



July 2023

Dear Harding Families,

My name is Ashley Lipe, and I am the new principal of the Upper School at Harding Academy. I've spent the last 13 years of my career leading, teaching, and supporting teachers and students. Though I've only been at Harding Academy a short time, it already feels like home to my family and me. I'm excited to begin this new journey and connect with all of our Harding families.

The beginning of the 2023-24 school year is just around the corner. We are so thankful that you have chosen to be part of our family, and we hope you and your students are anticipating a challenging and rewarding year.

We are blessed with several new faculty members this year: Mrs. Reagan Brown will be teaching middle and upper school science classes; Ms. Andrea Campbell will be leading the development of our entire vocal arts department as the Director of Vocal Performance; Mr. Brandon Thomas and Mrs. Maddie Reed are joining us as learning specialists as we continue to individualize instruction for our students; Ms. Taylor Montgomery will be teaching upper school history classes; Mrs. Lindsay Cloer will be teaching freshman English, and Mr. Brinton Eldridge will be teaching chemistry. We know God has great plans for these new teachers.

#### **A few reminders...**

**Back to School Bash.** All families are invited to the Back to School Bash on August 4 starting at 5:00 pm. We will have an open house from 5:00-6:00 so you can meet your teachers and walk your schedule. At 5:30 pm the bash will really kick off. Join us and eat from some of Memphis' best food trucks, purchase spirit wear, take pictures with friends in photo booths, and get pumped up with an all-school pep rally.

**First Day of School. Monday, August 7, is a required orientation day for students in grades 9–11 who are new to Harding.** Seniors will be on their annual retreat.

The first regular day of school for all students in grades 9–12 will be on Tuesday, August 8. It will be a B day.

**Meet the Teacher Night.** Mark your calendar for Meet the Teacher Night on Monday, August 21. This is a parents-only event designed to allow you to get to know the teachers

who are blessed to work with your child each day. We hope every student will have at least one parent in attendance. Mr. Williamson will open with a Family Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Please make plans to attend.

**Health records.** The state of Tennessee requires that every student have a complete health record on file with the school from the beginning of the year. If your student was in grades 8–11 at Harding Academy last year, we have what we need. You do not have to do anything. (Any exceptions will be communicated individually.)

If your student's health records are from another state (for example, if you live in Mississippi or have moved from Texas), you must take your student's health form to a Tennessee physician or to one of the Memphis & Shelby County Health Department locations and have the data transferred to a Tennessee form.

***The deadline for turning in health records is Friday, July 28, 2023. Beginning the first day of school, any child whose health records are not complete will not be allowed to attend classes.***

**Uniforms.** Students are expected to wear uniforms from the very first day. The guidelines are posted online [here](#). Please check to be sure uniform items still fit and are the appropriate length.

**Student Handbook.** In an effort to be as paperless as possible, we are posting the student handbook online again [here](#). We will not be sending printed copies home. Included on the website is a [handbook receipt](#) that you and your student are to sign and return to Mrs. Webb by Friday, August 25. You may scan and email your signed copy, if you prefer.

**iPads.** Please be reminded of the policy governing the apps that students may have on their school iPads. Students may download only those apps that are on the authorized list, viewable at [HardingLions.org/ApprovedApps](http://HardingLions.org/ApprovedApps). There are consequences for downloading unauthorized apps. See the technology handbook for details: [Harding Technology Handbook](#)

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

**I look forward to seeing all of you soon!**

Sincerely,

Ashley Lipe  
Upper School Principal