



July 2024

Dear Harding Families,

The beginning of the 2024-25 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 committed to providing an enriching educational experience that supports both academic growth and personal development. Our dedicated staff is here to ensure that every student feels valued and empowered to achieve their best. Rooted in Christian values, we strive to nurture faith, character, and a love for God in all our students. Together, let's make this school year an unforgettable journey of learning, discovery, and spiritual growth.

We are blessed with several new faculty members this year: Mrs. Megan Bolling will be teaching AP Calculus AB and BC. Mrs. Asha Byrd ('16) will be teaching Geometry and supporting students in our Learning Lab. Mr. Matthew Floyd will be teaching drama and Bible, as well as directing our musical this year. Mr. John Frizzell ('12) will be teaching AP US History and American History. Mr. Ray Hayden will be teaching World History. Dr. Kevin Shelby will be teaching a Dual Enrollment Honors Psychology course through Harding University. Mr. Hunter Smoak will be teaching AP Chemistry and Chemistry. Mr. Reid Stafford ('10) will be teaching a ninth grade Bible class. We know God has great plans for these new teachers. We are also excited to welcome two school nurses to our staff this year. Mrs. Megan Bolling and Mrs. Ashley Frizzell ('05) will be serving as our K-12 nurses.

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

**First Day of School. Wednesday, 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 Thursday, August 8. It will be a B day.

**Back to School Bash.** All families are invited to the Back to School Bash on Friday, August 9 starting at 5:30 pm. 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 that begins at 7:00 pm.

**Meet the Teacher Night.** Mark your calendar for Meet the Teacher Night on Monday, August 19. 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. This year our school nurses are utilizing FACTS to maintain all medical and health records. Please check [here](#) for the instructions on how to enter and confirm this information in FACTS.

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.

*All medical forms and records must be submitted before school begins. 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. You and your student will also need to log into Final Forms and sign the handbook receipt form. If you do not have an account in Final Forms, you will need to set one up. Please go to [hardingacademymemphis-tn.finalforms.com](http://hardingacademymemphis-tn.finalforms.com) to set up your account. Click on New Account under the Parent logo. There is a video guide to help you. Once you have an account, please select your student's name to find the handbook receipt form. For any form in Final Forms that requires a parent and student signature, parents are required to sign before parents.

**Cell Phone Policy.** Beginning this school year, our middle and upper schools will be cell phone free. If you need a refresher on the details of the new cell phone policy, check out the FAQs [here](#). Students are expected to abide by the new cell phone policy on the first day of school. If you haven't filled out this [form](#) or picked up your student's Yondr pouch, please do so before school begins. You can pick up your pouch 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. on any of these dates: July 24–25, August 5–6.

**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.** We have recently changed food service providers in an effort to offer a better variety of options for our students. We are proud to announce our new partnership with Belltower, and you will be receiving an email with more information and instructions soon!

**Fobs.** Student fobs will be reissued during the first week of school. Students need to be sure to have a lanyard upon which to clip it so that their fobs are not lost. Replacement fobs are \$10.

**Parking Permits.** All student drivers should have a parking permit hang tag. If your student needs a parking permit, please contact [Mrs. Webb](#).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashley Lipe".

Ashley Lipe  
Upper School Principal