THE GUMBO GAZETTE

Dear Leah Chase School Families,

Welcome back to school! You are invited to join us for Literacy Night on Tuesday, January 21st, from 5:00–7:00 PM at The Leah Chase School! This year's theme, "Literacy Is a Parade of Fun!", invites families to *parade through our school* as you visit classrooms and experience literacy in action.
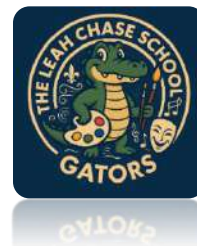
During the evening, families will:

- Learn about our schoolwide literacy plan and progress toward literacy goals
- See evidence of students "Chasing Excellence" through mastery-level student work
- Watch short videos highlighting students meeting performance expectations in Phonemic Awareness and Reading to Respond (Writing)
- Participate in hands-on literacy activities alongside your child
- Explore classrooms and experience joyful, engaging literacy learning
- Visit arts-based programming stations for a first-hand look at how the arts enrich instruction

This event is designed for both current families and those interested in learning more about The Leah Chase School. We look forward to celebrating our students' growth and partnering with families to support strong readers and writers.

Come join the parade — learning, laughter, and literacy fun await!
We hope to see you there!

The Leah Chase School Team

Warmly,
Dr. Brandy Turner
Interim Head of School, *The Leah Chase School*

THE LEAH CHASE SCHOOL

2727 South Carrollton Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 827-1822

Office Hours:
7:30 AM – 4:00 PM (M-F)
www.theleahchaseschool.com

UNIFORM REFERRAL PROGRAM

Our Uniform Referral Program is still a part of our ongoing enrollment efforts! When a currently enrolled student refers a new student who successfully enrolls, both students will receive a free school uniform.

If you know a family interested in joining our school, simply have them list your child's name on our referral form. Once the new student's enrollment is confirmed, both students will receive their uniform voucher.

Main round of enrollment ends Jan. 23rd.

MIDDLE OF YEAR TESTING

DIAGNOSTIC TESTING (READING & MATH PROGRESS SKILLS ARE MONITORED)

- January 12-16th: Grades K-6

The **i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment** is used to understand *where each student is academically and what they need next*. Its purpose goes beyond assigning a score, it guides instruction and support.

Key reasons for administering the i-Ready Diagnostic:

- **Identify individual student needs:** It pinpoints specific skills students have mastered and areas where they need support in reading and math.
- **Measure growth over time:** When given multiple times a year, it shows how much progress students make from one diagnostic window to the next.
- **Inform instruction:** Teachers use the data to plan targeted lessons, small groups, interventions, and differentiation during core instruction.
- **Guide intervention and enrichment:** Results help determine which students need additional support and which are ready for accelerated or enrichment opportunities.
- **Support goal setting:** Students and teachers can set academic goals based on diagnostic results and monitor progress toward those goals.
- **Ensure equitable instruction:** The diagnostic helps schools ensure all students receive instruction aligned to their current learning level.

EVENT REGISTRATION

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY

Jan. 5: No School – Teacher Professional Development Day

Jan. 6: Students Return

Leah Chase's Birthday – Schoolwide Celebration

Jan. 9: Report Cards and Demographic Verification Forms Go Home – **Free Dress Down Pass for those who turn in their signed report card and verification form by Jan. 16th.**

Jan 14: Make up seat time documents due

Jan. 12-16: Benchmark Testing

Jan. 15: Bowties and Beignets (Father-figures and sons) event. Come celebrate the academic success of our young boys and learn how to tie a bowtie!

Jan. 21: Literacy Night: Learning is a parade of fun!

Jan. 19: MLK Holiday. No School

Jan. 23: 100th Day of School

IMPORTANT INFO: AFTER CARE

Fees are now required for participation in the TLC Before and After Care programs. To maintain your child's enrollment, please set up your payment profile using our school's secure, cashless platform.

Scan the QR code or for step-by-step Payment Instructions.

Program Details, Hours, and Rates
Before Care: 6:30 A.M. – 7:30 A.M
After Care: 3:15 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Weekly Rates	Drop In Rates:
• $20 – Before Care	$5 – Before Care
• $30 – After Care	$7 – After Care
• $40 – Both Programs	

Drop-in fees are due the same day.
All weekly payments are due each Friday.

Late Pick-Up Policy
A $1.00 per minute late fee will apply after 6:00 P.M. After three (3) late pick-ups, students may no longer participate in the program.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

We have a goal of 95% or higher attendance, and we are currently at 92.3%.
Please remember to turn in all doctors' excuses to the front office.

Congratulations to our NBA aka Never Been Absent for month of December winners:
1st place winner of 2 Pelicans Game tickets Robair, DeZari
2nd place winner of a Pelicans shirt Floyd, Ta Mea

January Attendance Highlights
- Student attendance for the Month of January will be tracked as part of our **"Aim High – Adventure Far"** Attendance Challenge!
- 1/30: Attendance Awards for students with 95% presence.

Special Event
- 1/30: Attendance celebration

Attendance All-Stars
- Mr. Jackson's 4th Grade Homeroom *[second month in a row]*
- Ms. Bridges' 4th Grade Homeroom

TECH DESK- IMPORTANT UPDATES

Dear Parents,

Louisiana law now makes it illegal to create, share, or possess digitally altered or AI-generated images of another person in an indecent or harmful manner without that person's consent. This includes images that falsely depict someone in a state of undress or compromising situations, even if the image was created as a joke or using artificial intelligence. These actions can carry serious legal consequences, particularly when minors are involved. We encourage families to talk with students about respect, consent, and responsible technology use, and to remind them that online actions, especially those involving images of others, can have lasting real-world impacts.

To further discuss digital safety measures, please contact our tech team @ rlandry@nolapublicschools.com.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

As we begin the new year, students are developing important social and emotional skills through **Second Step Unit 4: Problem-Solving**. These lessons support students in learning how to calm down, think through challenges, and make safe, kind choices at school and at home. Students are practicing skills such as understanding their feelings, managing strong emotions, seeing others' perspectives, getting along with peers, and thinking ahead before making decisions.

Families can support this learning by talking through everyday problems, encouraging children to name their feelings, practicing calming strategies like deep breathing, asking reflective questions, and praising positive problem-solving behaviors.

For more support, email cleslie@nolapublicschools.com

STAYING INFORMED

- **Class Dojo**: Check daily for messages, announcements, and/or photos from your child's teacher and the school.

- **School Social Media**: @leahchaseschool

- **School Messenger Texts**: Text "Y" to 67587 to opt in to receive important school text message alerts.

A LITTLE LAGNIAPPE

Families in need of **food support** this month can visit:
- Giving Hope NOLA Pantry – Tues–Sat, 8 AM – 12 PM
- Second Harvest Food Bank – Call 504-734-1322 for January distribution sites

Experiencing a Hardship?
If your family or a student is facing a hardship, please contact Dr. Netter at 504-354-2646 for support and resources.