

August 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians of Laurentian Elementary Students,

The Laurentian staff and I would like to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year! The wonderful, unique thing about working in a school, whether one is a student or staff, is that each school year brings a new beginning...a clean slate. Our goal is to have your child's slate marked with gains in knowledge, positive relationships, and happy memories.

Our Open House is scheduled for Thursday, August 29, 2024, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. We hope you and your child will be able to attend. This is a great opportunity for your child to meet their teacher and for you to ask any questions you may have about your child's daily routines and expectations for the school year. When you enter Laurentian Elementary, classroom lists will be posted in our commons area. If you cannot attend the Open House, please call the office at 218-735-6201 on Thursday, August 29th, between 9:30 am and 3:00 p.m. to find out who your child will have as a teacher.

Thank you in advance for completing and returning the necessary paperwork you will receive from your child's teacher. Be certain to complete and send in the paperwork for free and reduced lunch, even if your child never plans on eating lunch at school, as those completed forms have the potential to earn our school federal money. If you haven't heard yet, all students will receive one breakfast and one lunch free of charge, but it is still important to complete the free and reduced lunch forms for the potential federal money we may receive.

As we move into a new school year, here are a few reminders:

- The only door open during school hours is door #1. During the school year, if you need to drop off any items for your children, please drop them off in the office, and our staff will ensure the items get to your child.
- Please label ALL your child's belongings with their name. This includes lunch pails, jackets, shoes, boots, snow pants, backpacks, sweatshirts, water bottles, etc.
- **If your child, for any reason, will be absent from school, please call the attendance line at 218-735-6200.** Attendance is taken every school day by 9:00 AM. If your child is absent, and we haven't heard from you, a phone call home will be made. When you are calling the attendance line, please leave the following information:
  - Child's Name
  - Grade
  - Teacher's Name
  - Reason for absence
  - Length of absence (if known)
- Once a student has reached 10 cumulative excused/unexcused absences in a semester, all future absences will be coded as unexcused. We do have exempt absences from our attendance policy. For example, medical appointments are exempt from our attendance policy. If your child may miss more than 10 days in a semester, please provide a medical note for all medical appointments.

- After seven (7) unexcused absences, as required by MN laws governing Education Neglect, we are required to file a report with Social Services.
- Sandals and flip-flops are not safe and not allowed on the playground. Students should bring (or leave at school) sturdy shoes each day for recess and Physical Education.
- Please help your children choose appropriate attire. Keep in mind that the weather changes frequently in our area. Send a sweatshirt or jacket in the fall and spring and have them fully prepared to go outside in the winter. Students go outside unless there is inclement weather. Students will stay inside when temperatures are colder than -10° with the wind chill.
- It is VERY IMPORTANT to contact the office if your address or phone number changes during the school year.

Laurentian Elementary's school day begins at 8:05 AM and ends at 2:55 PM. **Students who are picked up after school will be dismissed at 2:45 PM.** Wednesday will continue to be an early dismissal day, with students being dismissed one hour earlier at 1:55 (students who ride the bus) and 1:45 (students who are picked up). Please refer to this map for pick up instructions.



Parents and Guardians may drop off their children between 7:30 am and 8:00 am at the designated area shown above. You may also pick up your children after school at 2:45 pm using the same area above. Please remain in your vehicle when dropping off or picking up your child and, whenever possible, have all children exit and enter your vehicle from the passenger side. **As vehicles leave, please move your vehicle forward.** We will have adult supervision present during these times to assist families during these transitions. **If you would like to walk your child to the building, or walk to the building to pick up your child, please use the designated areas marked in red. Please do not enter the building or wait on the stairs.**

Transportation schedules will be emailed to you at a later date. **If your transportation needs have changed since the 23-24 school year, please notify the office at 218-735-6201.**

School supply lists can be found on our website. Supply lists are also available in stores around the area. If you can't purchase supplies for your child, please contact the Laurentian Elementary office at 218-735-6201 or by email at [stacy.buatala@rrps.org](mailto:stacy.buatala@rrps.org). We are here to help!

I know that this will be a great year at Laurentian Elementary. We have fantastic teachers and great families. Keep in touch with your child's teachers and stay involved in their learning experience. If you get excited, then they will too!

Yours in education,

Angie Williams  
Laurentian Elementary Principal

**UPCOMING IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

- Open House: Thursday, August 29 from 3:30-5:30pm
- First Day of School: Tuesday, September 3
- School Pictures: Tuesday, October 8 / Retakes: Monday, November 4. Jostens will be taking our school pictures. You will receive more information regarding this change at a later date.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences: Tuesday, November 12 (3:30-6:30pm) and Thursday, November 14 (3:30-6:30pm)

**IMPORTANT LAURENTIAN AND DISTRICT DIRECT DIAL PHONE NUMBERS:**

- Stacy Buatala, Laurentian Secretary - 218-735-6201
- Attendance Line - 218-735-6200
- Katie Peterson, RN - 218-735-6206
- Angie Williams, Principal - 218-735-6202
- Tara Fierke, Counselor - 218-735-6204
- Kristine Miller, Student Support - 218-735-6211
- Bus Garage: 218-742-3919 or 218-742-3969