

Laing Middle School of Science & Technology  
2022-2023 Back to School Bulletin

**WELCOME BACK!**

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! Laing Middle School of Science & Technology is reinventing how to engage the middle school child. Our core beliefs about facilitating student innovation and problem solving skills, developing technologically literate students, learning to collaborate effectively, and displaying Laing PRIDE has led us to continued success. This includes being selected as the Number #1 STEM Middle School in the nation. The Laing community of students, teachers, and parents is second to none, and I am so grateful to be the principal of this fantastic school.

**Donald Kennedy**  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

**Joseph Williams, Ph. D**  
Executive Director of Middle School

**James Whitehair Jr.**  
Principal

**Laing Middle School of  
Science & Technology**

**2705 Bulrush Basket Lane  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466**

**FACT & FEE**

Class schedules and back-to-school information packets have been prepared and may be picked up during our Fact & Fee day on August 8th. Please report to the assigned location during the time listed below to begin the process. If you cannot come to your assigned time slot, you may come at the end of the day. Families with students in more than one grade level may choose one of the grade levels and bring all students at the same time to avoid repeated trips. Please report to the cafeteria entrances to begin the process and bring a copy of your online receipt. Tours of the building will not be able to occur on the 8<sup>th</sup>, but we will open the building on August 13<sup>th</sup> for a family walkthrough. If you are unable to attend the Fact & Fee day, you may stop by the school after August 8<sup>th</sup> to complete all of the necessary paperwork.

August 8<sup>th</sup>

8:00-11:00 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

11:00-2:00 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

2:00-4:00 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

4:00-6:00 All Grades- Open session if unable to attend during the day

**ITEMS TO BRING** Receipt of payment for student fee and Chromebook fee.

**On-line Option for Fee Payments**

For your convenience, our online fee payment system is available on the Laing website and may be used prior to schedule pick-up. Time will be saved by going online, selecting the items that you want, and paying for them before coming to school to pick-up schedules. The online fee payment system may be accessed from the school website <https://laingms.revtrak.net> and you may pay with debit or credit cards. I highly recommend using the online payment service in order to avoid long lines during Fact & Fee. Please remember to print out a copy of your payment receipt or have a copy of your receipt electronically when you come to

school. If you choose to wait and pay student fees at school, we will be able to accept cash or check. There are two fees (student fees and Chromebook fees) for the school year. The student fees are \$45 per student. Students on free/reduced lunch status may request a fee waiver. The Chromebook user fee for the coming year will be \$35 and required by all students taking home the device.

### **Parent Portal-Registration**

All parents/guardians are required to complete registration information for new and returning students. This can be accessed through your ParentPortal/PowerSchool account. The information required takes place of the back to school forms. Proof of residency is required as well. All information needs to be submitted prior to picking up schedules. We will have stations available for those that have not completed them prior to fact and fee. If you need access to your account please email [kim\\_holmes@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:kim_holmes@charleston.k12.sc.us). You will need to do this from a computer rather than the PowerSchool app.

### **6<sup>th</sup> grade Orientation**

I am happy to announce that Laing will be able to offer a 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation for students that will include bus transportation. The orientation will be held from 8:30-11:30 on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> to acclimate themselves to the building and their classes prior to school officially starting. First Student bus service will be providing transportation for our students. They will operate in the morning as scheduled during a normal school day. The schedule will be posted the week before school starts. Students may be picked up at their bus stop at the normal scheduled time in the morning, also buses will be picking students up from school at 11:30 and returning home accordingly. This is also an opportunity for students and parents to test the buses prior to 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students attending school. Students will report to the cafeteria to meet their teachers. Students will spend the morning getting to know their teachers and each other, tour the school, and learn about Laing expectations and procedures. Parents may bring their child to school and visit their Homeroom class but ask that it be only students from 8:30-11:30. ATTENDANCE IS NOT MANDATORY!

### **Walkthrough for families**

We will be opening up the building on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00 for students and parents to walk around on their own. This day will provide our families the opportunity to walk the building and find out where their child's classes are located. Teachers will not be in the building that day and as a result families will not have access to the classroom. Please do not bring school supplies. The walkthrough will be an informal process and parents/students can come at any time between 10:00-12:00.

### **Open House/Meet the teachers**

The annual open house where parents will have time to interact with the teachers will be held August 30<sup>th</sup> for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and September 1<sup>st</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. and provide parents the opportunity to spend 10-15

minutes with each teacher during the evening. Space is limited in the classrooms so we ask this event be attended only by parents.

### **First Day Information**

The official start of school for all grades will be Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. On August 17<sup>th</sup>, all students will report directly to their 1st period teacher. During that time, students will be given another copy of their schedule to utilize throughout the first day. Faculty and Staff will be spread throughout the building to assist students with finding their 1<sup>st</sup> period class.

### **Arrival and Dismissal**

In order to provide safety, security, and adequate supervision, students are not permitted to be on campus prior to 8:00 a.m. Students must exit the campus immediately after school unless they are under the direct supervision of a staff member. Car riders will need to be dropped off and picked up in front of the school. A diagram of the car rider line can be found in the student packet and on our website. Please follow the directional signs and procedures for arrival and dismissal. This is extremely important in order to maintain a safe, orderly, and productive flow of traffic. If a parent plans on parking in the parking lot when dropping off and/or picking up their child, they need to walk across the car rider line to pick up their child.

In the mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m., all students will report to their 1<sup>st</sup> period class. Any student that arrives after 8:30 must be signed in by an adult in the front reception area. Also, we are requesting parents not to pick up their children after school in the reception area between 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. If a student is to be picked up after 3:00 it will need to happen in the car line after the 3:30 dismissal.

### **Before School Program**

Laing offers a before school program for up to 40 students that register prior to school. The program costs \$3/day and is held daily from 7:30-8:00 in the media center. If you are interested in signing your child up for the program, information and a registration sheet can be found on the website or email [kim\\_holmes@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:kim_holmes@charleston.k12.sc.us).

### **Chromebooks**

All students will have the privilege of taking the Chromebook devices home each day. Students will have the ability to complete their work, check out reading materials and research on the Chromebook. A user agreement about the Chromebook can be found on our website in the student handbook. All students and parents must sign the technology agreement prior to using the devices. A \$35 user fee applies to all students and can be paid on-line or during the fact & fee event.

### **Lunch Options and Costs**

School breakfast and lunch will be served on the first day of school. Student lunches will cost between \$2.25-\$3.50 and breakfast will cost \$1.40. Students who might qualify for free or reduced lunch prices are encouraged to apply.

Applications are online. A paper copy can be provided if you are not able to complete it online. The reduced price for lunch is \$0.40 and for breakfast is \$0.30. Other food choices may include chicken wings, chicken sandwiches, pizza, soup, subs, and a salad bar. The cost of these food choices range from \$2.25-\$3.50. Parents may access meal account information and make payments at [www.LunchPrePay.com](http://www.LunchPrePay.com). Directions can be found on our website.

### **Student Dress Expectations**

Parents are asked to help ensure that their children follow the Laing Student Dress Code. Detailed information regarding the dress code may be found in the student agenda and on the Laing website. Students are expected to show Laing PRIDE by having their dress and appearance reflect the high expectations of our school.

### **State Regulations- Immunizations**

In accordance with South Carolina State Law, **all 7th grade students must have written proof of receiving the TDAP booster vaccine**. Please speak to your child's pediatrician or other health care providers about this vaccination. All vaccination paperwork must be turned into the school nurse prior to the start of school.

### **Communication**

During the year, a majority of my correspondence with parents will be through email, the Laing website, Laing Facebook, and our call-out system. If you have not received emails over the summer then we do not have your email in our student database. Please contact Kim Holmes at [Kim\\_Holmes@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:Kim_Holmes@charleston.k12.sc.us).

### **Volunteers**

We Need You!!! Before you can volunteer in any CCSD school, you must submit a Volunteer Application which you can find under the Community Tab at [www.ccsdschools.com](http://www.ccsdschools.com). Once you receive your approval to volunteer, simply bring a printed copy to Laing. Parent involvement and support are key components to our success at Laing. If you are able, please consider volunteering and getting involved in our school.

We are eagerly awaiting the beginning of a great school year! I cannot wait to meet our new students and see our returning students. Enjoy the final days of summer.

Sincerely,

James Whitehair Jr.  
Principal