



## Lena Whitmore Elementary School

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[www.msd281.org/lena](http://www.msd281.org/lena)

### Parent Bulletin, August 28, 2016

Back-To-School Night - We hope you can join us on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 6 p.m. for Back-to-School Night! This is a great time to meet your child's teacher, drop off school supplies, find out where they sit, where to line up on the first day, and pick up the beginning of the year paperwork. I look forward to seeing you!

First Day of School! - Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> is the first day of school! School begins at 8:20 a.m. and unless eating breakfast, we would love for the kids to play outside on the playground until the bell rings at 8:15 a.m. so we can finish our last minute preparations for the big day! School ends at 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 2:15 p.m. on Fridays.

Student Enrollment - This fall we welcomed back 280 students to Lena Whitmore Elementary, two classes at each grade level, with the exception of our three classes of sixty-one 2<sup>nd</sup> graders! Over thirty students are new to our school (first through fifth grade), which tends to be the average student turnover.

Busing - If you plan to have your child ride the bus to or from Lena each day, please be sure and contact Jim or Greg at the bus garage at 882-3933 before the first day of school.

New Staff - There are a few new faces at our school this year and some staff in new places! We are excited to welcome Lacey Watkins to be our other all-day kindergarten teacher, Megan Cuellar as our third 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Rosalie McFarland & Emily Klein as our new primary and intermediate special education teachers, and Colin Briggs as our PE teacher! Our district also has a new nurse, Amy Conway and nurse assistant, Kate Bernard. In the office, our Miss Lexie delivered Baby Breija this summer so we are lucky to have Lena parent Rachel Marone

*Lena Whitmore Elementary School is a community of caring people who believe that each individual has a right to a rich and rigorous education, to feel welcome, safe, and worthy of respect.*

substituting for her this fall! And heads up, because of the additional classrooms in the primary hallway, our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has moved down to the "big kid hallway"! ☺

Attendance Policy Change - I wanted to give you a heads up about a change this summer to our district attendance policy. Our first bell rings at 8:15 a.m. and school officially begins at 8:20 a.m. If your child arrives to school later than 8:20 a.m. they need to come to the office for a tardy slip. Every three tardies now equals an absence. Students are expected to be at school 90% or more of each semester. Your child's teacher will contact you if repeated absences/tardies are having a negative impact on your child's education and create a plan to help improve attendance and/or punctuality. Please refer to our Board Policy on our district website for more information on this new policy and feel free to ask if you have any questions!

Up-coming events:

8/31 - 9/16- IRI/fall reading and math universal screeners (I'll share more about that next week!)

9/5 - No school, Labor Day

9/6 - PAT Fall fundraiser starts (more about that next week too!)

9/7 - 4th grade parent night, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in your child's classroom

9/8 - 5th grade parent night, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in your child's classroom

9/9 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Paradise Ridge Challenge Course, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

9/20 - PAT, 6:30 p.m. in staff lounge

10/6 & 10/7 - No School, Professional Development Days

10/18 - individual picture day