

# **LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY**

*HOME OF THE WOLVES*

**2017-2018**



**Mrs. Traci Hemingway, Principal**

**10901 Russell Sampson Road**

**St. Johns, FL 32259**

**(904) 547-7900**

**fax (904)547-7905**

**[www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us)**

**Student Hours: 8:30 am-2:50 pm (1:50 W)**

**Office Hours: 7:30 am-3:30 pm**

**THIS STUDENT PLANNER BELONGS TO:**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Classroom/Homeroom Teacher\_\_\_\_\_

Grade\_\_\_\_\_

LPA is proud to be an AVID School. **AVID** stands for **Advancement Via Individual Determination**. In simple terms, this means **YOU** are the one that can make your dreams happen. At LPA you will learn how **YOU** can be in charge of your school success. Your future is up to you!

Students who are organized are able to learn better because they know where everything is. A lot of AVID is thinking & learning about how to stay on track for learning. Students will be learning about what it takes to be successful and practice those habits along the way. Many AVID activities also involve practice in reading and writing. Having strong reading and writing skills will be extremely important for any student who wants to be think about a career or college. Also, AVID is like a family, so students feel they have a community of support as they work on preparing for their future!

We are inspired by the potential the year holds for you. Our teachers and staff have worked hard to support your growth as healthy, productive citizens. It is our focus to prepare you to be caring contributors to the world. Remember to “Be Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Learn” and you will succeed.

Here’s to a great year where “the sun always shines at LPA”.

Go Wolves!

## MASTER CALENDAR

### 2017-2018 School Year

*(This calendar may change when state testing dates are released.)*

\***ALL Schools** will be dismissed **1 hour** early on

Dec 21, 2017 and May 24, 2018

Board Approved November 8, 2016

Wednesday August 2, 2017 Optional Teacher Planning Day

Thursday –Wednesday August 3-9 Teacher Pre-Planning

(August 3-Teacher Inservice Day)

**Thursday August 10, 2017 Students Report to Class**

Monday September 4, 2017 Labor Day- No School

Friday October 13, 2017 First Quarter Ends Monday

October 16, 2017 Teacher Planning Day-Student Holiday

Friday November 10, 2017 Veterans Day-No School

Wednesday - Friday November 22-24 Thanksgiving Break

Thursday December 21, 2017 Q2/First Semester Ends\*

Friday - Thursday Dec. 22, 2017-Jan. 4, 2018 Winter Break

Friday January 5, 2018 Teacher Planning Day-No Students

Monday January 8, 2018 Classes Resume for Students

Monday January 15, 2018 Martin Luther King Day- No School

Monday January 29, 2018 Teacher Inservice Day - Student Holiday

Monday February 19, 2018 Presidents Day-No School

Monday - Thursday February 26-March 1, 2018 FSA Writing

(Grades 4-10)

Thursday March 15, 2018 Third Quarter Ends

Friday March 16, 2018 Teacher Planning Day-Student Holiday

Monday-Friday March 26-30, 2018 Spring Break-

Student/Teacher Holiday

Monday April 2, 2018 Classes Resume for Students

Monday April 9-May 4, 2018 FSA Testing (Reading, Math & Science)

May 1-24, 2018 EOCs, AP, IB, District Exams

Thursday May 24, 2018 Last Day for Students\*Fourth Quarter Ends

Friday May 25, 2018 Last Day for Teachers - Teacher Planning Day

May - TBA Graduations (Schools/Locations TBD)

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to display academic integrity at all times. Students are required to do their own work, keep their eyes on their own work and not use any outside means to assist them. Electronic devices are never allowed out during exams. Plagiarism and cheating will result in zeros for assignments and tests. Discipline will be addressed in each situation.

### ACCIDENTS

Every accident occurring on school grounds or at any school-sponsored event will be reported to the supervising staff member/adult and to the front office immediately.

### ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL CHANGES

Please notify our office immediately if there is a change in your address, telephone number, email, or your emergency contact. This information is very important in case your child becomes ill or injured.

**Students will not be released to anyone who is not listed on the emergency information card.** If you would like a neighbor or friend to be eligible to pick up your child from school, please list them on your emergency contact card. Please make sure this information is updated whenever necessary.

### ATTENDANCE

The importance of regular attendance cannot be over emphasized. All students should be in school every day that they are physically able. It is extremely difficult to successfully keep up with class work if attendance is irregular. Students having 5 unexcused absences within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences within a 90 calendar-day period shall be reported to the principal/designee to secure and determine rationale for such absences. If a student is absent more than fifteen days, it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide a doctor's note. A student who is absent for ten (10) days or more during any grading period and does not make up the missed work will receive zeroes for missed work. Any incomplete grades will become failing grades if final exams are not taken or make-up work is not turned in to the teacher. Students who are suspended or have unexcused absences may make-up their classwork for 50% credit, tests and quizzes for 100% credit.

**Excused absences include:** Personal illness, family emergency, death in the family, religious holidays of the student's established religious

faith, required court or law agency appearances, public functions, state competitions, scheduled doctor or dentist appointments.

Unexcused absences include: shopping trips, pleasure trips, suspension from school, appointments without prior approval except in case of emergency.

**For a complete list of excused and unexcused absences, students and parents should refer to the *Student Code of Conduct*.**

### **Absences**

Parents must notify the school, in writing, within 24 hours of their child's absence. (An absence note template is available on our website under For Parents.) Based on district policy, any student that checks-out prior to 11:40am is considered absent for the entire day. Liberty Pines Academy has 6 hours and 20 minutes of academic time each day, making the 1/2 day mark fall at 11:40am. Students should always bring a note explaining their absence on the day they return to school. The note should include the child's name, the child's classroom or homeroom teacher's name, the date and an explanation of the absence, and a parent signature. Failure to bring in a note will result in an automatic unexcused absence. If your child is ill and absent for two days, contact the homeroom teacher to arrange for the school work your child has missed. Any student who is absent must make his/her own arrangements with the teacher to make up the missed work. Students with an extended illness may qualify for the Hospital Homebound program. For other extended absences, please notify the principal, in writing, prior to the absence. The Florida Standards Assessment dates are included in the Master Calendar. Please do not schedule vacations during the testing period.

### **Tardiness**

**School begins at 8:30 a.m.** Students are considered tardy when they are not in their classrooms ready to receive instruction at that time. Any student arriving at school after 8:30 a.m. must report to the front office desk to receive an admit slip before going to the classroom. Tardiness is disruptive to the learning environment and has a negative impact on student achievement. Studies have shown that students who are tardy have a higher risk of poor performance.

### **Tardy Consequences**

1. Students will receive 2 unexcused tardy per quarter without consequence. (Tardies will not accumulate beyond the current quarter.)

2. Excused tardies are granted only upon receipt of a note issued by a Professional Care Provider. Notes must be received on the day of the tardy or prior to noon the following day. (Notes may be faxed to 904-547-7905.)

3. Parent notes are not acceptable in determining an excused tardy.

4. Students will serve a lunch detention for each unexcused tardy beyond their second unexcused tardy per quarter in the ISS Room.

5. Students with 5 or more tardies per quarter will be required to meet with the Dean and his/her parent/guardian for a conference.

### **Procedures**

1. Parents must escort their child to the main office when tardy for school.

2. Students are considered tardy any time they are not in their classroom ready to learn at 8:30 a.m.

3. Parents will receive a notification via the School Messenger system when a student is tardy to school. Students will receive a tardy notice upon late entry.

4. Students will serve lunch detention within one week of their tardy date.

5. Parents will have until noon the following day to provide a Professional Health Care Provider note for an excused tardy.

### **Early Dismissal**

Parents must provide a written excuse for any student requiring early dismissal. The time and reason for leaving school should be included. Students will turn in the requests to their teacher in the morning and will stay in class until someone in the front office calls for them to be dismissed. Children will be released only to their parents or to individuals named on the Emergency Card. Early checkouts must be completed by 2:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and by 1:00pm on Wednesdays.

### **BACKPACKS**

Students may carry backpacks to and from Liberty Pines Academy. All backpacks must be kept in homerooms for K-4 students and in lockers for 5-8 students. Only string bags are allowed to be carried throughout the day. **A doctor's note is mandatory for any student requiring a rolling backpack.**

## **BIKE RULES**

Every bike rider must wear a helmet. This is the law. If you forget your helmet, you will call home for permission to walk your bike or ask a parent/guardian to drop off your helmet. Safety is a priority! Subsequent offences will lead to progressive discipline. Every rider must provide their own bike lock. The rack gate will remain open but individual bikes will be secured. Please make sure your shoes are tied, your helmet is on and your backpack is on your back before you take your bike out of the rack. All bikers are responsible for getting their own bike out of the bike rack. Parents/siblings please refrain from placing bikes outside of gate area. Ask the safety patrols for help if you need assistance. Walk your bike out of the rack, across the road and out the gate before boarding your bike. You must ride on the sidewalk, not on the road or grass. Watch out for walkers. Be patient and leave space between your bike and ones in front of you.

## **BIRTHDAYS and CELEBRATIONS**

Snacks/treats are allowed only with permission and under the direction of the classroom teacher (**critical due to medical complications caused from various food sources**). Shared treats are **not allowed** in the cafeteria. There must be enough snacks/treats available to serve each student within a given classroom who may wish to participate. Balloons, signs, banners, flowers or gifts are not permitted at school. If party invitations are handed out at school, every student in the class must receive one. Only Pre-packaged treats with food ingredient labels are approved.

## **BULLYING**

Bullying is prohibited. According to (*s. 1006.147 F.S.*) St. Johns County's Student Code of Conduct defines bullying as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. All cases of bullying should be reported immediately and will be handled in accordance with school district policy.

## **BUS REGULATIONS**

Students are given the privilege of using the transportation services of the St. Johns County School District. Standards of discipline must be maintained at all times, in order to satisfy safety requirements. Whenever a driver must direct his/her full attention away from the road,

danger exists. No student will be allowed to endanger the other students on the bus. Parents are not to board the bus at any time. A complete list of bus regulations is available in the **Student Code of Conduct**. Parent requests or complaints regarding bus service should be directed to the Transportation Department at (904) 547-7810.

District procedures are as follows:

- Board and leave the bus at assigned stop location.  
**\*Courtesy bus passes are not permitted\***
- Arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes prior to the bus stop time. The bus will not wait for those who are tardy.
- Stand at least 12 feet off the roadway while waiting for the bus.
- If you cross the road to board/disembark the bus, wait for the driver's crossing signal to cross the road. If you cross the road, walk 12 feet in front of bus.
- Remain seated at all times when the bus is moving.
- Keep arms and head inside windows. Do not throw objects from windows.
- Refrain from unnecessary conversation with the driver.
- Observe classroom conduct. Ordinary conversation is acceptable.
- Refrain from fighting, bullying, pushing and tripping while boarding, riding and leaving bus.
- Refrain from any abusive or profane language to other students or driver.
- Maintain silence at railroad crossings.
- Refrain from eating, drinking, chewing gum and using tobacco on bus.
- Refrain from using cell phones on bus. Refrain from using DC players, iPods or other musical devices, if directed by the driver.
- Refrain from bringing animals (dead or alive), glass or glass containers, sharp objects, balls, bats, cutting instruments, batons, drum sticks, skate boards and large objects (including band instruments) unless you have prior permission of the school administration and the driver.
- Refrain from bringing, applying or spraying perfume, cologne or aerosol items that could cause allergic reactions and breathing problems.
- Vandalism of school bus will not be tolerated.

- If the bus is equipped with lap belts, students must wear the lap belt while riding the bus.

**Discipline for students violating bus rules:**

Disruptive behavior and violation of the Code of Conduct on a school bus by a student are grounds for suspension of the student’s privilege of riding on a school bus, may be grounds for disciplinary action by the school and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed. In particular:

- The principal or the principal’s designee may suspend a student from the school bus for up to ten (10) days per occurrence for violating the standards of conduct for students riding the bus or other misconduct.
- The School Board may order suspension of bus privileges for a period between eleven (11) days and the balance of the school year.
- In addition to the suspension of bus privileges, students who violate the Code of Conduct while on a bus are subject to out-of-school suspension and other disciplinary action as authorized by this Code.

**CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Cell phones must be OFF and OUT OF SIGHT at all times. Cell phones must remain in the backpacks of students in grades K-4, and in the lockers of students in grades 5-8. Cell phones may NOT be on one’s person during school hours. Electronic devices (smart watches, iPods, etc.) are not allowed at school. LPA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones/electronic devices.

**Violations to this rule will result in the following consequences:**

1st offense: The administration will hold any personal electronic device for the day and return it to a parent/guardian at the end of the day.

2nd offense: The parent/guardian will be notified and asked to meet with an administrator/dean to discuss repeated misconduct. The personal electronic device will be returned to the parent/guardian.

Subsequent offenses require that a student surrender a phone during school hours and may result in in-school suspension.

**CHARACTER COUNTS!**

The St. Johns County School District, along with area businesses, youth organizations and civic groups, selected the national character

educational program of CHARACTER COUNTS! as a county-wide initiative to instill positive character traits in our young people. As adults, we are responsible for modeling appropriate behavior, which has been proved as the best way to teach character in others. Liberty Pines Academy provides character education based on core ethical values, in particular the Six Pillars of Character. These pillars are: TRUSTWORTHINESS, CARING, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, CITIZENSHIP, and FAIRNESS. Teachers identify students who exemplify monthly pillars and students are recognized quarterly as Leader of the Pack.

**CLINIC**

The clinic is for temporary first aid only. Students will be sent home if there is evidence of vomiting, diarrhea, or a temperature over 100 degrees. It is expected that students remain home for an un-medicated 24 hour symptom-free period, or as directed by a doctor’s note.

**Food Allergy Awareness-** Food allergies present increasing challenges for schools. Because of the life-threatening nature of these allergies and the increasing prevalence, LPA takes an active part in food allergy management at our school. We take every precaution when it comes to the health and safety of our students. Parents are asked to inform the school in writing of their child’s allergies prior to the start of school or immediately after diagnosis, provide medication and physician orders. Faculty and staff are educated in the procedures to identify and treat potential allergic reactions. Classrooms are food free locations so there are no worries about exposure during learning time. Non-food incentives are encouraged instead of food/treat incentives. Home room parents are informed of allergy status in the classroom and asked to plan accordingly. Sharing of food, lunches, and snacks are discouraged. Students with food allergies are offered allergy free seating in the cafetorium where they can sit with a friend of their choice as long as their lunch is also allergy friendly. Please contact the school nurse to discuss specific accommodations for your child.

**Pediculosis (LICE)** Pediculosis is a common communicable childhood disease. It is important to acknowledge head lice as a problem in every community. Our school district has adopted a NO Nit Policy as the public health standard intended to keep our students lice free, nit free, and in school. The NO Nit Policy encourages every family to do its part at home with routine screening, early detection, accurate identification, and thorough removal of nits and lice. If a student is

found to have lice or nits while at school, the parent/guardian will be informed and the student will need to be picked up from school. The process is kept confidential. The school asks that you treat your child thoroughly before returning to school. The student must be checked by the school nurse and found to be lice/nit free before they will be permitted to return to class. We encourage parents to inform close friends and family members so that all who have been in contact with the child are aware and can also follow the same procedures.

### **COMMUNICATION**

**Conferences-** Parent and teacher communication is vital to the success of your student. To contact a teacher or make an appointment, you may call the school to leave a message, send the teacher an e-mail, or send a note to the teacher with your child.

**E-Mail-** All staff at Liberty Pines Academy can be reached by e-mail, with a reply within 48 hours. For most staff: (example: John.Doe@stjohns.k12.fl.us). Check with your child's teacher for any exceptions or visit our website and select the appropriate link.

**Home Access Center-** This is a web-based application that allows parents to view their child's educational information. Parents will need to obtain their user name and password from the school. Instructions and further information can be retrieved from the district website [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us) under the heading For Families. Additional information can be found on our school's website under "Home Access Center (HAC)."

**School Closings-** Local radio and television stations will carry all school closing announcements due to inclement weather or other emergencies by 6:30 a.m. whenever possible. In addition, you can log on to the St. Johns County website ([www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)) to view announcements.

**Teacher Websites-** K-8 teachers share common grade level websites and communicate content-specific information via Schoology. Students will receive access information at the beginning of the school year.

**Visiting Classrooms-** Parents may visit classrooms **only** with the pre-arranged permission of the teachers. "Drop-ins" are not allowed. All visitors are required to sign in at the front office. For the safety of all students, parents and visitors are not allowed to go directly to any area in the building without permission. **Siblings are not permitted to accompany parents while visiting a classroom.** Because our staff has required duties and meetings, we are unable to accommodate parents

who do not have a scheduled appointment. We are unable to allow unannounced classroom visitations prior to the beginning of the school day. Parents may not walk students to their classrooms.

**Website-** Communication is the key to a successful school/home partnership. Our school website provides information about upcoming events: **[www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us)**

### **DAILY SCHEDULE**

8:10 a.m. Students report to designated area

8:30 a.m. Tardy bell & morning announcements

1:50 p.m. Dismissal on Wednesdays

2:50 p.m. Dismissal on Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.

Note: Parent pick-up students not picked up by 3:00 p.m. (2:00 p.m. Wed.), will be placed in our Extended Day Program. Parents will be responsible for a \$75.00 registration fee plus daily child-care fees. **The parent drop-off/pick-up area is located at the front of the school from the SOUTH parking lot only. Parents may not leave a car unattended in this area.**

Drivers are required to follow the instructions of the assistants in order to keep the pick-up line moving safely. **No students are allowed on campus prior to 8:10 a.m. unless they are registered for Extended Day services or have an appointment with a teacher.**

**Block Schedule-** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will follow a block schedule with one repeating class four days a week (skinny). Students will have 7 classes over a two day period.

### **DRESS CODE**

It is our expectation that the learning environment at Liberty Pines Academy remains focused on academic excellence. Dressing appropriately for school will help students remain focused on high achievement. Students should be proud of the way they dress. Cleanliness, good grooming, neatness and modesty are important standards of appearance. The administration has the discretion to determine what is appropriate and inappropriate any time during the school year. **Please review the dress code before planning a shopping trip for school clothes.**

- Leggings, J'eggings, tights and 100% spandex garments must be covered by an approved outer garment **that covers the area from the waist to four inches above the knee.**

- No sweatpants
- No sleeveless clothing or muscle shirts
- No tank tops, midriff, sheer or revealing clothing
- No clothes with holes, rips, tears or frays
- No dog collars or sunglasses
- No cleavage, strapless tops or strapless dresses
- No spaghetti strap tops or confederate flag apparel
- No underwear worn as outer apparel.
- No pajamas worn as clothing or breakaway sports clothing.
- No bandanas, gloves, or heavy chains.
- No flip-flops, house slippers or backless shoes.
- No steel-toed boots, platform shoes, or roller-skate shoes.
- No extreme make-up or hair styles (no shaved Mohawks, no numbers or letters may be shaved into the sides/back of heads).
- No unnatural hair color may be used to color or highlight.
- No facial piercing.
- No markings to include ink or marker.
- Belts, overall and suspender straps must be fastened and worn appropriately at all times.
- Shirts do not have to be tucked in, unless the shirt is determined to be a hazard or a distraction by the administration.
- Hats, caps, visors or other headgear worn to school may not be worn **in school**. These items must be placed in lockers/designated areas and may not be removed until students are dismissed to go home.
- No shirts with profanity or inappropriate slogans or advertising alcohol, drugs, sex, weapons, racial and/or ethnic slurs, sadistic or violent themes.
- No P.E. clothes worn to regular class.
- No rings with sharp points or rings that cover more than one finger.
- Students are not to write, apply glitter or place stickers on their bodies.
- All dresses, skirts, and shorts must be hemmed and worn no shorter than four inches above the knee.
- Pants must be appropriate length and not touch the floor.
- ALL pants must be worn on the waist.
- No pants with words or slogans printed on the seat.

- ANYTHING not mentioned above that is considered a distraction to the learning environment by the administration.

#### **Dress Code Violation Procedures:**

1. The parent will be asked to bring a change of clothing to school, if the students do not have an appropriate change of clothes.
2. Students will wait in the Responsibility Room until the appropriate change of clothing arrives.
3. If a parent is unavailable, a student will be sent to the Responsibility Room for the remainder of the day.

#### **Discipline Consequences:**

**1<sup>st</sup> offense:** Written notice sent home with student to be signed by parent and returned to administration the next day

**2<sup>nd</sup> offense:** 1 week lunch detention

**Subsequent offenses:** Parent conference required and in- school suspension.

#### **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Emergency drills will be conducted throughout the school year. We conduct monthly fire drills as required by the Florida Fire Prevention Code. We will also practice drills for the following scenarios: severe weather, bomb threat, lockdown, and shelter-in-place. Our severe weather drill relocates students to safer areas of our buildings. A bomb threat may require a building evacuation and/or an off-site evacuation. Our emergency off-site evacuation location is Creekside High School. A lockdown procedure is used to secure the campus from a potentially dangerous intruder or other threatening or hazardous condition. A shelter-in-place drill is a short-term solution to a short-term problem. This short-term measure is designed to use a facility and its indoor atmosphere to temporarily separate people from a hazardous outdoor environment. Our school district also requires bus evacuation drills for our bus riders. Safety is of the utmost importance.

#### **FIELD EXPERIENCE TRIPS**

Education experience trips are planned by grade levels and by certain organizations. Students with discipline referrals or suspensions may not be allowed to attend field trips or end of the year activities. Administration reserves the right to revoke field trip privileges and deny refunds (depending on field trip timeline).



No children, including siblings, relatives, or friends, may attend a field trip unless they are part of the group for whom the trip was arranged. Only parents and guardians of children for whom the trip was arranged may serve as chaperones and must be approved and cleared through a criminal record check.

### **FORGOTTEN MATERIALS**

After 8:30am, the front office will not accept or deliver forgotten homework, PE uniforms, band instruments, school supplies, or projects. Students are responsible for bringing these items to school. The only exception to the policy is a student's lunch/lunch money or glasses.

### **GRADING SCALE**

The Governor and Legislature of the State of Florida have set the following grading scale for all students in public schools in the state:

- A.....90-100%.....Outstanding Progress
- B.....80-89% .....Above Average Progress
- C.....70-79%.....Average Progress
- D.....60-69%.....Lowest Acceptable Progress
- F.....0-59%.....Unacceptable Progress

*Florida Statute requires schools to report to parents their child's Conduct Grade and whether the child is working on or below grade level in reading, math and writing in grades K-5.*

### **HEALTHY INITIATIVE**

Federal law requires every school district to have a local wellness policy. In keeping with the SJCS D healthy initiatives, birthday/celebration treats will be permitted but with limitations. All birthday/celebration treats must be approved by the teacher in advance for all students in grades K-8. All birthday/celebration treats will be served in the commons area or outside, as pre-arranged with the teacher. No birthday/celebration treats may be brought to the school without prior teacher notification. **NO birthday/celebration/shared treats will be permitted to be served in the cafeteria.** Food treats should be healthy and nutritious, and enough to share with all students who wish to participate. All teachers and the school health nurse are aware of individual student's needs and should be consulted regarding food allergies, diabetes, and other dietary restrictions/needs. Please see

the school/teachers/websites for healthy choices and links to more information on this topic.

Liberty Pines Healthy Initiative Plan provides students with healthy options in our lunchroom by providing fruits and vegetables. Cafeteria items are always baked and never fried. Cookies, ice cream, and other high sugar /high fat products are not available to students through the lunch program. For safety reasons, please do not send sodas or other drinks in glass containers. Please partner with us to instill and develop healthy habits in our children.

### **HELPFUL HINTS FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS**

All students in grades 3-8 will be issued a planner. This planner should come home every night. Check this assignment book.

\*Review papers and projects brought home. Help your student develop a timetable for projects.

\*Let your child know he/she is responsible for assignments.

\*Students should read and practice math facts every day.

### **HOMEWORK**

Students should expect to have an average of 10 minutes of homework per grade level (i.e., 7<sup>th</sup> grade: 70 minutes), in addition to reading and practicing math facts. Long-term assignments and projects may be assigned periodically.

### **ITEMS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL**

**Animals**- No animals should be brought to school.

**Aerosol Cans or Pump Sprays**- Students are not permitted to have aerosol cans or pump sprays at school to include those containing food or used for personal hygiene.

**Balloons**- Having balloons or flowers delivered or brought to school, for students, is not allowed.

**Bicycles**- **Students riding a bicycle to school must wear a helmet.** (s.316.2065 F.S.). Once on campus, bicycles must be walked, parked, and locked in the bike rack located near the bus loop. NO skate boards, roller blades, or scooters are permitted on the school grounds.

**Cards**- Playing or trading cards are not allowed at school.

**Chewing Gum**- Students may **NOT** chew gum at school.

**Personal Electronics Devices**- Smart watches, radios, tape recorders, CD players, MP3's, iPods, electronic toys, laser pointers, video games, beepers, cameras, TV's, head phones ( i.e., Beats) and hand held games are **NOT** to be brought to school.

**LPA is not responsible for any personal electronic devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged in the event that any device is brought to school.**

**\*\*\*NON-SCHOOL ISSUED CAMERAS OR RECORDING DEVICES ARE NOT PERMITTED\*\*\***

**Wheeled devices**- Skateboards, scooters, heeies, or roller blades may not be brought to school for any reason.

**Toys**- Toys should not be brought to school. Bringing a toy gun or any other toy weapon to school without the permission of the principal will result in suspension.

**Lost and Found**- Please check the "Lost and Found" area for lunch boxes and clothing. Articles such as glasses and jewelry, etc. will be placed in the front office. Unclaimed articles are periodically donated to organizations that support those in need. Please put your student's name in all clothing brought to school. Items with names will be returned to the students.

**Water Bottles**- Bottles brought onto campus must be clear. Steel, colored, or non-transparent bottles will be confiscated. While juices may be consumed in the cafeteria, only water may be brought into classrooms due to the rooms being carpeted. Energy drinks are never allowed on school campus, including before and after school.

### **LOCKS AND LOCKERS**

Lockers will be assigned at the beginning of the year to all middle grade (6-8) students. All students **must** use a combination lock(s) provided by LPA. A deposit of \$5.00 will cover PE, band, and homeroom lockers. Parents may ask for the deposit returned through a written request received by the school's bookkeeper no later than ten days prior to the last day of school. Only locks provided by LPA are permitted. Students are **REQUIRED** to use a school issued lock on homeroom, band, and PE lockers at **all** times. It is very important that students keep their locker combination confidential so locker contents are secure. If a student should misplace his/her lock, another lock will need to be replaced at the cost of \$10.00 per lock. In addition, backpacks are required to be placed in student lockers. We recommend that you do not leave valuables in your locker. These lockers are for your convenience, but are school property,

and the administration reserves the right to inspect the contents of a locker. Lost or stolen items will not be investigated if this procedure is not followed.

### **LUNCH**

Students may purchase a hot, balanced meal from the cafeteria daily, or they may bring lunch. All entrees can be made into a lunch as long as your student gets a fruit and/or vegetable. Milk is always included in a school lunch. There is no "a la carte" line. Breakfast is also available each day. Every student automatically has a lunch account. To set limits or alerts for allergies you must contact the Food Service Manager. Payments may be made with cash or check. Please write the student's given name and lunch number in the memo section of the check or on the envelope to ensure payment goes to the correct account. Credit card payments may be made through PayPams online at [www.paypams.com](http://www.paypams.com). We encourage parents to at least sign up so you can receive alerts when the account balance is low and to see purchases. Breakfast and lunch menus are on the café website along with prices and other helpful information. No student will be denied lunch. Please do not let your student's lunch account become overdrawn. Free/reduced lunch applications must be completed online. The application link is available on the district website.

### **MEDICATION**

If a child needs to take a prescribed medication during the school day, a parent or guardian must bring the original bottle of medication to the office and a medication authorization form must be completed and signed by both the parents/guardian AND a physician. This form must be completed for both prescription and non-prescription medication. This includes over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, cough syrup, cough drops and chapstick. **Neither prescription nor non-prescription medication are to be transported to and from school by students.** Please note: all medication must be picked up in the clinic by the last day of school; otherwise it will be destroyed.

### **NON-NEGOTIABLES**

LPA is an AVID school. AVID stands for **A**dvancement **V**ia **I**ndividual **D**etermination. This means that LPA students take responsibility for

their own learning. As such, LPA students have non-negotiable expectations for learning:

- All LPA students use an organizational tool
- All students track their learning progress
- Writing notebooks are kept for writing assignments
- Two column notes are used in 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade and Cornell Notes are taught in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Students follow writing non-negotiables as posted within each room
- MLA format is used in all middle grade subjects for research writing
- Students have a minimum of 4 common summative assessments in each content area in each quarter ( Grades 3-8) and a minimum of 6 classroom assessments each quarter
- All questions are identified by Costa's Levels of Thinking
- No extra credit or bonuses are given in classes
- LPA students may participate in assessment retakes if they meet retake criteria
- 70% is the highest score one can earn on a retake in grades 3-8
- Students should check their class Edmodo account for class information and updates
- LPA students demonstrate the pillars of character at all times

#### **PARENT/SIBLING VISITORS**

All parents/visitors must complete a School Access Form and be approved via KeepNTrack if they wish to volunteer in a classroom, participate in any class activities or eat in the lunchroom. **LPA Sibling Policy for siblings who do not attend LPA:** Parents may bring younger, non-school aged siblings to certain school events when invited. The event must be designated for parent visitors, (e.g. a school play). Siblings must remain in strollers or be held by the hand at all times. Parents will be required to complete a Sibling Agreement Form every time a sibling enters the school. Parents who are volunteering in a classroom or with an event may not bring siblings. Parents may not bring siblings on a school field trip. School administrators and classroom teachers have the right to refuse siblings at any time.

**Lunch with Students** All students are required to remain in assigned seating at lunch time. Parents/Guests may visit a student during lunch

if space allows. Guests may not displace students at their assigned tables.

**Photographs** PARENTS/VISITORS MAY ONLY TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS/RECORDINGS DURING PUBLISHED OPEN EVENTS.

#### **PE UNIFORMS (6-8 grade students only)**

Students in grades 6-8 will be required to purchase a PE uniform at the beginning of the school year. Uniforms from the previous year may be worn if they fit appropriately. PE uniforms are available as a shirt/short set or individual items. All middle school students enrolled in physical education classes will dress appropriately and participate in activities, unless they have a medical excuse. Excuses for a day's absence will be honored with a note from the parent, but if more than five days are missed, a doctor's excuse will be required.

#### **PUPIL DETENTION, SEARCH and SEIZURE**

Administration, teachers, or any other members of the staff are authorized to temporarily detain and question a student when circumstances indicate that such student has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a violation of law or a regulation of the school board.

1. If at any time reasonable suspicion arises that the student is unlawfully concealing any stolen or illegal property, an alcoholic beverage, illegal drugs, or any weapon as prohibited in these regulations, a member of the instructional staff may search for the presence of the items.
2. If a search of a student's locker or other property reveals stolen or illegal items as prohibited by law or school board regulations, such item or items may be seized and such action taken as provided by law or school board policy.

#### **REPORT CARDS AND INTERIMS**

Paper Report Cards are issued every nine weeks for students in grades K-5 and digital report cards are issued every 9 weeks through Home Access Center (HAC) for grades 6-8. HAC also includes a current grade average and quarterly average for students in grades 3-8. Interim reports are sent home at the midpoint of each nine week quarter for 1<sup>st</sup>

and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. Kindergarten and grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> students do not receive interim reports. Please check your child's K-5 reports, sign, and return.

### **SCHOOL MESSENGER**

School Messenger is a rapid phone notification system provided by our school district to communicate important or emergency information efficiently and rapidly to our parents. This system will be used primarily to provide accurate information to parents about scheduled events and any safety issues. We will also use the system to report absences.

### **SCHOOL PAY**

Parents can now pay several types of school fees online, including fees for field trips, lockers and planners. Go to the School Pay link on the LPA homepage. It is quick, easy and convenient. Note: Please continue to make payments for school lunches through PayPams.

### **SPIRIT WEAR**

The PTO will sell spirit wear t-shirts, other articles of clothing and various items to foster school spirit and generate funds for student materials and school activities. Grade levels may design t-shirts to be sold and worn on field trips and at other class/grade level activities.

### **TRANSPORTATION CHANGES**

Transportation changes (Bus, Parent Pick-Up, Extended Day, Etc.) must be received, in writing, by 10:00am. No courtesy bus rides will be allowed. A transportation note template is available on our website under For Parents.

### **VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS**

To visit this school, past the front desk, you must complete a School Access Form. Please go to the LPA website: [www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us) and click on **School Access Form**. Complete the application and submit it. Expect the clearance process to take up to four weeks. You may contact LPA to check the status of your application. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to visit/volunteer at LPA. Teachers determine and pre-approve volunteer duties within their classroom. **Parents may not bring siblings when volunteering.** Please do not access your cell phone while visiting/volunteering. It is the

**expectation that all visitors abide by the student dress code when visiting/volunteering at LPA.**

### **WALKERS**

Walkers must walk on the sidewalk. No running. Watch out for bikers that might be passing.

Please note that administration reserves the right to change information listed. Some information may be subject to substitution and revision due to certain circumstances and/or policy changes. All changes in this document will be immediately posted on the school's website: [www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us).

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