School Front
Fourth @ 7:50 am	Fourth @ 3:00 pm	Upper School Yellow Zone (Hydrant)
Fifth @ 7:50 am	Fifth @3:00 pm	Upper School Green Zone (Stem Lab)
Sixth @ 8:00 am	Sixth @ 3:15 pm	Upper School (Circle Red Zone)
Seventh @ 8:10 am	Seventh @ 3:15 pm	Upper School Yellow Zone (Hydrant)
Eighth @ 8:10 am	Eighth @3:30 pm	Upper School Green Zone (Stem Lab)

END