



# Lewisburg Elementary School

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[www.desotocountyschools.org/les](http://www.desotocountyschools.org/les)

Sherry Anderson, Principal

Jennifer Morrison, Assistant Principal

Dear Lewisburg Elementary Families,

We are very excited to start our 2020-2021 school year with your kiddos. They have all been greatly missed! As we prepare for the upcoming year, there are some events and plans we would like to share with you:

## Dates

**July 29<sup>th</sup>** -Fifth graders currently going into 6<sup>th</sup> grade may pick up their yearbooks at LES from 3:00-5:00 at the front of the building. Please remain in the car, and Mrs. Ready will deliver the yearbook to your car. Students returning to LES will be given their yearbooks on the first day of school. If you are not returning to LES, please contact the school to make other arrangements.

**August 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>** -Packets will be available for pickup starting at 8:00 am outside the front double doors. All parents will need to come by and pick up a packet on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 6<sup>th</sup>. The packet will contain important information and paperwork to be filled out and returned with students on the first day of school, Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Car rider tags will also be available in these packets which will be needed for pick up on the first day of school.

**August 10<sup>th</sup>**-Students return to school. Doors will open at 7:00a.m. Parents will not be parking or entering the school building at this time. If students need help carrying supplies, we will have staff members on duty to help. To help lessen the amount of supplies students are carrying, we ask that they bring in all Classroom daily supplies on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, and bring in all cleaning supplies and other extra supplies on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. This will lessen the amount of supplies the students will have to carry at one time. Please be prepared for longer dismissal times for the first two weeks. Bus riders may arrive home later in the afternoon than normal for the first few days.

\*Please Note-We will not be registering any students during take in on August 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have not registered before school starts on the 10<sup>th</sup>, you will be given a time to return for registration later in the day on the 10<sup>th</sup>. We will not be taking walk-ins that morning.\*

### **Important Information:**

\*We will NOT be having an in-person open house this year. Parents will be contacted via phone on August 6<sup>th</sup> by their 2020-2021 school year teacher by 3:00p.m. Teachers will also send out a welcome video to the parents of their new students via Powerschool and/or teacher websites welcoming their new kiddos and giving them a tour of the building.

If you do not receive a phone call by 3:00 on Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, please call the school as there may be additional registration requirements needed.

\*Breakfast will start being served on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Please plan accordingly as we will not serve breakfast the first two days of school. Breakfast will be free for all LES students who choose to eat this year. We encourage all students to take advantage of free breakfast! Lunch prices will remain the same. (\$2.50) We will not be allowing any lunch visitors into the building at this time. We will let you all know when we can open back up for visitors.

\*The faculty and staff at LES will be doing everything within their abilities to keep the transmission risks as low as possible. Social distancing and cleaning will be maintained and utilized to the greatest extent possible based on the feasibility of the space within the building and classrooms.

\*Classes will alternate days eating lunch in classrooms and cafeteria in order to safely social distance at lunch time. Students will spread out when eating lunch in the cafeteria.

\*Teachers will be rotating classrooms instead of students. Students will remain in the same seating chart within the classroom and lunch for 4 weeks at a time. There will be minimal movement inside the classroom to limit the spread of germs and viruses.

\*Only one class will be allowed on the playground at one time. Playground equipment will be sanitized after each class. There will be other designated areas for students to play during recess when it is not their assigned day on the playground.

\*PE and Computer activities will be held in the activity rooms. Other activities will take place in the classroom.

\*When students are in the hallway, they will practice social distancing as they walk in straight lines down the halls.

\*One class at a time will use the restrooms. Restrooms will be cleaned consistently throughout the day.

\*Students will not be utilizing cubbies or sharing supplies. Students will keep all of their belongings at their desks.

\*We recommend students bring a water bottle to school with them in order to limit the use of water fountains.

\*Dismissal in the afternoon will be done in waves to keep the number of students in the hallways at one time minimal. Bus dismissal will begin at 2:15. Car dismissal will begin at 2:25.

\*Please be mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate transmission risks within a school population. The goal is to keep transmission risks as low as possible. For the safety of your children, other students, staff, and extended family members, we are asking parents to please conduct a health check every morning on your children at home prior to sending them to school. If your child exhibits one or more of the following symptoms, please keep him/her at home and contact your healthcare provider: fever over 100 degrees, new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, body aches, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, unusual fatigue or irritability, stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, unusual rash, or unusual pink/red eyes not explained by allergies or injury. Seek immediate medical care if someone has any of the following emergency warning signs: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face. Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness and appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19. If ANY of the above symptoms are detected at school, your child will be isolated from other students, he/she will be provided a face mask, and we will contact you to pick up your child as soon as possible. These guidelines will be strictly enforced, so please provide several current, up-to-date phone numbers to your child's school.

\*The release of the DCS Return-To-Learn plan has caused many questions to be raised by parents and students. I wanted to let you know how this plan will affect LES, so you can start planning.

\*Many of the guidelines and suggestions that we are forced to consider before re-opening come from, MDE, MS Dept of Health, and the CDC.

\*These guidelines directly affect many of LES "Normal" Policies and Procedures drastically and we have to make things work the best we can while putting changes in place to protect our students' and teachers' safety.

\*All information is subject to change if new guidance is issued by government and/or health officials.

\*At Lewisburg, we completely understand that not every parent or student will be in favor of these temporary changes whether it be the safety/medical aspect, academic issues, limited extra-curricular, and/or the limited social contact that students will have.

\*Full-time distance learning (VIP) will be an option for students during the 2020-2021 school year. Virtual Instruction Program distance learning will allow students to remain enrolled in DeSoto County Schools while receiving teacher-facilitated online instruction.

Parents can register by completing the distance learning application on the DeSoto County Schools website, <https://www.desotocountyschools.org/distancelearning>, and questions about the application process can be answered by sending an email to [distancelearning@dcsms.org](mailto:distancelearning@dcsms.org)

- The application form must be completed by Wednesday, July 22nd.
- This is a tough decision and there is no right or wrong answer here. This is a personal decision each parent and student will have to make together.
- While LES intends to begin the school year with the traditional school model, all parents must be prepared for individual students or groups of students to be sent home for distance learning during the school year. Frequent changes could be made throughout the school year based on COVID-19 spread in our schools and community.
- Social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible at LES. Social distancing recommendations and safest practices will be in place and reminders will be posted throughout the building and students will be reminded of these daily over the intercom. We will post signage throughout the school regarding good hygiene practices, and district guidance regarding staying at home when sick.
- LES teachers and staff will reinforce procedures regarding daily health questions for students and follow guidelines for students and staff who are experiencing symptoms.
- LES teachers and staff will follow contact tracing instructions from local and state health agencies. We will isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces.

We are all looking forward to an amazing year with our LES Kiddos!!!

Much love,

Mrs. Anderson  
LES Principal