



Dear Parents of New Harding Academy Lower School Students,

Part of the excitement of beginning the school year is meeting new students and their families. I am eager to get to know your family and look forward to partnering with you in your child's educational journey. Mrs. Hubbard and I have been busy making plans, meeting with teachers, and getting ready for another wonderful year in the lower school. Before the 2023–24 school year begins, I wanted to share some important information with you.

### **School Schedule**

School hours are 8:15 a.m.–3:15 p.m. The ideal time for your child to arrive each morning is 8:00 a.m. This allows your child to get settled before academic studies begin at 8:15 a.m. Children are dismissed promptly at 3:15 p.m. On the afternoon of August 1, you will receive an email from your child's teacher with a map that details our school's dismissal plan. It is important to be on time to pick up your child at the end of the day.

We recognize that families have different and sometimes hectic schedules. For this reason, Before-school Lion Care is provided at no charge. Children may arrive at school as early as 7:00 a.m. After-school Lion Care is available 3:15–6:00 p.m. It is a fee-based service that provides supervision and activities like designated homework time and recess. More information about Lion Care can be found on the school website [here](#).

### **Lower School Meet and Greet**

We can't wait until the first day of school to see you! Your family is invited to attend the Lower School Meet and Greet on Friday, August 4, from 5:00–6:00 p.m. Stop in to meet your child's teacher, drop off school supplies, and pick up your CarRider Pro tags before the Back to School Bash begins at 5:30 p.m. We hope you will stick around to enjoy the pep rally at 7:00 p.m., too. It is a great time to meet people and show your Lion pride! More information about the Back to School Bash can be found on the school website [here](#).

### **Lower School Meet the Teacher Night**

We will have a Meet the Teacher Night on Tuesday, August 8. Beginning at 6:00 p.m., Mr. Williamson, Head of School, will be in the auditorium to host the first of two choices for a Mandatory Parent Meeting. At 6:30 p.m., parents will rotate through times with teachers. This is a parents-only event designed to allow you to get to know the adults who are blessed to work with your child each day. Your child's teacher will share plans, goals, and procedures for the year in a special classroom meeting. More detailed information is available on the school website [here](#).

### **School Supplies**

Each grade level has a unique supply list. Supply lists are available on the school website [here](#). There may be some additional supplies unique to your child's classroom that will be requested after the school year begins. Please bring your child's supplies to the Lower School Meet and Greet or on the first day of school.

### **Lunch Program**

Lexington Independent provides flexible meal options to our lower school students. Information about the lunch program, including online payment, pricing, and menu samples is available on the school website [here](#).

**Dress Code**

Harding Academy students follow the Harding uniform dress code for students in SK–grade 12. Check out the website [here](#) to learn more about dress code requirements. Harding partners with Dennis Uniform to provide uniform options for our students. New Harding Academy students should visit the Dennis Uniform store online or at 7846 Trinity Road in Cordova to get started on building their school wardrobes.

**Health Record and Birth Certificate**

The Tennessee State Department of Education requires each child to present a health record in order to attend school. The health record (provided by a pediatrician), the Harding Academy Health History form (available on the school website [here](#)), and a copy of the certified birth certificate (full form, not the mother's copy), must be submitted on or before the first day your child attends school.

**Digital Back-to-School Information**

For many years, we sent home a packet of papers to accompany this letter. All that information can now be found online. Please visit our website [here](#) to learn more about summer reading, supply lists, lunch services, health forms, calendars, Back to School Bash, Meet the Teacher Night, dress code guidelines, handbook access, and the handbook receipt form. Also, be on the lookout for an email from your child's new teacher on Tuesday, August 1, around 3:30 p.m.

I have also written a letter for our current families that has additional information about our plans for the 2023-24 school year. Please check it out [here](#). I pray that your family enjoys every minute of the rest of the summer. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. See you soon!

Sincerely,

*Lori Underwood*

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