

Dear parents and guardians,

I know we are all anxiously anticipating the start of the school year. I'd like to say Thank you for your patience and flexibility since March. You've been supportive and I am fortunate to serve you, your children, the teachers, and staff. I miss seeing all of you. Please say hi to your children for me. As mentioned in my previous Insiders, information is released quite frequently. I wanted to update you on some recent information shared.

### **Current Information:**

- We will begin the first three weeks of school virtually.
- All teachers will be virtual teachers from **August 13th- September 7th** and then we're back to school on **September 8th**.
- Please note that once in-person learning starts on **September 8th**, we will have a new elementary bell schedule: **7:40 am - 2:55 pm**.
- Newly designed 100% "Virtual Empowered Learning" experience: District and campus staff have collaborated to research and develop a completely new design for virtual learning that incorporates feedback and input provided in survey responses from students, parents, and teachers. Essential components of the model include:
  - TEKS-aligned LISD curriculum, pacing, and assessments.
  - Consistent "school day" schedule and routines mirroring in-person teaching.
  - Substantial live "face-to-face" (synchronous) learning with teacher and classmates: Whole group, small group, individual conferences.
  - Independent activities, projects, practice, and assignments.
  - A numerical grading system (4th & 5th) aligned to "in-person" learning; skills-based reporting (K-3).
  - Facilitated by qualified teachers who have attended LISD Virtual Teaching Academy.
  - Utilization of learning management platforms that are user-friendly- streamlining log-in, access to resources, and submission of assignments.
- **Click here for sample schedules:** <https://sites.google.com/leanderisd.org/elementary-curriculum/home>
- In this setting, teachers will provide in-person instruction, learning resources, and support utilizing **SeeSaw (Prek-2) or Google Classroom (3-12)**.
- District-directed and campus-designed safety procedures will be implemented.
- Gr. Pre-K-5 students will follow a schedule like a traditional school year.
- We will have another device deployment for any student who needs a Chromebook/laptop for Virtual Empowered Learning. The date will be announced soon.
- Adjustments will be made to our Arrival and Dismissal procedures to ensure safety.
- There will be no After-School Enrichment programs in LISD elementary schools for Fall 2020.
- The YMCA program will continue taking care of children after school.
- Visitors will be limited and scheduled by appointment only once school starts. Most meetings (504, ARD, RTI, parent-teacher conferences) will be held virtually. Only

meetings with our nurse about medications or health issues will be honored, but parents will be screened for symptoms and must wear a facial covering while in the school.

- Leander ISD must follow guidelines provided by the Governor, the Texas Education Agency, and local county and city entities. Decisions are updated regularly. Leander ISD frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found here: [Launch to Learning FAQ](#)
- Leander ISD school board meetings can be found here: [LISD YouTube](#)
- Please continue to visit our webpage for up-to-date information.

**Back to School Events will be virtual:**

- **Tuesday, August 4th:** New Family Orientation 6:30 p.m. Zoom Link to be emailed to new families soon.
- **Monday, August 10th:** PreK Open House 5:00 p.m. Zoom link to be emailed by homeroom teachers soon.
- **Tuesday, August 11th Meet The Teacher:** This will be done virtually. Details to follow soon.

Respectfully,

Charlie