

Dear Lower School Parents,

July 2025

It brings us great joy and excitement to begin another year of learning, growth, and success together. We hope this letter finds you well as we get ready to start the 2025-2026 school year. Thank you once again for entrusting us with the privilege of shaping your child's future. We recognize the significant role you play in their education and are committed to working hand in hand with you to provide a safe and nurturing environment that fosters all aspects of your child's development.

We look forward to reconnecting with familiar faces and welcoming new members to our Walden community. The dedicated staff at Walden has been working tirelessly to finalize classes and schedules, engage in professional learning opportunities, strengthen instructional practices, and update class routines and expectations to foster academic success.

As we embark on this year together, we remain committed to ensuring that Walden provides a learning environment with rich experiences that enhance the intellectual, social, and emotional development of each and every child. We will work diligently to ensure that our students enjoy many academic successes while also instilling in them a sense of motivation and purpose.

We are excited to announce Mrs. Bowles as the new K-6 Literacy Director. We welcome back Mrs. Bledsoe and Mrs. Camp. Mrs. Bledsoe will be joining Mrs. Exeler in 3rd grade. Mrs. Camp will be collaborating with Mrs. Montgomery in 4th grade. Mr. Kessinger will be our new 1st grade teacher, and Mrs. Feller (formerly Smith) will be teaching kindergarten. [Click here to learn more.](#)

We look forward to seeing our kindergarteners and new 1st-4th-grade parents/guardians at our orientation session on **August 4th at 6:00pm**. The "Meet your Desk" event on **August 5th from 4pm-6pm** will offer parents and students the opportunity to meet teachers, see old friends, and make new ones! During this time, you can also **bring in students' supplies**. We are eager to begin the 2025-2026 school year!

***For the "Meet your Desk" event, kindergarteners should arrive at 3:30 pm and enter through Ms. Kunkel's door. Her door will be marked with a butterfly flag.**

K-4 Class Lists and Schedules will be sent out the week of July 28th.

We look forward to an amazing year ahead and to partnering with you every step of the way.

Warm regards,

Kelly Von Busch
Director of K-6th-Grade

Save the Dates:

August	2	WPA-Sponsored Popsicle Parties (K-2 @9am) & (3-4 @10:30am)
August	4	Kindergarten & New LS Student Orientation 6:00pm
August	4	5th, 7th, & New MS Student Orientation 7:00pm
August	5	WPA-Sponsored K-12 Meet Your Desk 4-6pm
August	7	First Day of School
August	7	Boo Hoo Breakfast for K & 12th Grade Parents 7:30-9:00am
August	TBD	Grandparents Club Meet & Greet 6-7:00pm
August	12	Band Instrument intro at 5:30 5th and New 6th-8th band students
August	14	New Family Dinner 5-6pm
August	14	MS (Grades 5-8) Parent Information Night 6-8:00pm
August	14	HS (Grades 9-12) Parent Information Night 6-8:00pm
August	18	K-12 Picture Day
August	22-24	WPA-Sponsored Walden Camp Out
August	28	LS (Grades K-4) Parent Information Night 6:00pm
September	1	Labor Day - No Classes
September	18	Give for Good Louisville
September	20	Golden Jubilee: 50th Anniversary Celebration 4:00-8:00pm
Sept-Oct	29-3	Fall Break

Master School Calendar

- [2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

Housekeeping Details - Demographic, medical, and family information

All families and students (both new and returning) will need to log into the new FACTS Family portal to **update** their demographic, medical, and family information in preparation for the 2025-26 school year. If you do not have a family portal account yet, please see [these instructions](#) on setting that up and accessing it.

Lower School Reading and MSummer Reading & Math — Walden Schoolath Resources**Walden Lower School Student Supply Lists****Headphones or Earbuds needed:**

All students will need to bring their headphones that can stay at school. The headphones will be used for “Listening to Reading” during Daily 5. We recommend that kindergarteners use headphones instead of earbuds.

Walden Technology Resource Page

You will need to complete the documents for each student that you have here at Walden. **These documents need to be filled out before you come to Walden to get your students' devices in the first week of August.** Sign-up times for device pickup will be going out in communication at the end of July. If you have any questions, please contact our Technology & Innovations Manager, Lee Cochran, at lcochran@walden-school.org

Lower School Student Support Services

Literacy Support

Mrs. Bowles, K-6 Director of Literacy, will assess all 1st grade students and 2-4th grade new students. Mrs. Bowles will contact all families who have a child or children that will be receiving any of our literacy support services. Mrs. Bowles and the family will work together to discuss the Student Support Plan. Feel free to reach out to Mrs. Bowles with any questions or concerns. cbowles@walden-school.org

Math Support

Mrs. Kellie Vogt, K-6th Grade Math Interventionist, will be assessing all 1st graders and new K-4th grade students to determine who might benefit from additional math support. Mrs. Vogt will be in touch to discuss any concerns, but feel free to reach out to discuss your child's math assessment with Mrs. Vogt at kvogt@walden-school.org.

Arrival and dismissal

Carpool Arrival

Kindergarten - 4th-grade students may be dropped off starting at 7:30 AM at the front carpool lane (Front Porch). It is recommended that students be dropped off by 7:50 AM daily to be ready to start promptly at 8:00 AM. Students who arrive in their classrooms after 8:00 will be considered tardy. Your child's success in school is enhanced by consistent on-time attendance. Being on time to school is a critical component of school success; students who begin the day rushed lose important instructional time and tend to feel a step behind for the remainder of the day.

Carpool Dismissal

Lower School afternoon carpool lasts from 2:45-3:00 PM. Monday-Thursday, and 12:45-1:00 PM on Friday. We will use the same carpool system that we used last year. All K-4 cars will remain in the right lane of the carpool circle. Students will exit the grade-level classroom door that faces the carpool circle. Please refrain from going around cars unless a faculty member directs you. Students who have not been picked up when the carpool ends will be escorted to the Stay & Play after school program. This will result in a registration fee and a daily fee being charged to FACTS.

Handbook Policies

A document will be uploaded to your FACTS account under 'webforms' to sign that you have read the handbook for the 2025-26 school year. If you cannot locate the document, please contact Mr. Cochran lcochran@walden-school.org. Please sign the document by August 15th.

We look forward to a successful school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelly Von Busch at kvonbusch@walden-school.org).