

Website: http://kooser.lps.org

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Revised 7/2016

Kooser Elementary School 7301 N. 13th Street • Lincoln, NE 68521 (402) 436-1146 • (Fax) 458-3246 Visit our website at http://kooser.lps.org

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to Kooser Elementary School! This handbook has been prepared for all students and families in hope that it will be useful in answering any questions about the policies and practices of our school. Please carefully review the contents of the handbook. If you have questions or concerns not covered in this handbook, please do not hesitate to call the school office.

On behalf of the entire Kooser staff, we look forward to working together to make this a successful year of learning for all.

Ann Jablonski Principal

Intent of Student Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Kooser Elementary School. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained within it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their student in following the procedures and rules contained in this handbook.

Please refer to the LPS Important Information Booklet and the Common Practices document for general information that applies to all schools. Although information found in this handbook contains detailed and specific information on a variety of topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day, or school year. This handbook does not create a "contract." The administration reserves the right to make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well being of all students. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should the situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

KOOSER MISSION

Our Mission...

The mission of Kooser Elementary is to empower all students to achieve academic excellence for success in a changing world.

Our Vision...

Kooser will be a community of excellence fostering our students' journey to a future of limitless possibilities.

- We will provide an environment that facilitates the development of critical thinking, creative problem solving, risk taking, and teamwork.
- Students will understand the power and purpose of learning.
- Students will be inspired to set and achieve their goals with integrity, character, and a commitment to doing their personal best.
- Students will achieve the highest possible awareness of themselves, their talents, and their potential for future growth.
- Students will become positive contributors to their families, their communities, and the global society.

Our Values...

Character: We model and teach the pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

Integrity: We trust that everyone will be honest and do the right thing in any situation, especially when no one is watching.

Positivity: We speak positively about each other, our students, and our school. We choose to work with constructive intentions and attitudes. Optimism helps us find solutions and seek opportunities. When challenges develop, we focus on the positive.

Innovation: We use thoughtful, creative thinking to provide opportunities for students by identifying new pathways that address our ever-changing world.

Compassion: We value all people. We strive to understand the feelings of others and respond with kindness while withholding judgment.

Collaboration: We work as a team to establish and achieve our shared goals.

Commitment: We pledge to be dedicated and honor the vision of our school community. We put forth the additional work and effort to exceed expectations.

Our Beliefs...

- All students can learn, and it is our job to make it happen.
- We share in the responsibility for all students at Kooser.
- All families want their student(s) to succeed.
- Powerful learning occurs when families, staff, students, and the community work together.
- Students need a safe, caring environment.
- Students need strong and powerful connections with the adults in the school.
- The focus of learning is on the individual needs of students.
- Students will meet high-level expectations.
- Everyone is valued and diversity enriches us all.
- Students need to see possibilities and opportunities for themselves after high school.
- The time to act is now.

SCHOOL DAY

Arrival and Dismissal Times

Students in grades K-5 are expected to arrive at school between 8:00 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. prior to those times, no supervision is available. Students will be admitted at 8:10 a.m. On days of inclement weather, when deemed necessary, students will be asked to enter the building at 8:00 a.m. Students will enter through the front entrance and proceed to designated areas. Students eating breakfast will enter through the main entrance arriving between 7:50 and 8:10 a.m. Students will be dismissed at 2:53 p.m. unless there are other circumstances (early dismissal, student club or activities etc). Upon dismissal, students must leave the school grounds and proceed home or to a previously designated location.

Hours for pre-school students are 8:15 a.m.-11:45 p.m. and 12:00-3:30 p.m. A special calendar will be issued to pre-school families.

Hours of Sessions-Early Dismissal (One Hour Early the First Week of School) During the first three days of the school year, school dismisses one hour early. The following early dismissal schedule shall be utilized:

Grades K-5 8:15 a.m. to 1:53 p.m.

Hours of Sessions-Early Dismissal for Professional Learning Communities During the course of the school year, schools will dismiss early to facilitate teacher professional development. All LPS elementary schools will have early release dates on the last student Tuesday of each month (August - April). In this case, the following early dismissal schedule shall be utilized: Grades K-58:15 a.m. to 1:33 p.m. Students who leave before the end of the day are required to be signed out by a parent or guardian. The school will only release students to adults designated by the parent on the census information sheet provided at the beginning of the year.

If there is a special circumstance, such as a court order limiting access to a student by a parent or guardian, affecting who a student can be released to, the principal must be informed and provided with a current copy of that order to maintain on file at the school.

Arrival

The Kooser campus will be closed until 8:00 a.m. for the safety of students.

Arrival Times

- Breakfast-7:50-8:10 a.m. Line up at the main entrance, students will be admitted at 7:50 a.m.
- YMCA Childcare–7:00 a.m.
- Earliest arrival (unless entering for breakfast, or YMCA childcare) is at 8:00 a.m.
- Students line up between 8:00-8:10 a.m. in the front entrance area in their class line. Room numbers are posted above.
- Students enter the building at 8:10 a.m.
- School begins at 8:15 a.m. After 8:15 a.m., all students use the main entrance and must check in with the office.

Dismissal

For the safety of students, parents/guardians must come to the office when picking up their student(s) before the regular dismissal time. Students will be called on only after parents arrive for them.

Dismissal Times

- Teachers will escort all students out their designated exit door at 2:53 p.m.
- All students must go directly home, to daycare, or to a school sanctioned activity after dismissal.
- Phone calls will be made if a student is kept 10 or more minutes after school for any reason.

After School Supervision

When students are dismissed from the building during regular or early dismissal, they will exit the building through their classroom's designated door. Families are expected to pick their students up promptly. Teachers will walk their students outside each day. Students remaining not picked up will be sent to the office where a phone call will be made.

Dismissal Areas

- Students participating in YMCA Childcare will meet staff in the cafeteria.
- Participants in school sponsored activities will meet their supervisor at a designated area.
- Parents should arrange to pick up their student(s) outside at the same location each day.
- Students staying after school must exit with the class and return with their teacher.
- Students will not be allowed to play on the playground while waiting for rides after school.

Kooser School Traffic / Safety Expectations

To ensure the safety of our students please adhere to the following as you drop off and pick up your students. Please discuss these rules with your students so they will understand their importance. It is imperative that we all work together to maintain a safe environment for our students as they arrive and leave school each day.

Driving

- When dropping off and picking students up, follow the plan outlined on the map created by the city traffic engineers. See map.
- Enter the loading/unloading zone in front of school from the North, and do not leave your car.
- At the end of the day you may not enter from the south as 13th Street is barricaded.
- After dropping off or picking up students please carefully pull out of the curb lane to exit to allow the curb traffic to keep moving.
- When exiting the drop off lane turn right on 13th Street.
- Do not double-park in the drop off lane. If the curb lane is full, please exit and return when there is room at the curb.
- If you must leave your car, please park in the parking lot or a side street and walk to the school.
- Students should exit and enter their vehicle only on the passenger side so they do not have to cross through the moving traffic lane.
- A designated lane in the staff parking lot will be used as a busloading zone and for day care vans. Students will enter and leave these vehicles at the curb.



- Do not stop in the handicapped stall or park there without a permit.
- Do not load or unload students in the staff parking lots.
- Do not use the service drive behind the school for drop off or pick up.
- Do not drop off or pick students up on 13th Street going north. Only using the curb cut on 13th Street.
- Follow the signs and do not stop or park in the crosswalk areas.
- Make arrangements ahead of time as to where students should meet you.

Walking

• Pedestrians should only cross the street at the designated crosswalks as indicated on the school traffic map.

Biking

- When on school grounds and crossing in the crosswalks students must get off and walk their bikes.
- Bikes should be parked in the bike racks and locked.
- Students are reminded to always wear a helmet.

Lunch and Breakfast

Student in grades 1-5 will have a thirty-minute lunch/recess break. Kindergartners will have a 30 minute lunch time.

The cost for a student's hot lunch is \$2.35 a day. You may deposit money into an account that is accessed by the student entering their 6 digit PIN number on a keypad in the cafeteria. If your student is returning to our school, they will use the same number as last year. If your student is new to Lincoln Public Schools, a number will be assigned. Money in an account can be transferred from one school to another if a student changes schools within Lincoln Public Schools.

Students who wish to eat breakfast at school should enter through the main doors at 7:50 a.m.

Please ensure that your student has money in their lunch account so as not to have a negative balance.

Parents/Guardians are welcome to join their student(s) for lunch. Please notify the office before 10:00 a.m. if you plan to have school lunch. Due to limited space in the cafeteria, guests will eat in the Den.

The United States' Department of Agriculture and the Nebraska Department of Education Competitive Foods Policy states that "no food may be sold or served that competes with the national School Lunch and/ or Breakfast programs one half hour prior to the serving period." This means that no food may be sold (i.e., pop, snack machines, fund raisers), and no food may be brought in for class rewards, lunch or class parties. Also, parents may not bring in food for more than their student, as this is in violation of the Federal Lunch Program guidelines. When bringing your student's lunch please plan to arrive on time.

Kooser School is dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles for students. In the school lunchroom we ask that students bringing cold lunch refrain from packing sodas and food items that lack nutritional value. Additionally, our staff integrates concepts of wellness, nutrition and meal-time etiquette into lunch periods.



USE OF SCHOOL BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Visitors

Parents/guardians and community members are encouraged to visit school. It is recommended that visitors limit their visits to 30 minutes. All visitors are required to sign in at the office before proceeding in the building. Visitors are required to wear a badge that will be returned when checking out of the office. Please do not bring other children as not to cause distractions in the classroom.

Volunteers

Kooser School benefits greatly from the many parent and community members who volunteer. These volunteers serve in the classrooms, media center, field trips, and as crossing guards before and after school. Your time and talents are important to the education of students. If you are interested in volunteer work at school please contact your student's teacher or the school office. To maintain an environment conducive to learning, we ask that volunteers not bring other children during their volunteer time. Volunteers are required to sign in and out every time they volunteer. A volunteer on-line application is required to be completed on-line by all volunteers.

Parent Meetings

In the event you have a meeting before or after school with Kooser personnel, we ask that you make arrangements for your students and/or other young children. The office staff cannot be responsible for your children. Students cannot be left on the playground, media center, computer lab, classrooms, or gym. If you must bring your children, they need to remain with you for the duration of the meeting. We insist that students be supervised at all times.

Smoke-Free Environment

Lincoln Board of Education policy declares all Lincoln Public Schools buildings and grounds smoke-free. We would appreciate your help in meeting the goal of a smoke- and tobacco-free environment for all students. When you attend events, please remember that our grounds are smoke- and tobacco-free and abide by our board's policy.



Student Use of Telephone

Students will be permitted to call home regarding school matters after getting permission from the classroom teacher. Calls by students must be kept to a minimum. Students are asked to make arrangements for participating in afterschool activities or going home with a friend before arriving at school. Cell phones and other electronic devices have been found to be disruptive to learning. If a student brings them to school they must remain in the student's backpack. If the student takes an electronic device out during the school day, it will be kept in the office until a parent/guardian can pick it up.

Bicycles, Skateboards, Rollerblades, and Scooters

Students are expected to follow correct safety practices and are asked to walk their bikes while on school grounds. Bikes are to be locked in the bike racks.

Skateboards, roller blades, shoe skates, shoes with retractable wheels, and all types of scooters are not allowed on school property. For the safety of students flip flops are not recommended.

Before-&-After School Care

Before and after school care is available to families at Kooser School through the YMCA Adventure Club program. The YMCA provides beforeand after- school care for kindergarten through fifth grade students. Hours are 7:00-8:15 a.m. and 2:53-5:45 p.m. Please call 323-6433 for registration information and fee schedule.

> In case of emergency, can we reach you by telephone? Please be sure the school has your phone number.



Kooser School Behavior Expectations

Students are responsible with the support of our staff, to conduct themselves in a manner that will create a safe learning environment at Kooser Elementary School. All appropriate behaviors are included in Kooser's three simple guidelines for success. We will work together to help our students:

Koc	oser Elem	entary Sc	hool Exp	ectations
	Be	Be	Be	Be
Montave	Safe	Respectful	Responsible	Ready
	We help everyone feel physically and emotionally secure.	We are considerate of others.	We are accountable for all of our actions.	We are prepared to learn.
Arrival / Dismissal	 Walk when arriving and when leaving each day. Use crosswalks. Walk your bike when on school grounds. Follow your before and after school plan. 	 Level 1 voice under canopy. Follow dult directions. Use sidewalks. Use kind words and actions. Follow directions the class. Person time. Check in and out w the adult in charge. Stay in line with you class. Remain in line orde 		 Level 0 voice at the 8:10 bell. In line moving forward with class.
Classroom	 Keep hands and feet to self. Use materials appropriately. 	 Follow directions the first time. Allow others to work and learn. Use kind words and actions. Use appropriate voice levels. 	 Do your best work. Complete daily homework. 	 Return homework on time. Have materials and supplies available. Be organized.
Cafeteria	 Wash hands before eating. Eat only your food. Stay in your seat. Carry your tray carefully with both hands. Walk in the cafeteria. Wait your turn line. Use good table manners. Use level 1 void 		 Clean up after yourself. Raise your hand when you need something. 	 Remain in line order. Level 0 in food line. Get what you need before you sit down. Wait to be dismissed. Bring coats and outerwear to cafeteria.
Restroom	 Keep soap and water in the sink. Wash your hands. 	 Give people privacy Use level 0 voice. Keep restroom clean. Keep hands off walls and displays. 	 Flush the toilet Put paper towels in the trash. Return to your room right away. 	Return to room promptly.
Hallways	Walk at all times		 Remain in line order. Be attentive to surroundings. 	 Go straight to your destination and back.
Playground	Use equipment Include everyone. Enllow game rules		 Take care of the equipment. Return equipment at the end of recess. Remain in line order. 	 Wear appropriate shoes. Line up immediately at bell or teacher signal. Level 0 when lining up and returning to class.

Visit the Kooser Web site http://kooser.lps.org

After School Clubs and Activities

Throughout the school year, a variety of interest clubs and activities are sponsored by Kooser teachers or offered through the Kooser PTO. Club and registration information will be sent home with students. Additional activities available to students (some for only designated grade levels) include: Chorus, Band, Orchestra, K-Kids, and Destination Imagination. Other clubs and activities may be organized to address special interests of students and staff.

Parent Teacher Organization

The Kooser School Parent Teacher Organization is a vital part of Kooser's success with students. As an organization, they represent parents/guardians and organize events and projects that serve students and families. Monthly PTO meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. All teachers and families are encouraged to participate in PTO. There are no dues.

Lost and Found

Most lost articles that are found are turned in to the office and placed in the Lost and Found box located in the cafeteria. Whenever possible, label your student's articles. Encourage your student to check periodically for lost articles. Articles not claimed by semester break and at the end of the school year are donated to a local children's charity.

Field Trips

Field trips provide students with opportunities to learn about our community and more in-depth about an area of study. School buses are primarily used to transport students on field trips. Parents/Guardians are asked to sign a form at the beginning of the school year giving permission for students to participate in field trips throughout the school year. Parents will be notified before each field trip as to the destination, date, and time of the trip. Students are expected to demonstrate appropriate conduct, as a basis for participation on field trips.

Pets at School

Please do not bring dogs on to school grounds as you pick up students. The school principal must approve any visit by a pet in advance. The principal will ask for verification that the pet is up to date on vaccinations. Dogs, cats or other pets are not permitted to roam our halls.

BULLYING



If you feel that your child is being bullied by peers, please contact your child's teacher or the building principal, Ann Jablonski. All reported incidences of bullying/unsafe behavior will follow the protocol outlined in Lincoln Public Schools Board Policy 5482: Anti-Bullying Policy.

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must include:

- Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.
- Hurtful aggressive physical and/or verbal behavior.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

As an added prevention piece, please discuss with your child adults in the building who they can talk to if they feel that they are being bullied or are in an unsafe situation. These people may include, but are not limited to, their teacher, the administrator, school counselor, school psychologist, school social worker or any other adult in the building that they have built a positive relationship with.

Students are taught about what bullying looks like and sounds like, along with how to advocate for themselves through the District's Second Step program.

METHODS COMMUNICATION

School Newsletter: Kodiak Chronicle

The Kodiak Chronicle contains important dates, announcements, school events, and timely information. The principal's newsletter is emailed each Friday morning through School Messenger. Those without email access will receive a paper copy in the Friday folder.

Weekly Communication Folders:

Typically, school news will be sent home via Friday folders. Please return the folder each Monday including any notes to your child's teacher. General information will be sent with the oldest child in the family attending Kooser School.

Community News:

"Community News" is a newspaper distributed by Lincoln Public Schools, free to all elementary students the first week of every month from September through May. "Community News" replaces most informational flyers and can be used as a guide to community activities for students. The monthly school lunch menu is included in each issue of "Community News."

School Website:

Information is regularly updated on our website: http://wp.lps.org/kooser/

ParentVue:

Parents may access communications, attendance information and more for their child through ParentVue. A "button" linking you to ParentVue can be found on our school website.

School Messenger:

This district-wide communication system sends school and district emails, texts, and phone calls to families with important information. Please be sure the school has your updated phone number and email address.





GRADUATION

DATES Thursday May 25, 2017 Bryan Community Focus Program (at East) **Sunday** May 28, 2017 LSW/LNS/LHS (at Pinnacle) Sunday May 25, 2015 LNE/LE/LSE (at Devaney)





2016-2017 Student Calendar

Lincoln Public Schools Lincoln, Nebraska

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First and last days of class for students

Schools not in session

Students in elementary schools NOT in attendance (Plan Days)

PLC days-early dismissal (Plan Days and PLC Days are subject to change)