

7th-12th Grade School Policies, Expectations, and Incentives

2021/22

Welcome and Welcome back LSA students!

To ensure accountability among our students and staff, we want to share with you the policies and expectations for the new school year. While we will still have some COVID protocols in place, we are excited to bring back some sense of normalcy to our days. We know everyone is somewhat anxious about returning to school, but we know we are about to have an amazing and positive year.

We know that LSA students strive for and are capable of mature and appropriate behavior. We also know you are human and will most likely make mistakes at some point.

Like in any situation, our actions have consequences. Should a student make a choice going beyond the boundaries we set, there will have to be accountability, as there is in life, but there will also be grace. Our main goal in setting boundaries is to foster relationships among students and staff by creating a safe space for all. We set high expectations for all students and promise to support you as you reach those expectations.

Below you will find guidelines for our middle school and high school student body.

Attendance - Parents should use our website or app to alert the office of absences or appointments. As a student, if you know you are going to miss school, it is your responsibility to let your teachers know and to also follow up after an absence to find out and makeup what you might have missed. Our teachers, on average, teach 100+ students each day. They are not responsible for keeping track of who might have missed their class.

Respect - Respect will be shown by and to all students, teachers, administrators, and staff. Students who make a choice to disrespect a teacher or administrator will be immediately sent home for the remainder of the school day. If you have an issue with a student or teacher, there are respectful ways to handle it. Come to the office and we will help.

Bullying - LSA has a zero-tolerance bullying policy. To report bullying, visit the office or email Mrs. Nolen: anolen@lsadecatur.net. During the summer, LSA also joined "Speak up for Safety" by Gaggle. This will allow students to report any unsafe behavior via google. More info to come!

Dress Code - Quarter 1 - Due to COVID-19 -Dress code will once again be relaxed.

One way LSA students honor themselves and their school is to abide by the dress code passed by the school board. No stretchy or super-tight-fitting pants/shorts. Shorts and skirts must be halfway to the knee. Shirts must have sleeves with no see-through material, cannot show midriff, and cannot be low-cut. Jackets and coats are not allowed in class. Students 7-12 may wear slides as long as they stay on the feet at all times. Clothing or accessories should not be political or controversial at any time. Students making the choice to wear non-dress code appropriate clothing will be sent home to change. The first consequence will be a documented warning. Each additional instance will require students to be sent to change, and they will

receive a detention. See the full dress code in our handbook for any other concerns. There can be no exceptions.

Masks - Due to COVID-19 - Masks are required at all times while inside of the building unless a teacher gives a mask break while within the classroom while all students are seated, facing the same direction, and spaced at least apart 6 feet. If a student is caught repeatedly not wearing or improperly wearing their mask, it will be treated as an insubordination/discipline issue.

Cell Phones - Cell phones are not allowed in class, lunchroom, chapel, in pockets, etc. They must be kept in lockers and can be checked during passing periods only. Students should not be in possession of their cell phone at any time during class periods. Students needing to contact parents should do so by getting a pass to the office. Students making the choice to carry cell phones or use them anytime other than passing periods will be required to forfeit the phone for the remainder of the day, and a detention will be issued.

Backpacks/Purses - One way students honor the safety of our school is not to bring backpacks or purses with straps into classrooms at any time. Students may carry their school-approved laptop or tablet in a protective case that is designated for the device but will not be allowed to carry purses or backpacks into classrooms or in the hallway unless approved for specific reasons.

Detentions - Should a student receive a detention, the student will report to the assigned room on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3:20-4:00 pm. Students will have one week to serve their detention. If unserved, another will be issued. Keep in mind that 5 detentions will result in an out-of-school suspension.

Tardies - It is very important to arrive at school and classes on time. When a student is late, it is disruptive not only to their learning but also to the education of others. Tardies are also a distraction to the teacher. Students will be given grace until the 7th tardy. LSA policy is that upon receiving the 7th tardy within a quarter, a 7th-12th grade student must serve a detention. Additional tardies accumulated in the amounts of 10, 13, 16, etc. will also result in more detentions. Further, a student who accumulates a total of 5 detentions for any reason in a quarter will serve an out of school suspension.

Hall Passes - Students who are granted permission to leave class for the restroom, office, or lab must have their planner with the hall pass signed by a teacher or staff member. Students must have their planners at all times when out of class. If a student is called to the office, they do not have to get a signature, but should still have their planner with them. Students may not visit the nurse without first going to the office unless it is an emergency. The office will issue a pass to the nurse. Students may only leave the classroom one student at a time.

Hallways - Our halls are shared 7th-12th. Please know that any behavior that is seen as unkind will be handled swiftly and appropriately. MS & HS students should at NO TIME be in the elementary hallways. Students should not pass the Bio/Art Lab hallway or the AG room at any time.

Honoring School Property - School and PE lockers must be clean, neat, and locked at all times. Restrooms, locker rooms, and common areas must be kept neat and clean as well. Items

left out will be removed to the lost & found or thrown away. Devices will be held in the office. Do not put anything that is not easily removable on the inside or outside of lockers. No stickers, etc.

Restrooms - The only restrooms that should be used by 7th & 8th graders are the bathrooms nearest the cafeteria. 9th -12th graders may only use the HS bathrooms. The Atrium, gym side, and locker room bathrooms are off-limits to students during the school day. Students may only enter the locker rooms when they have PE class or for practices. Students caught using the gym side or locker rooms during the school day will be given a detention. We have had vandalism, theft, and issues of inappropriateness in these areas and therefore that freedom is no longer available. This will be strictly enforced.

Food and drink brought in - Due to COVID-19 - the only food or drinks permitted into the building are a water bottle and those items inside of a lunchbox or lunch bag. No food items will be brought into the school other than a cold lunch. Visitors may not have lunch with their students until further notice. Treats are not permitted until further notice. Students may not keep any drink except for water in their school lockers. This rule will be strictly enforced.

Lunch - Students will sign up for lunch using the link on Google Classroom. This must be done by 9am. Students must eat lunch in the MPR. When the bell rings, report immediately to the cafeteria for hot lunch or to the MPR.

Leaving campus - Students may not leave campus without permission from the office and a parent. Once a student arrives in the morning, they may not exit the building unless given permission by the office.

School Day Schedule - The school day begins at 8:15 and ends at 3:15. Students should not arrive before **7:45 am** and **must enter through the HS entrance**. Students should plan to leave campus at the end of the day unless they are working with a teacher or staying for a sport. **The halls should be clear by 3:45pm** (unless students are working with a teacher or are with their coach). **Students who remain at school after 3:45 pm will be sent to ABC and parents will be charged a fee.**

Parking Lot - Please keep in mind that our lot will be very busy in the morning and afternoon. We will have small children and their parents in the lot during drop off and pick up times. High school students must enter and leave through the back entrance to Moundford. Everyone should be driving slowly and cautiously. Parents of small children will report erratic or fast driving. Do not rev your engines, do not peel out, drive too fast, and do not text and drive. Students who do not follow these safety guidelines will lose their privilege to drive and park at LSA. The safety of our students, families, and staff is crucial.

Homeroom/Prides - HS Homeroom will be used as a period of communication with your pride leader. At times, students may need to finish a test or get extra help from a teacher. Students must report to their pride classroom each day and remain there for the period. Recess/MS lunchroom teachers decide whether the recess will be indoor or outdoor on a given day.

Choices that could result in the consequence of a detention: dress code infractions, repeated mask infractions, cell phone, horseplay in class or halls, parking in an undesignated area, having drinks other than water in their locker during the school day, speeding/reckless driving on the property, not locking lockers, leaving the building without permission,

backpack/purse in class, talking in class, distracting others from learning, bringing food in class, using vending machines during the school day other than lunch, not honoring teachers or those around you, public displays of affection. This is not a comprehensive list, but merely examples.

Choices that could result in the consequence of a suspension: disrespect to a teacher, staff member, or administrator, bullying, cyber-bullying, inappropriate social media posts or messages, bullying, theft, skipping class/leaving campus without permission, excessive instances of unsafe driving on campus, being under the influence of or bringing to campus/selling anything involving drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vape oils or paraphernalia, or medications not stored with the nurse. Students can also be suspended for excessive choices of negative behavior where detentions were given as warnings.

Positive Behavior Incentives - Students who exhibit positive, compassionate, and honoring behaviors will be able to participate in our Incentive Days. These might include dodgeball tournaments, popcorn & movie afternoons, kickball, water-wars, etc. Students who choose to be late to class, wear non-dress code items, earn detentions or suspensions will not be able to participate in the upcoming incentive day but can earn the chance to be a part of the next.

Other items can be found in our Parent-Student Handbook and Academic Handbooks located on our website and app.

We are glad you are here. We pray for you. We care about you.

We want the absolute best for you.

Our job is to help each and every one of you become the best version of yourself.

Let us know if there is anything you need.

Give us your ideas.

Let your teachers help you if you need it.

Focus on the small moments! A kind word, a smile, help someone out.

Make a new friend. Restore a relationship with someone.

LSA faculty and staff are here to prepare students for a successful future.

We believe this will be our best year yet!