

Dear Parents,

Welcome to what I hope will be a wonderful new experience for your child! Our goal at Ledbetter Intermediate is to create an atmosphere of learning that encompasses the specific needs of this unique age group. Through our gender specific academic blocks and flexible grouping, we will strive to meet the needs of our entire student's growth both socially and academically. This guide will help you with the questions that are most commonly asked at the beginning of each school year. You will find some of our policies the same as the elementary schools however; some of our policies reflect our desire to make each student more independent and responsible for his/her own well being. We hope that you find this guide helpful, and if you have any further questions please e-mail me or call the office to clarify any concerns.

Life is good at Ledbetter Intermediate!

Julia Williams
Principal

How To Drop off your Students in the Morning

4th Grade

Students can be dropped off in the mornings at the front door of the main building beginning at 7:20 a.m.

5th Grade

Students can be dropped off in the mornings at the front door of the main (4th Grade) building beginning at 7:20 a.m.

If students are eating breakfast you may drop them off at the doors of the cafeteria in the circle drive beginning at 7:20 a.m.

Students will go to their halls after arriving or eating breakfast.

Students will need to obtain a tardy slip at the main office if they arrive after 8:00 a.m.

Where to Pick Up Your Student in the Afternoons

Car Riders will be dismissed at 2:55
Parents of 4th Grade Students will pick up in the
circle drive.

Parents of 5th Grade Students will pick up at the
front door of the main (North) Building. All
students need to be picked up by 3:10 p.m.

**PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF OR PICK UP IN
THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COOP
PARKING LOT.**

Please call the school before 2:30 p.m. if a
change is necessary in how your student will get
home. Please limit checking students out early.
Exceptions will be an occasional Dr.'s
appointment but the academic day will not end
until 2:50 and your student needs to be in class
until that time for optimal instruction. Frequent
check-outs will require a meeting with the
student's teacher, parent and the principal.

Students Transported by Bus

Bus Riders will be dismissed to go to the buses at 3:05 in the afternoons. Students who walk will be dismissed with car riders and are asked to leave the campus immediately to return home. Students will not be allowed to walk to the middle school to catch their bus. They must take a transfer bus if they are meeting another bus on the middle school campus. All of the buses arrive at the middle school at 3:15 and, due to traffic concerns, students need to be in a vehicle or on a bus.

School transportation is a privilege and any student that violates the rules of the bus driver or causes unnecessary distractions will be suspended or possibly ejected from the bus for the remainder of the school year. This is at the discretion of the principal and the transportation director.

Visitors or Volunteers

Teachers are responsible for contacting parents to help in their classrooms. If you have been contacted to volunteer or help, you must check in at the office and receive a visitor's sticker. If you need to speak to your student, you will check in and the office personnel will go and get your child. You may not go to the classroom unless directed by the teacher or the office personnel.

Lunch with your Student

If you wish to eat lunch with your student you may wait in the lobby until students go to the commons area. There is a specific table set aside for you and your student to enjoy lunch together.

You may purchase a school lunch or bring in lunch for your student. Please do not bring extra food for other students or allow them to eat what you have brought in.

Social Time

Students are given 20 minutes of social time before eating lunch. This is time for them to get some fresh air, enjoy friends or play sports. The students are encouraged to be active. In some instances football and basketball get too aggressive. The duty teacher is there to make sure that these activities are safe and fun for everyone. Students who do not follow these rules are asked to find another activity or be subject to being removed from the activity indefinitely. It is our desire to help students form relationships that are meaningful and long lasting. We want our students to problem solve in all areas of life. Negotiating these boundaries can be difficult at this age. We do everything we can to help them work through social issues and form strong bonds with their classmates. If weather does not permit students to go outside, the teacher will define the conditions for staying in the classroom and enjoying some free time. Students should always dress appropriately for the weather.

School Nurse

Our building does not have a full time nurse. If your child has run a fever or thrown up in the past 24 hours please keep them home from school. Your child's teacher will send students to the office who they feel need attention. Your child or the office personnel will call you if in question about whether your child needs to be picked up. Students who have thrown up or have a fever will be required to be picked up and do not need to return the next school day. We will have a nurse on call for emergencies.

Please call the school 266-1810 to leave a message in the mornings if your child is sick. We must keep track of excused and unexcused absences. Please refer to the student handbook for our tardy policy.

Students will be checked for head lice as needed. Any student that is found to have head lice will be sent home until they can provide proof that they have been treated.

Gender Specific Classrooms

Ledbetter Intermediate is determined to meet the needs of all students based on their academic and social levels. Because of this, we have incorporated time for gender specific learning to occur in each grade. Teachers are teaching boys and girls the same material with the same rigor. What is different is the method or the appropriate manner in which the instruction is delivered based on researched approaches that lend themselves to the specific genders. We encourage students to build relationships with both genders but, when it comes to academics, research has found that boys and girls learn in fundamentally different ways. Our staff has been trained to teach to the specific needs and will do so either by units or core academic subjects. Students will have a co-ed homeroom class that will be together in the mornings, during block times, during social time and at lunch. They will join their team teacher's students for academic learning times based on their gender. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and we think you will see the benefits as well. Closing the achievement gap between the genders is our goal.

Ledbetter Events

There are many events planned throughout the school year that allow students an opportunity to socialize with their classmates and build closer relationships with their parents. The first semester we will have a Father/ Son Fish Fry for 5th grade boys and a tailgate party for everyone during homecoming week. We will have a special Thanksgiving lunch for parents to enjoy with their students and, in December, we will have our Second Annual Father /Daughter Christmas Ball for 4th grade girls. The second semester we will have a Mother /Son Italian Feast for 4th grade boys and a Mother /Daughter Brunch for 5th grade girls. We hope that these events will allow students the opportunity to spend time with their parents in a meaningful way that will always be remembered.

Snack Shack

On Friday afternoons we will have our snack shack open. Students will only be allowed to spend \$1.00 on items that are \$.50. Once a month there will be popcorn sold instead of snacks during Fun Friday.

Spirit Day Shirts

In an effort to create a sense of pride and community among class members, we will collect \$7.00 at the beginning of the school year for spirit shirts. This will be a common shirt that all students will wear on Fridays and to special events. Students will be responsible for keeping up with them. Each Friday, the teachers will send their class spirit shirt percentages to the office. Quarterly prizes for the classes having the highest percentage will be awarded.

PTSA

This year Ledbetter Intermediate will have its very own Parent Teacher Student Association. We are so pleased to be able to include students in this process. As the school year begins, more information will be given about the events you can plan on during the year. Most of the meetings will be held before school in the library with light breakfast served to accommodate everyone.

Discipline Policy

The teachers in 4th and 5th grades will use the same discipline plan. This plan is called the strike system. Students who have more than three strikes will not participate in Fun Friday events. Teachers will go over these rules with the students the first day of school. Though we believe that social time is necessary to their overall social and emotional growth on rare occasions it will be necessary to have students miss their social time. If a decision to have a student miss this time exists it will be due to extreme behavior issues or missing assignments. Any behavior that is repeated or causes physical injury to another student will be sent to the office and parents will be called. It is our hope that we all learn from the circumstances surrounding good or bad decision making. We want our students to be problem solvers. As always we hold tight to the privacy laws concerning discussions of other students. Please see the discipline section of our student handbook for more on bullying and consequences of poor behavior.

Website

Please check our website on the Farmington Public School home page to receive current information. Your child's teacher will either communicate with you through emails or newsletters. We want to hear from you so don't hesitate to contact us anytime!