

Lanier Middle School

New PUPS Guide

Welcome to our Purple Pup family!



For Parents of Incoming Sixth Grade Students

Course Selection

All students will be enrolled in a total of eight classes, four core: Science, Math, Language and Literature and Individuals and Society. Those classes will be assigned. There are also four elective classes that students can pick: Arts, Design, Language Acquisition, and Physical and Health Education. Registration for those classes opens on May 23rd. Students will be asked to rank their choices by first, second, third choice. Every effort is made to accommodate the first choice. However, due to limits in class size, there are times the second and third options will be selected.

Student's First Day

Students and parents often have some anxiety when it comes to the first day of school. First, know that this is not our first, first day. We have been helping students get acclimated and figure things out for many years. Every adult in the building will be focused on making sure each child is supported, finds their way and has a successful introduction to middle school. Here are some things for you and your student to know:

- Students must arrive on time. The first bell rings at 8:20, students are tardy after 8:30. There is supervision at school starting at 7:45.
- Students must adhere to the dress code policy and should arrive in their school uniform.
- The first day of school will be a Purple Day.
- Do NOT send school supplies on the first day! Students only need a notebook, something to write with and a lunch / lunch is also provided in the cafeteria.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrival

- Doors open for students at 7:45am.
- Students may not enter the building without a pass before 7:45am.
- All walkers and car riders will enter at the front of the school and report to the auditorium.
- Bus riders will enter at the rear of the school and report directly to the cafeteria.
- Students are counted tardy after 8:30.
- All students MUST be dropped off on Woodhead Street.
- Drop off and pick up on the school side of the street only – MOVE QUICKLY.
- Walkers must use crosswalks.
- Once students arrive on campus they must remain on campus.
- PLEASE do not park in the parking lots of local businesses or in the teacher designated parking lots.

Dismissal

- Students are dismissed at 4:00pm.
- Car riders/walkers – exit Woodhead side of the building.
- Bus riders – report to cafeteria.

Student Laptop

Every Lanier student will be assigned an HISD laptop to be used at home and at school, for academic use only. Some laptop expectations are:

- Laptops should be brought to school fully charged each day. Leave your charger at home.
- Students should connect to home Wi-Fi; HISD filters will not apply for home use.
- All students are required to pay a \$25 insurance and reconditioning fee. School Pay must be used to pay this fee.
 - Covers the first instance of damage.
 - Does not cover the charger.

HISD Transportation

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

STANDARD EDUCATION - TWO-MILE STUDENTS

Students who are attending their zoned schools of attendance and who reside two or more miles (as measured along the shortest route that may be traveled on public roads) from their assigned campuses are eligible for transportation services at district-designated stops.

MAGNET PROGRAMS

Resident district students who are attending magnet programs on approved transfers and who reside two or more miles (as measured along the shortest route that may be traveled on public roads) from their assigned campuses are eligible for transportation services at district designated stops.

Please use the Google course selection form to indicate your transportation needs. A transportation request will be entered in Power School for all students who indicate they need transportation for the 23-24 school year. The HISD transportation department assigns routes and stops based on your home address in Power School. Stops are typically the closest middle school or elementary school to your home address. The HISD transportation department will send route and stop information via email or phone in August.

Cell Phone and Media

Students are allowed to bring their personal cell phones with them to school. There are some strict guidelines related to the use of phones throughout the day.

- Phones must be placed in student's backpacks and in lockers until dismissal.
- Any visible cell phones, not meeting the guidelines, will be taken, and kept in the principal's office.
- There is a \$15 fee assessed for any phone taken by school personnel. That fee **MUST** be paid by the parent through school pay.
- Students may retrieve their paid for phone from the principal's office at the end of the day.
- The school is not responsible for damage or loss of cell phones.
- Guidelines for headphones are the same as for cell phones.
- Students are not allowed to text or call during school hours. **Some of the worst offenders of this expectation are the parents. If you need to contact your student, please call the school and we will get them a message or bring them to the phone for you.**

Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker that includes a built-in combination. They will be given the combination to the lock and lots of support for learning and remembering how to use their locker. Sixth grade students often have stress related to their lockers. We are aware of this and are here to provide support as they become comfortable.

- The students' backpack and all belongings should be kept in the locker. Many of the classrooms are small and become overcrowded if students bring their backpacks.
- No food should be stored in the lockers overnight.
- Students should plan as to when they will go to their locker and what they need for classes. It is sometimes easier to bring the material for a couple of classes, rather than visit their locker after every class.

PUPS Class

PUPS class focuses on building community and relationships, learning and reinforcing International Baccalaureate principles as well as social and emotional learning. Classes are supervised by the assigned teacher and lessons presented by eighth grade leaders. Study Lab days are an opportunity for students to catch up on work and consult with teachers if they need extra support.

Clubs and Athletics

The best way to ensure your student has a good middle school experience is to encourage involvement. Lanier has amazing opportunities for students with varying interests and skill sets. The clubs list will change based on interest and availability of club sponsors. Any student can initiate a club. They only need to find a sponsor and contact the school social worker.

Additional Tips for Parents

- This is most definitely NOT the year to be "hands-off," even if your child has been a straight A student since Pre-K. There is a lot of change. Your child will have eight different teachers with different expectations and styles.
- Use the **student planner** to help your child create a system for keeping up with the expectations. Students will be given a planner with a calendar for each day. This is a great tool for organization and communication. It is recommended that you check it often.
- Monitor your child's organization regularly, including cleaning out the backpack.
- Don't wait until the end of the grading period to try and identify and complete missing assignments. Keeping up with the work will avoid crisis.
- Establish a nightly routine that includes checking the planner and doing homework.
- Check Power School at least twice a week.
- Stay in communication with teachers.
- Stay informed of Lanier happenings with the Purple Page and Lanier website www.houstonisd.org/lanier

Communications

We have multiple ways to communicate the needs of children and to report academic progress. These communication methods may include direct teacher or administrator emails, progress reports, report cards, Parent-Student Connect (PSC), teacher meetings, school-wide letters, and/or callouts. Teachers and administrators are expected to reply to emails within two school days.

School Messenger

The administration of Lanier Middle School may periodically send school-wide communication via School Messenger. This system uses the contact information in PowerSchool to text and/or email Lanier families with important information and announcements. Please make sure you keep your contact information (phone number and email address) up to date.

School Website

The Lanier Middle School website has helpful resources available for parents, students, and staff. The website has email addresses for all our teachers and staff. www.houstonisd.org/lanier

Purple Page

This parent-generated digital publication contains school community news, important events and celebrations. To receive the PTO's Purple Page, parents should join the mailing list by signing up on the Lanier PTO's website.

Cluster Newsletters

Every other week, cluster leaders send out a newsletter with information about grade-level and subject-specific updates.

Canvas

Canvas is HISD's learning platform. Students and parent should check Canvas regularly to stay up to date on assignments and identify any missing work.

Power School

Power School is HISD's platform for grades. Parents and students should check Power School regularly to keep up with grades. There is an ap for smart phones. Alerts can be set, notifying parents of missing or low grades.