



2026-27 Primary Academy Family FAQ (Grades K-1)

#	Question	Answer
1	What time does my scholar get dropped off on Monday-Friday?	7:25-8:00 AM with staff supervision available. After 8 am, scholars must be walked in with an adult. Scholars are considered tardy at 8:05 am and must be signed in by an adult. We only allow 5 late arrivals under our attendance policy.
2	What time is scholar pick up on Monday-Thursday?	The expectation is that scholars are picked up between 3:10-3:30 pm. Any pickups after 3:40 pm are considered a late pickup. If a scholar is picked up late more than 3 times, the family may be called in for a conference and the scholar will be placed on an attendance plan.
3	What time do scholars get dismissed on Friday?	11:40 AM -12:10 PM Scholars are late dismissal at 12:11 PM. Scholars with excessive late pick ups will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by school administration. Scholars can have no more than 5 parent note excused absences.
4	Will there be an early release cut off time at the Primary Academy?	If you plan to pick up your scholar early from school you must get them before 2:15. For the safety of our scholars, and to ensure a smooth transition to dismissal, no scholar will be dismissed after 2:15. We only allow 5 early sign outs.
5	What is the educational model?	For the purposes of consistency across campuses, every scholar begins their day with a 30 minute Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lesson. For literacy, we believe in an approach that is based on the science of reading that infuses foundational literacy practices, reading comprehension, and volume of reading. To accomplish our vision, we use the knowledge building curriculum HMH Into Reading and Writing Program, Daily Small Group Phonics/Reading Lessons, Phonemic Awareness Instruction, Independent Reading time, Modeled writing, and computer-based programs (RAZ Kids, IXL, Epic Books, etc.) For math, we believe excellent mathematics instruction reinforces the shifts in mathematical practices by balancing scholars' conceptual understanding of mathematical principles with application and fluency practice. To accomplish that vision, we have chosen the Eureka mathematics curriculum in addition to the IXL online system.
6	Is early care offered?	Yes. We are committed to offering early drop off for families who need it beginning at 6:00AM for a monthly fee. Contact Mrs. Billups for more information (cbillups@libertysteamcharter.org). We are excited to use a new platform this year for payments & supervision tracking. Stay tuned!
7	Is HYPE after-school program being offered?	As far as we know, yes. We are open to any daycare who offers to pick up scholars at the request of their parents. Remember, HYPE (limited scholarship slots available) is not operated physically on LSC campuses but we receive a certain number of spots on a first come, first serve basis. A 2nd option for the after-school program that is not operated physically on LSC campuses is YMCA (limited scholarship slots available). Interested parents may complete the application on our website and drop off to the YMCA in person. Both HYPE & YMCA will follow the same schedule. Both HYPE & YMCA provide

		transportation for scholars. Please reach out to the YMCA or HYPE directly to sign-up. Visit the HYPE office to talk with Mr. Gadson at 415 Manning Avenue or by phone (803-934-9527). You can sign up with the YMCA at their facility on Miller Road.
8	How are school meals served?	All food is prepared at the Primary Academy campus. For the 26-27 school year, all scholars will receive breakfast & lunch at no charge!
9	Has the staff been hired yet?	We are 100% fully staffed!
10	Will there be a School Resource Officer at the Primary Academy? How safe is the school?	We are committed to ensuring the safety of our scholars. Yes, LSC has a full-time SRO assigned to the Primary Academy Campus (Deputy Horton). LSC's Primary Academy has an additional security gate installed that provides a horizontal barrier to prevent access from the back half of the campus during school hours. LSC enjoys a state of the art video security system with a double locked entry door/buzz-in system.
11	Is there an outdoor play area?	Our scholars enjoy Sunshine Park (our large playground area) for recess and two grassy fields that will be utilized for physical education classes.
12	How do report cards look at this Academy?	We use a standards based grading scale for all grades on report cards. Scholars are introduced to material through a variety of methods of instruction, given time to practice the skill throughout the quarter, and then assessed for mastery at the end of the nine weeks. Scholars will earn 1 (Beginning), 2 (Developing), 3 (Mastery), or 4 (Advanced) in each assessed area. LSC uses traditional four quarter marking periods that are between 45 and 49 days each.
13	Will my scholar take state standardized tests?	All kindergarten scholars take the SC Kindergarten Readiness Assessment that is a one-on-one teacher administered assessment during the first 45 days of school. You can expect to receive a detailed score report at the end of the second quarter. All kindergarten and first grade scholars will complete MAP testing 3x (Fall, Winter, and Spring). Classroom teachers will use progress monitoring tools to identify scholars that need additional intervention. Scholars will also take Common Formative Assessments each month to help better inform progress before benchmark tests are given.
14	What is the uniform policy for this Academy? Why does my child need a change of clothes in their backpack every day?	Check out our board approved uniform policy for both campuses on our website here . All skirts, skorts, shorts, and jumpers MUST be no more than 3 inches above the knee. Uniform checks are conducted each day by 8:30 am. Parents of scholars who are in violation of the uniform policy will be contacted by 8:45 am for a change of clothes. Scholars must have a change of clothes in their back pack everyday. All scholars at Primary Academy are required to keep a complete change of clothes in their backpack each day in the event of an accident, spill, or other unexpected incident. To ensure scholars can return to learning with minimal disruption, the change of clothes must include a full school uniform that meets the school's dress code requirements.
15	Will the Book Mobile continue to visit the PA campus?	Yes, we are excited to continue our unique partnership with the Sumter County Library. All scholars will have access to MyOn & the Accelerated Reader digital platform, but the school has heavily invested in decodable books for each class.
16	Do you practice emergency drills at this campus?	Absolutely! We conduct all state-required, monthly drills, including: Fire, Active Shooter (Lockdown/Lockout), Tornado, and Earthquake.
17	Does this Academy offer extra academic services?	Yes, the Primary Academy offers academic intervention, academic enrichment (potential GT), resource, speech, OT, and PT to all scholars who qualify. We will also offer after-school

		tutoring to scholars who are not already receiving intervention services during the regular school day.
18	Are there two teachers in every classroom at this Academy?	Yes! We are committed to keeping our co-teaching model in all kindergarten and first grade homeroom classes.
19	How many scholars are in each homeroom?	25 is the maximum class size, which provides a 13:1 student to teacher ratio, given our co-teaching model, and will be maintained all year at 25 throughout the year by filling any vacant seats from the enrollment lottery waitlist.
20	What will gifted education look like?	Scholars will be identified through their fall MAP testing percentiles to receive academic enrichment instruction with Ms. Hray (pull out services). Each semester the roster will be reviewed based on new assessment information from winter MAP testing. The percentile criteria will be determined by the number of scholars who test and the available slots.
21	Will tutoring be offered?	We intend to continue our current format of tutoring services for scholars identified through assessment data at a minimum of two days a week.
22	What will enrichments look like?	We are committed to teaching the whole child through a flex rotation schedule. This year, we have added performance arts (music, dance, chorus, & drama) to the rotation! Your scholar will continue to have 2 enrichments a day and experience a total of three different enrichments each week: PE, Performance Arts, Spanish, and STEAM Project Lead the Way. STEAM Project Lead the Way is built off of four modules to reflect Sumter's greatest economic needs - industrial technology, engineering technology, business technology, & health sciences. Scholars will have a flex schedule, which means sometimes, they will have the same enrichment twice in one week, but once in alternating weeks.
23	What SEL support is offered?	At Liberty STEAM Charter School, social-emotional learning (SEL) is a key part of our educational model, with the first 30 minutes of each day dedicated to a morning meeting focused on building these important skills. This year, we are excited to introduce Character Strong, our new SEL and character development program. Character Strong helps scholars develop kindness, empathy, responsibility, strong relationships, and positive decision-making skills. To monitor growth, scholars complete an SEL assessment at the beginning and end of the school year that measures skills such as emotion recognition, social perspective-taking, social problem-solving, and self-control. Scholars who need additional support may participate in interventions such as Eagles Take Flight mentoring, Check-In/Check-Out (CICO), or SEL small groups. These supports help ensure every scholar has the tools needed to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. It is important to note that SEL is not limited to individual scholars but is a school-wide focus. To celebrate the commitment to SEL, schools hold Community Culture Celebrations (CCC) on Fridays, where the achievements and progress made in this area are recognized and celebrated by the entire school community.
24	What will parent communication look like at the PA campus?	Parent Weekly (email, dojo) Dojo (classroom and school-wide) One Call (VIPs are automatically enrolled).
25	What are Community Culture Celebrations?	Community Culture Celebrations are school-wide "pep-rallies" held for each grade level on Fridays. During this exciting ceremony, we positively incentivize desired scholar behaviors, while giving each class an opportunity to show their school spirit by participating in class chants, school-wide cheers, and reviewing LSC's S.O.A.R. (Show Respect, Obey Rules, Accept Responsibility, Rise to Excellence) core values. Scholars are recognized for their

		demonstration of these strong characteristics and their peers and family celebrate them for making responsible choices and being good citizens. To make this occasion even more special, we invite you to share brief remarks during the event. For example, you could say: "We are so proud of your hard work and cannot wait to see how much you grow this year". In order to accommodate all attendees comfortably, we kindly request that each scholar have no more than (2) in-person guests. Small babies & children are not counted as guests. Please be aware that any additional guests will be asked to leave. All guests will be required to present identification and sign in upon arrival. As we want everyone to be a part of this special moment, the celebration will also be live-streamed on our LSC Facebook page. We kindly ask that you refrain from bringing celebratory items such as balloons, flowers, or gift bags. Please plan to arrive at the school no later than 8:20 am (Kindergarten) to check in with the office staff and get settled. The Kindergarten celebration will begin promptly at 8:30 am and will last approximately an hour. Please plan to arrive at the school no later than 9:50 AM (1st grade) to check in with the office staff and get settled. The 1st grade celebration will begin promptly at 10:00 am and last approximately an hour. Staff will reach out to families via Dojo message to inform. We ask that families reply promptly to the message to confirm family attendance.
26	Are there any opportunities for scholars to dress out of uniform?	Yes! We have several "Dress Down" themed weeks throughout the year (one a quarter and right before Christmas & last week of the school year). This information is sent home several weeks before so parents and scholars can be ready! In addition, EVERY Friday, scholars are able to show their individual personality by dressing out of uniform.
27	What is the leadership structure at LSC?	While we have some elements of the traditional public school leadership structure, including LeAndrea Montgomery, Academy Director (Principal), Rashyra Smiling (Dean of Curriculum & Instruction), Emeral Franklin, (Cultural Interventionist), Valerie Smith (Teacher Support Specialist), Nicky Pack (Special Populations Coordinator), L'ara McAlister (Scholar Intervention Specialist) and Eunisha Sweeney (Front Office Coordinator/Leader Fellow), we also have several other members of the administration team that are network based or work with all academy campuses. In addition, we utilize collective leadership, where teachers and coaches work toward shared goals and share decision making.
28	When will I know my scholar's teacher assignments? Can I make a request?	A welcome back postcard will be mailed to all scholars on July 22 from their assigned co-teachers. Look for it to arrive by July 25. The back-to-school Nest Fest is scheduled for July 27th ! Since all of our teachers are amazing and work hard to build strong relationships with scholars, we are confident that your scholar will be in great hands. Classes are balanced based on many factors, so we do not honor specific teacher requests.
29	Will scholars use any technology?	Absolutely! Each classroom uses small group instruction for up to 2 hours a day (one hour for reading and one hour for math) on Monday through Thursday. During the small group rotations, scholars have the opportunity to utilize technology for education based activities. School subscriptions for scholars support the curriculum and include Raz-Kids Plus and IXL for reading and math. Additionally, our new reading curriculum uses Amira to support individualized instruction in reading fluency. Teachers also use additional learning platforms such as i-Ready, Teach Your Monster to Read, Freckle, Prodigy, etc. Chrome books will not go home.
30	When will we find out who our scholars' teachers are?	Our teachers return from Summer break in mid July. Teachers will receive their rosters and mail out all welcome back postcards to their scholars on July 26. Our Nest Fest will be July 27th from 9am-12 pm. We can't wait to host you at the Primary Academy.

31	Where can I find all the back to school info as it is coming over the summer?	Great question! All back to school information will be shared on social media but also kept on the home page of the LSC website. Remember, kindergarten will be on a staggered arrival with some kinder scholars reporting on July 30 and the others coming on July 29 and then all kinder scholars together for the first full day on August 5. While, your scholar's welcome back postcard will note this information, all VIPs were given this information during the academic screenings in May at the school. Please contact Ms. Chambers with any questions.
32	Who are the enrichment teachers?	Ms. Pierson, STEAM Project Lead the Way / Mrs. Paucar, Spanish Enrichment Coach Smith & Coach Pearson, Physical Education/ Mrs. Kreider, Performing Arts/Mrs. Hray, Academic Enrichment
33	Who are the intervention teachers?	Ms. Lyles and Ms. Painter will be providing intervention services this year through small group pull outs for scholars in need of additional academic assistance. Ms. Franklin will be serving in the role of culture interventionist.
34	Will LSC offer speech, OT, and PT this year?	Yes! Any scholar whose IEP requires this accommodation will be provided these services. We have a full time SLP, school psychologist, OT, and are looking for a part-time PT!
35	Who are the teachers?	Kindergarten Crew: Ms. Hamm & Mrs. Dawson Ms. Collins & Mrs. Duncan Mrs. Sargent & Ms. Vicente Mrs. Soper & Mrs. Wilson Ms. Boozer & Ms. Eberly Mrs. Billups & Ms. Pendergrass 1st Grade Crew: Ms. Reyes & Ms. Dixon Ms. Kennedy & Ms. Rojas Ms. Greco & Ms. Duford Ms. Johansen & Ms. Harvin Mrs. Webb & Mr. Shelton Mrs. Porter & Mrs. Costa K/1 SPED Crew: Mrs. Jeffcoat & Mr. Watson
36	What is the theme for the Primary Academy?	We are H.E.R.O.E.S! For example, Grade A Guardians. Every scholar will receive a spirit t-shirt with their homeroom name and logo to wear proudly on Eagle Pride School Spirit Days. *see posted month at a glance for specific Eagle Pride Days and Schoolwide Spirit Days.
36	Will there be team teaching?	No, there will not be team teaching at the Primary Academy.
37	What can my child do this summer to avoid the summer slide and be ready for the first day of school?	Continue to read at least 20 minutes per day! Complete the Summer Challenge packet that was sent home with all scholars. It's also posted on the back to school page of the school website. Also, scholars are able to login to iReady (1st Grade), MyOn/Accelerated Reader, IXL, & Raz Kids to work on skills all summer long. Visit our local Sumter County Libraries.
38	I have heard about changes to the school's attendance policy. Can you share more?	Yes! Attendance is going to continue to be a major focus area for the new school year with additional incentives as well as parent consequences to reinforce attending the full school day and arriving at school on time. We have very high expectations for scholar & staff attendance. For example, scholars will be allowed five parent notes & medical notes

		(excluding those with additional medical certification). Parent notes must be submitted within three days of the absence. Violation of attendance policy will result in attendance intervention plans (AIPs) if continued there will be an attendance hearing before our Board of Directors as well as notification to SC Department of Social Services. Any scholar who has 10 or more unexcused absences will automatically be retained for the following school year. Any scholar who has 10 or more medical notes will be required to participate in an intervention plan meeting to learn more about what additional supports are needed to ensure the scholar is meeting grade level mastery standards. Any scholar who missed 10% or more (19 or more days) that are medically excused will be required to attend summer school (PRIDE).
39	I have heard about possible changes to the Scholar Code of Conduct. Can you share more?	The revised Scholars Code of Conduct from Spring 2023 reflects the Board of Directors renewed commitment to maintaining a high standard of behavior expectations for scholars that offers a balance of consequences to deter unacceptable behavior but also additional social-emotional learning supports.
40	I've heard about possible changes in the Discipline Model?	Starting this school year, we will be implementing Conscious Discipline, a research-based approach that helps scholars build self-regulation, emotional awareness, positive relationship skills, and responsibility. Through this approach, scholars will learn how to manage emotions, solve problems, make responsible choices, and contribute to a safe, supportive, and respectful school community.
41	When do I get to meet my scholar's teachers and drop off the back to school supplies?	On July 27 from 9am-12 noon, all VIPs and scholars can stop by the PA campus to meet teachers, leaders, and other staff members. It's a drop-in, so come when you can. We'll have Kona Ice there for a cool-down treat! You can bring your scholar's school supplies bagged & tagged with their name.
42	Is there anything new with the attendance policy this year?	Yes, any scholar who violated an attendance plan in place during the 2025-26 school year or was chronically absent for any reason will be required to begin the year on an Attendance Success Plan. Summer PRIDE Camp (our version of summer camp) will be required for any scholar who is on the Chronic Absenteeism List this year unless medical homebound services have been provided and the missed seat time has been accounted for. If a scholar is required to attend Summer PRIDE Camp for attendance but does not attend with 95% ADA, then s/he will be retained in the same grade for the following school year. We will continue to follow the "rule of five," but tighten up on overnight suspensions that will be required to force a family conference the day the violation occurs that triggers the next step in the policy. The "rule of five" means that scholars should only have five absences with a parent note, five late arrivals, five early sign outs, and five late pick ups.
43	Who is Dr. Hafner & Mrs. Cribbs? What happened with Dr. Ivey?	Liberty is excited to welcome Dr. Brenda Hafner as Superintendent and Mrs. Jennifer Cribbs as the founding Academy Director of our Junior Academy. As Liberty enters its next chapter, Co-Founder Dr. Trevor Ivey has transitioned from the organization to launch the Liberty STEAM Charter School Foundation, where he will support fundraising, high school development, and advocacy efforts that advance Liberty's mission. Sally Harris will serve as the "principal" of grades 2-5 while Jennifer Cribbs will serve as the "principal" of grades 6-8.
44	What's left with the renovation at the mall campus?	We are awaiting the issuance of our Certificate of Occupancy from the Office of School Facilities at SC Department of Education later this month. We will be acquiring 14 new classrooms, a set of new restrooms, and 3 new project labs. The cafeteria, multipurpose gym, & performance arts center on the backside is still in the phase 5 renovation project. Dr. Ivey will be working on the high school project & will share details soon. Exciting!