Merlin Messenger

Parent Newsletter - July 2024

I hope you are enjoying your summer! We are busy preparing for the upcoming school year. We can't wait to see our Merlins! The Merlin Messenger includes important information for the start of the year. Please read carefully.

Important: Student Transportation Information - Due by August 4

Lamar CISD has been named the first hypergrowth District in Texas, which requires significant planning to ensure our schools remain a great place to learn and our students get the best education available.

To enhance the services provided by our Transportation Department, we are asking all parents and guardians to complete a Transportation Form for each student, regardless of their mode of transportation to school. This includes bus riders, car riders, bike riders, and walkers. The form is available in Skyward and must be filled out for both current and new students.

It's especially important for bus riders to fill out the Transportation Form to ensure they have access to bus services at the beginning of the school year. To plan accordingly for your student, please review a list of important dates below:

- August 4: Deadline to submit the form for students who want to receive bus transportation on the first day of school (Monday, August 12).
- August 5 21: During this time, if families fill out the Transportation Form requesting bus
 transportation for a student, then the student will start receiving bus transportation on
 Monday, August 26.
- August 22 or after: During this time, if families fill out the Transportation Form requesting bus transportation for a student, then the student will start receiving bus transportation after five school days.



Important Student Transportation Information for 2024-2025 School Year

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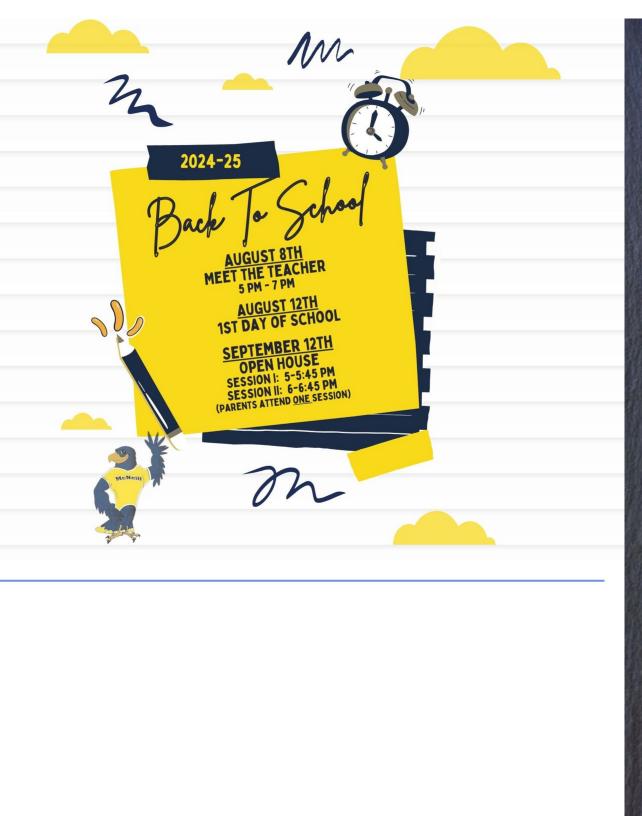
- Sunday, August 4: Deadline for submitting the Transportation Form to ensure bus services from the first day of school, Monday, August 12
- Monday, August 5-Wednesday, August 21: Families registering during this
 period will begin receiving bus services starting Monday, August 26.
- Thursday, August 22 or After: Families needing to change their transportation
 plans must contact their campus directly. Any changes will take effect after <u>five</u>
 school days.



For more information, please visit: www.LCISD.org/transportation.

Transportation Form Link

Save the Date





We are excited to see all our Merlins at Meet the Teacher on Thursday, August 8th. The event will be held from 5:00-7:00 pm. Please remember that Meet the Teacher is a come and go event. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, see their classroom, and drop off supplies. There will no parent conferences held during this time. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

2024-25 Beginning of Year Forms

For the 2024-25 school year, all required Lamar Consolidated ISD beginning-of-year forms must be completed online through the Skyward Family Access Center.

Online forms are available through the Family Access Center starting July 29th and all forms need to be submitted no later than Sept. 13th. Your student's schedule will not be available online through the Family Access Center until all of the beginning-of-year forms are completed for your student and after the campus has released schedules. Student schedules will be available online on Wednesday, Aug. 7th, if all online forms have been completed.

Instructions, important dates, a username/password reset button, and technical assistance regarding the online forms can be found by clicking the link below.

https://www.lcisd.org/students-parents/family-access/beginning-of-year-forms.

For those who need access to a computer or the Internet, computers will be available on campus Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. starting August 1, 2024.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact the school front office at 832-223-2800.



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YMCA Afterschool Program Information



Arrival

Our doors open at 7:15 am. Parents will be allowed to walk their children to class on the first day of school ONLY. Please park in designated parking spots or along the street. We are asking that parents not block other cars in preventing them from leaving. Please use the front doors when walking your child into the building on the first day. Bring your child's supplies if you did not do so at Meet the Teacher.

Students will be required to wear their student ID badges daily. They should wear them with their lanyards to school. Students will be issued new ID badges for the 24-25 school year. Replacement ID badges can be purchased for \$5 in the front office.

Please place a label on the front of your child's shirt with their name, grade level, and the teacher's name on it. This is especially helpful for Pre-K/K students who are hesitant to speak. We will have plenty of staff available to help students get to class.

<u>Car riders</u> – Our doors open at 7:15 am. Please do not drop your child off before this time. There is no adult supervision before 7:15 am. Drop off is at the back of the school. Please do not wait for 7:40 to drop off your child. The line will be long, and your child will be late to school.

Remember, everyone being dropped off must go through the carpool line after the first day of school. For everyone's safety, we are no longer allowing parents to park and walk students across the busy bus lane. Parents who attempt this will be asked to return to your car and enter the car rider line.

<u>Bus riders</u> – Everyone riding the bus must complete a Transportation form in Skyward.

<u>Walkers/Bike riders</u>- These students will walk/ride their bikes using the sidewalks in front of the school.

Students will go straight to their classrooms at 7:15 am on the first day of school ONLY unless they are eating breakfast.

After the first day, students will sit in their grade level hallways until they are released to go to class at 7:30 am.

PK – 5th students will be able to eat breakfast in the cafeteria daily until 7:30 am. Remember, student ID badges are also students' "lunch cards".

We recommend you using the online system, School Café, to add money to lunch accounts. The cafeteria will not provide change when students make cash transactions. The additional funds will be added to the student's lunch account.



Dismissal

IMPORTANT: Please be sure your child's teacher knows how your child will be getting home on the first day of school. We will be calling on the first day to confirm transportation. Please give us a number that someone will answer.

<u>Transportation changes</u>- Transportation changes <u>MUST</u> be made before 2:15 PM. Please call the office or send a note with your child to indicate a change for the way your child normally goes home. Transportation change notifications are delivered to the classrooms at 2:00pm. Therefore, we cannot accept changes after 2:15 pm. If you want to check your child out early for appointments, that must be done by 2:15 pm as well. We will not release students for early pick up after 2:00 pm. This information is in the LCISD Student Handbook. Please try and keep the way your child goes home as consistent as possible. This decreases the likelihood of a mistake occurring.

Bus-LCISD Transportation is highly recommended for all students who are eligible. The buses are the first mode of transportation to leave each day. The buses will load and leave early the first 3 days of school. Parents are advised to arrive at the bus stops early on these days. Give your child's bus a 15-minute window before and after the published time as drivers work to ensure everyone is accounted for and dropped off at the correct stop. PK and K students will only be released to an authorized adult listed in the My Stop App. Please bring your ID to the bus stop on the first day for verification. ID badges will be scanned each time your child gets on and off the bus, for lunch meals in the cafeteria, and in the library for checking out books.

<u>Daycare</u>- Daycare vans will line up behind LCISD Transportation. Students will be loaded in the daycare vans after the school buses have been loaded and have left. Please let your child's teacher know the name of the daycare your child will attend as well as the branch if it is a chain daycare, i.e. Kids R Kids Bella Terra.

<u>Car-</u>We anticipate a large number of car riders this year, so we are asking you to please be patient while we dismiss students safely. Please place your car rider tag on the passenger side dashboard, so that the person calling the names of the car riders can see it. The drop-off/pick-up line is at the back of the school right passed the playground.

<u>Walkers/Bikers</u> – They will be dismissed by grade level. PK/K students will be released to a parent/guardian only. Parents are not allowed to walk up to the school to meet your children. Please meet them at the edge of the front parking lot entry (for those who live in the direction of the park) and all others at the 4- way stop (Mason and Lakemont Bend). Please do not park your car in the street and wave for your child to run across traffic. This is very dangerous. If your child is a walker, you are saying that they are responsible enough to get home on their own without adult assistance. If you do not want your child to walk home without an adult, please make sure to communicate that with the teacher prior to the first day of school. If they have older/younger siblings that they will walk home with, please communicate that information to the teachers as well.

We know it might take a few days to develop a routine that works for your family. <u>It is very important that students' transportation is consistently set as soon as possible.</u>

HELPFUL DOCUMENTS



2024-2025-student-instructional-calendar.pdf

Download

188.3 KB



2024-25-school-supply-list.pdf

Download

163.0 KB

Dates to Remember

AUGUST

- August 3 Back to School Block Party @ Lamar HS (9 AM 12 PM)
- August 4 Transportation Forms due in Skyward
- August 8 Meet the Teacher (5 PM 7 PM)
- August 12 First Day of Instruction



McNeill Elementary

Email: jearine.jordan@lcisd.org

Website: https://www.lcisd.org/campuses/mcneill/home

Location: 7300 S. Mason Rd., Richmond, TX 77407

Phone: (832) 223-2800

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/McNeillMerlins



