



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. Psalm 43:3 states, "Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me." Thank you in advance for partnering with us in prayer for this upcoming school year.

Before the 2024–25 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](#).

School Supplies/Summer Reading

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. Each grade level has a summer reading assignment available on the school website [here](#). Please complete the assignment and bring it school on the first day.

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 Tuesday, August 6, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Stop in to meet your child's teacher, drop off school supplies, and pick up your CarRider Pro tags before the first day of school. If you need a Bible or chair bag, those will be available for purchase (cash or check only) in the Lower School Office.

First Day of School - Lower School

The first day of school for all lower school students is Wednesday, August 7. From 7:00-8:00, students may come and drop off supplies at their classroom before heading to Morning Care. Don't forget to bring your summer reading assignment (available on the school website [here](#)). If you need a Bible or chair bag, those will be available for purchase (cash or check only) in the Lower School Office. There will even be a yard sign in front of the Lower School Office for a photo opportunity! We will say goodbye to parents and begin our day promptly at 8:15.

Lower School Meet the Teacher Night

Meet the Teacher Night is an important night for parents. It will be 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](#).

Lunch Program

Belltower is our new food service provider and will provide a la carte items to our lower school families to pre-order and pre-pay. An introductory email was sent recently via Communications. Be on the lookout for additional information about the lunch program on our website.

Dress Code

Harding Academy students follow the Harding uniform dress code for students in K–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. Please visit our website [here](#) to learn more. The immunization 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 teacher on Thursday, August 1, around 3:30 p.m.

Back to School Bash

We hope you will plan to enjoy celebrating with our larger school community at the Back to School Bash on Friday, August 9, beginning at 5:30. Come ready to cheer at the school-wide 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](#).

I have also written a letter for our returning families that has additional information about our plans for the 2024-25 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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Lower School Principal
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