



Lords Park Elementary Home of the Lions!

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Lords Park! As we embark on this journey together, I want to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to all our students, both new and returning.

We hope this summer has been filled with wonderful memories and relaxation, and now we are excited to have you back in our hallways and classrooms, ready to tackle new challenges and make the most of the learning opportunities.

At Lords Park, we believe every day is a chance to learn, grow and shine. Our dedicated teachers and staff are ready to support and inspire you, guiding you toward academic success.

As we begin the school year, I want to remind you of some important information.

- **First Day of School:** Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023. Our school hours are from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- **Back to School Event/Open House/Curriculum Night:**
 - New Student Orientation
 - Thursday, August 10, 2023, 5:00 pm
 - Kindergarten Meet and Greet
 - Thursday, August 10, 2023, 4:00 - 5:00 pm
 - Teacher/Parent Meet and Greet
 - Monday, August 14, 2023, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm
 - Curriculum Night
 - Thursday, August 24, 2023, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- **Classroom Assignments:** Teacher assignments will be available on Monday, Aug. 14, 2023, through the Infinite Campus [Registration Checklist](#).
- **Supplies:** We will provide school supplies for all Lords Park students. Families will just need to provide a backpack. Students will receive their supplies in their classrooms during the first week of school.
- **School meals:** Breakfast and lunch meals will be offered at no cost to all U-46 students. Monthly meal menus will be posted a few days before the first day of classes on the U-46 Food & Nutrition Services website at u-46.org/mealmenus.
- **Bus Routes:** Information on bus stops and schedules will be available for students who qualify for transportation services in the [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#) about a week before the first day of school. A bilingual Call Center will be available on Aug. 11 and Aug. 14 for parents/guardians who have questions or need help. The Call Center phone number and hours will be posted closer to the start of school on the Transportation website at u-46.org/transportation.

In the meantime, you'll want to make sure to download the Versatrans "My Stop" App to your phone. The My Stop app lets parents or guardians see, in real-time, the location of their child's school bus, which is especially helpful when there are weather or traffic delays. For step-by-step instructions on how to download the app to your smartphone, sign in, and navigate the app visit our My Stop webpage at u-46.org/mystopapp.

- **Student Drop off and Pick Up Procedure:** Our drop and pick up procedures can be found on school website, by clicking on [Arrival and Dismissal at Lords Park School](#)
- **School Calendar:** Visit u-46.org/calendar to find the official calendar for the 2023-24 school year, including important dates like winter recess, school holidays, and the last day of school (Tuesday, May 28, 2024, if no emergency days are used).
- **Stay Connected:** There are several easy ways to stay connected to Lords Park Elementary and School District U-46 -
 - You can always reach us via phone at 847-888-5360.
 - Regularly visit our school's website at u-46.org/LordsPark and the District's website at u-46.org. It is easy to navigate and works well on mobile phones, tablets, and computers.
 - Have any questions, comments, suggestions, or kudos for our staff? Send us a Let's Talk! at u-46.org/letstalk for a timely response.
 - Follow U-46 on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#) to get a variety of updates of what's going on in the District and its schools. For Lords Park, you can follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
 - Stay up to date with your student's school with [Infinite Campus](#). Check that your family contact information is up-to-date to make it easier for communication to flow between parents and teachers, school and District administrators.
- **Family Engagement:** At Lords Park, we firmly believe that parent and family engagement is essential in a child's educational journey. I invite you to represent our school in the U-46 Community Advisory Council. The group meets monthly and you can be our liaison by bringing back updates and sharing our school's needs. Let me know if you are interested in this pivotal role. You can find more information about CAC at u-46.org/cac. Additionally, we have many other ways you can be involved. We have monthly Parents and Teachers of Lords Park (PTO) meetings to discuss family involvement and parent leadership. You can find more information on their [Facebook](#) page.
- **Student Handbook and Code of Conduct:** During the registration process, you were asked to review the U-46 Student Handbook and the U-46 Code of Conduct. Please be sure to review these with your child before the beginning of the school year. These outline the expectations and guidelines for a safe and inclusive learning environment. Both are available at u-46.org/schoolguidelines.
- **After-School Care:** Join The Boys and Girls Club after-school enrichment program here at Lords Park Elementary! To register, please go to www.bgcclgin.org/apply or call 847-608-5017 to speak with an enrollment representative.

We love seeing our students every day at school, especially when we return from the summer. Please remember that it is extremely important that our students are in school and on time to class every day, right up until the end of the school day. Every day in school counts and helps build the foundation for your child's academic success. It is an essential opportunity for students to learn as well as collaborate with their peers on rigorous, standards-aligned tasks that require critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication. When your child is absent, they miss out on this collaboration.

Extended absences and/or vacations during the school year are discouraged and considered unexcused absences. The only approved vacation periods for U-46 occur during Thanksgiving and winter recess, spring break, and summer vacation.

I have no doubt that this school year will be filled with memorable experiences and achievements. Our teachers and staff are here to support you every step of the way. Thank you, as always, for your support and cooperation.

Here's to an incredible year at Lords Park Elementary!

Sincerely,

Mr. Noe Velazquez

Principal, Lords Park Elementary