

## Lower School First Days of School FAQs

**What should my scholar bring on the first day of school?** Backpack, lunchbox, morning snack, labeled water bottle, school supplies, literature book, folder and planner. We also recommend bringing a labeled uniform sweater (the a/c can get chilly!)

**What time does carline begin?** Morning carline will begin at 7:25am on Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Lower School only families will enter through Cooper Gate, and exclusively use the BLUE carline. Families with students in Lower + Upper School will enter through Cooper Gate, and exclusively use the ORANGE carline. Upper School students cannot be dropped off at the Lower School entrance—they must be dropped off at the Upper School entrance, and families will exit through Eden Gate. Students must be seated in their classrooms by 8:00am or they will be marked as tardy.

**May I walk my student to class on the first day of school?** Our carline procedures make it unsafe for parents to get out and walk students into the school building. Allowing your child to hop out of the car in carline that morning and walk into his/her new school ready for a wonderful day of learning is a gift, especially for children who may be inclined to suffer separation anxiety. We will have plenty of teachers available outside and in our hallways to make sure our newest scholars are given a warm welcome and make it to the right place. Please do not park and walk your students in.

**Can I pack my scholar lunch?** Yes. We do encourage healthy eating habits and ask that you pack your scholar a full and healthy lunch. Please be sure to pack a nutritious morning snack for K-5 students.

**What is the uniform policy?** The uniform policy is [outlined online as well as in our handbook](#). The basics are as follows: Great Hearts polo shirt, navy colored pants or shorts for K-5 students, khaki pants or shorts for 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Female students are allowed to wear the uniform skirts. Shoes should be all black or all white and meet our dress-code guidelines.

**When is pick-up?** Afternoon carline starts at 3:35pm and ends at 4:15pm, Monday-Thursday, and 1:35pm-2:15pm on most Fridays. There are a total of 5 full-day Fridays this year—[these are listed on the academic calendar](#). Full day Fridays follow a Monday schedule, 8am-3:35pm. Anyone picking up students MUST have their 25/26 student placard displayed on their dashboard every single day. **\*Please note that we will not accept placards from the previous school year! \***

If you need a replacement placard, please email [GHAfrontdesk@greatheartstxschools.org](mailto:GHAfrontdesk@greatheartstxschools.org).

Each replacement placard will cost \$2.

**How long can I expect to wait during pick-up?** **Pick up during the first few days of school will likely take longer than usual. As our scholars, staff and families learn the system over the first few days things will improve; we promise. We ask that you plan for this extended pick-up line early in the year and be patient with us and our families. As days go by, the line will move faster and faster. We work hard to ensure our dismissal is as safe and efficient as possible. We thank you in advance!**

**Early Student Pick Up-** Students needing to be picked up for early dismissal **cannot** be picked up later than 2:45pm Monday-Thursday, or 12:45pm on Fridays. This is due to the constraints of our parking lot and car line. This policy ensures our parking lot is clear and safe for afternoon dismissal.

**Late Student Pick-Up-** If your scholar is still with us after 4:15pm, they will be sent to our after-school program, and you will be charged a late fee. Late students will need to be picked up at the front desk. Please bring your placard with you. This policy will go into effect on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.