

**Woodlawn Middle School**  
**14939 Tiger Bend Road**  
**225-751-0436**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70817**  
**Website ~ [www.woodlawnmiddlebr.org](http://www.woodlawnmiddlebr.org)**



June 12, 2024

Dear Woodlawn Middle School Families,

My name is Raquel Metoyer Brown. I am the principal of Woodlawn Middle School. This will be my 19<sup>th</sup> year at Woodlawn and my 9<sup>th</sup> year as principal. I have been in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System for 27 years and in education for nearly 31. I am happy to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year. We are looking forward to working in partnership with you to ensure that your child grows intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically and creatively. We understand that in order for your child to reach their potential that it will take both home and school. This shared responsibility is essential to your child's success. Each year we have both challenges and opportunities. It is how we prepare for and meet both challenges and opportunities, that will define us. Students who develop grit and perseverance learn to overcome the challenges, setbacks, and obstacles that they will undoubtedly face at some point in their education. Your help in this development is vital. We ask that you support your child's learning by ensuring the following:

Students will:

1. Attend school daily and arrive on time, ready for the day's learning experience.
2. Completes all classwork and homework assignments given by the teachers.
3. Read at least 20 minutes daily to improve literacy skills.
4. Practices math skills daily at home to improve problem solving, reasoning, logic, and conceptual understanding.
5. Read over science or social studies notes daily at home.
6. Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life.
7. Inform you and teachers if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject.
8. Know that you expect him/her to succeed in school and are to prepare for career readiness or college.

Most students are still significantly behind in reading, math, science and social studies due to the pandemic. Even some students in magnet and great scholar classes read below grade level and perform below grade level in math. This means that students must grow more than a year each year to close the lingering gaps in skills and understanding since the pandemic. We use programs to help close these gaps and to prepare students to be successful in high school and beyond. In previous years students worked in DreamBox Math each day in math class. This will change. For the 2024-2025 school year students will work on Zearn in math class and will work in DreamBox Math at home. We will use Zearn to help accelerate students to work on grade level. Students will need to complete 3 lessons a week in Zearn and 3-5 lessons a week in DreamBox Math. The 3-5 lessons in DreamBox Math will need to be completed at home. Students will need to complete 3-4 articles in Achieve 3000 each week to improve their reading level and literacy skills. Students will work in Achieve 3000 in all of their core classes. Students must be able to master grade level standards, read on grade level and demonstrate competency in mathematical reasoning and problem solving. This will take consistent effort and will require both classwork and homework. Please help your child to set aside time to do homework each day. Having a set time is necessary and extremely beneficial. Homework is a time for them to reinforce what they have learned during the school day.

The administrative staff, teachers, and support staff of Woodlawn Middle School are getting ready for our 19<sup>th</sup> year! As we move forward, we will continue to help our students reach their full potential, both academically and socially. Please talk to your child about the importance of being kind and helping others. Reliable attendance at school is extremely important. All students are to be in their first block by 7:10 a.m. Students who are car riders are best dropped off by 6:50 a.m. As we increase academic rigor in reading, English, math, science and social studies, it is essential that students come to school ready and prepared to learn. This necessitates that students get enough rest each evening and that they complete their assignments.

Students will continue to use Tier 1 Resources in all core content areas. The Tier 1 materials are aligned with the state content standards. Tier 1 materials exemplify high quality. We will continue to use Eureka in math and My Perspectives in English Language Arts. It is vital that all students have the skills necessary to achieve and excel in high school and beyond. Middle school is an extremely important bridge to high school. As students reach their potential, we are very confident that the School Performance Score will also improve as a result. Parents, we will need your help. It is of the utmost importance that you ensure that your child comes to school daily, on time, and is prepared with school supplies and completed homework. It is equally important that you encourage your child to be an integral part of their lessons by participating in class and by helping to ensure your child is completing assignments and homework each and every day. Parents and guardians need to be involved by helping their child with these requirements, by monitoring their progress through the use of the student planner, checking student progress center for grades and checking Google Classroom to view assignments. Parents we will need your help. Woodlawn Middle School, in partnership with students and parents, will reach the school wide goals!

### **Expectations for Students**

- Students will come to school every day ready to learn.

- Students will be on time for class.
- Students will believe in their ability to succeed. (Work to have a Growth Mindset)
- Students will take personal responsibility for their own learning.
- Students will work to the best of their ability at all times.
- Students will show determination and grit and not give up on themselves.
- Students will live the Five Core Values of Woodlawn Middle School. (Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Sacrifice, and Perseverance)

Our expectations are high for each of our students. There are also high expectations for administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals and office staff to provide a quality education in all aspects of our students' lives. Children learn by example. We believe that, "Excellence is never an accident!"

### **Student Academic Goals**

- Students will score Mastery or Advanced or meet their Growth to Mastery Target on the LEAP test.
- Students will grow at least one to two reading levels each school year.
- Students will give their best effort at all times and complete assigned tasks on time.
- Students will develop effective study habits.
- Students will ask for help when needed.
- Students will participate in class discussion.

### **School Academic Goals**

- Improve the School Performance Score
- Increase the number of students scoring Mastery or Advanced on the LEAP 2025 test
- Increase the number of students meeting their growth to Mastery target
- Create and maintain an environment of academic excellence
- Reduce the number of students scoring Approaching Basic on the LEAP 2025 test
- Reduce the number of students scoring Unsatisfactory on the LEAP 2025 test
- Increase the number of students scoring proficient on the ELPT test
- Increase the number of students meeting or exceeding their growth targets on the ELPT Test.
- Demonstrate steady progress on Benchmark Assessments
- Increase academic achievement in all subgroups, especially the ELL subgroup and the students with disabilities subgroup.

### **Student Behavior Goals**

- Students will demonstrate respect for people and property.
- Students will treat each other with kindness.
- Students will only touch other people's property with permission.
- Students will take personal responsibility for their words and actions.

- Students will make good choices. (Improve decision making)

### **School Behavior Goals**

- Work to consistently improve Restorative Practices
- The consistent implementation of the five core values. (Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Sacrifice and Perseverance)
- Increase acts of kindness from student to student, teacher to student and student to teacher
- Reduce the number of suspensions
- Reduce the number of expulsions
- Provide a safe environment that fosters positive character and accountability.
- Follow PBIS with fidelity. (Recognize and reward positive behavior.)

### **Student Attendance Goals**

- Be on time daily for school. (Significantly reduce the number of times checked in late by parent or guardian to 5 or less times for the school year.)
- Be present 94% or more for school days.
- Miss 5 or less days in a semester.
- Attend the entire school day. (Significantly reduce the number of times being checked out by parent or guardian to 5 or less times for the school year.)
- Reduce the number of times for being tardy to class.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter!

Sincerely,

Raquel Metoyer Brown

**Orientation will take place July 23<sup>rd</sup> for 6<sup>th</sup> graders from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Orientation will take place July 25<sup>th</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup> grade from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and for 8<sup>th</sup> graders from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**



June 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> - School Leadership Institute for Administrators  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation  
July 25<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation  
July 30<sup>th</sup> - New Teacher Orientation  
August 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Teacher In-Service  
August 8<sup>th</sup> - First Day of School for Students  
August 29<sup>th</sup> - Open House  
September 2<sup>nd</sup> Labor Day  
September 18<sup>th</sup> - Early Dismissal  
October 10<sup>th</sup> - Professional Development  
October 11<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> - Fall Break  
November 5<sup>th</sup> – Presidential Election  
November 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Holiday  
December 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Exams  
December 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal  
December 23<sup>rd</sup> – January 2<sup>nd</sup> - Winter Break  
January 3<sup>rd</sup> Teacher In-Service

January 6<sup>th</sup> - Students & Support Staff Return to School  
January 20<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday  
February 19<sup>th</sup> - District Professional Development  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> - Mardi Gras Holiday  
April 18<sup>th</sup> – April 25<sup>th</sup> – Spring Break  
April LEAP Assessment  
May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup> - Final Exams  
May 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> - Early Dismissal  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Last Day for Students  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Last Day for Teachers