

2026-27

# Welcome Packet



**LEADERSHIP**  
**ACADEMY OF UTAH**  
POWERED BY WILLIAMSBURG LEARNING

**Your Complete Guide to a  
Successful School Year**



# Welcome to Leadership Academy of Utah (LAU)!

We want your start to feel smooth, simple, and stress-free. This Welcome Packet pulls together everything you need in one place. It's your guide to the first few weeks of school and the months that follow. Inside, you'll find:

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We recommend keeping this packet somewhere easy to find. You'll likely want to refer back to it throughout the year.

Your student's success and growth are at the heart of everything we do, and our team is here to walk alongside you at every stage of the journey.

We're so glad you're here, and we can't wait to learn, grow, and celebrate together this year!

Warmly,

**John Tripp**  
Executive Director  
Leadership Academy of Utah



Before we get started, here's a quick look at the most important dates to mark on your calendar and an overview of the tech systems you'll use.

## Key Start-of-Year Dates



| Date      | What's Happening                                                                                                           |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 3  | Orientation & Benchmark Assessments open in the LAU Hub (in Canvas). Students must complete these to unlock their classes. |
| August 10 | Semester officially begins! Students are strongly encouraged to attend Live Orientation.                                   |
| August 11 | Live Orientation continues. Classes unlock as soon as Canvas Orientation and Benchmark Assessments are done.               |
| August 12 | Live online classes start via Engageli.                                                                                    |



### Set Up for Success Week - Live Student Orientation

Kick off the year with us August 10-11 at 9:00 AM MT (both days). Students will meet their mentors, get oriented, and work on Canvas Orientation and Benchmark Assessments. Click the button below to see the full Success Week schedule.

[See The Full Schedule](#)

## The Systems You'll Use



| System                                                                                                                      | Purpose                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ★ SIS                                                                                                                       | Student Information System: Manage your child's enrollment and courses, view their pacing and grades, and message mentors.       |
|  CANVAS<br><small>BY INSTRUCTURE</small> | Where your student will join their classes, see course materials, submit assignments, and message their mentors.                 |
|  LAU HUB                                 | Where students complete orientation and benchmark assessments and see LAU-specific info (like in-person events)! - Inside Canvas |
|  engageli                                | Platform for live online classes (camera and mic required).                                                                      |
|  Remind                                  | Text alerts and updates directly to parents' phones.                                                                             |

# Getting Your Student Ready



## How to Prepare for School in 5 Steps!

To remove any guesswork, we'll walk you through the **five most important things** to do now to get your student ready for school.

Then, we'll share a few tips and resources to **get you ready** for your time as a LAU parent.

**Let's get started!**

## 1

# Set Up or Confirm SIS Access, Then Upload Your Student's Photo



**Students can't access their courses in Canvas until their SIS login is created.**

## A: Create SIS Login (Only for New Students)

✓ Skip to Part B if your student already has an SIS login—they do not need to create a new one!

If your student hasn't created their SIS login, look for an email titled **"Action Needed: Help create your child's SIS username and password"** sent to you when you added them to your parent account, and follow the instructions.

Students can log in to Canvas starting on August 3 if their login is created or has been created at least 30 minutes prior.

Need help? Contact your Enrollment Advisor or our [Customer Support Team](#).

## B: Add Their Profile Photo to SIS

From your SIS parent account, go to your student's profile under "My Students" and upload a **headshot-style photo** of them. This will be used for their school ID.

[Go to SIS](#)

## 2

## Make Sure Your Child Completes Orientation & Benchmark Assessments

Orientation is a series of short, pre-start assignments designed to help your student succeed at LAU. **Completing orientation before school begins is required.** Starting on **August 3**, students can log into Canvas and open the **LAU Hub** course to get started!



Canvas opens  
on August 3

Get Started in Canvas



ATTENTION PLEASE



**Benchmark Assessments:** As part of orientation, all 6th-11th grade students complete three learning assessments to help gauge their current skill levels in writing, math, and reading. These assessments are exclusively used by our mentors and student support teams to help your child excel in their classes.



**Important:** Students will not have access to their Canvas courses, including Engageli classroom links, until they have completed both orientation and benchmark testing. Once both requirements are complete, course access will be available within 24 hours, beginning August 3.

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## Order Your Student's Books & Materials

Parents are responsible for ordering all required books and materials each semester, but LAU covers the cost. Get started now by visiting our Book Ordering page for step-by-step instructions. **Make sure your student has logged in to their NEW LAU student email account and set their password before trying to order books.**



**Important:** Order by the end of July to ensure your student stays on track with reading assignments in their classes.

Order Books

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## Optional: Request a Computer

Make sure your student has access to a computer so they can log into their online courses. If they don't, request one from LAU today (loaned free of charge)! Visit our Computer Request page to begin the process.

Request a Computer



### New: Securly Home Access

Beginning the 2026–27 school year, LAU offers an added layer of internet security for students who use LAU Chromebooks. Learn more and sign up for free Securly Home Access using [this form](#).

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## Complete a Tech Check

Your student needs reliable high-speed internet, a computer with a webcam and microphone, and essential software like Google's productivity suite and Engageli. View our Tech Check page to confirm they have everything they need to succeed at LAU.

Start Tech Check

# What Your Student Can Expect

To help your student make the most of LAU, it's important to understand the classroom experience and program expectations. We use these guidelines and tools to create a focused, respectful, and engaging experience that helps all students thrive at LAU.

## Engageli Etiquette

Your student will be expected to:

- Keep their camera on during class
- Use their real name
- Have a distraction-free study environment and background
- Ensure anyone in the background is dressed appropriately
- Use kind and respectful communication with classmates



## Discussions & Lectures

At LAU, our classes are more than just lectures—they're based on active, engaging discussions between mentors and students.

To help facilitate this, mentors use tools such as the Socratic method, group discussions, and dynamic group projects—encouraging students to learn **how** to think, not **what** to think.

You'll also see mentors deliver engaging presentations and offer timely, quality feedback, with a focus on helping students build toward mastery.

## Assessments & Testing

Throughout the year, your student will take several important assessments—including benchmark assessments, RISE (grades 6-8), and the ACT (for juniors). These tests help us track progress, tailor instruction, and prepare students for college and beyond. You can learn more on our [Assessments](#) page.

## Workload & Materials

In addition to class time, your student will have meaningful homework and projects to work on outside of class. Students can expect to have daily reading and assignments. Instead of relying on traditional textbooks, many of our courses use classical literature and other original sources to make learning more engaging and inspiring.



# Getting You Ready

## Resources for Parents

### Watch Our On-Demand Parent Orientation

Whether you're new around here or just need a quick refresh, we're here to help you navigate our online learning systems!

Our **On-Demand Parent Orientation** videos walk through everything you need to feel confident and equipped to support your student. Specifically, you'll learn how to:

- Navigate the LAU Hub, Homeroom, and Parent & Student Handbook
- Use SIS to access class registration, records, and mentor communication
- Check grades, view coursework, and stay updated in Canvas



Watch Our Parent Orientation Videos!

# Use the Three-Step Parent Support Plan

This plan is the simplest, most effective way to help your student thrive at LAU. In a group of families who consistently used this approach, 90% of students earned straight A's, with the rest coming close! We can't recommend it enough. The three steps are:



## Plan the Week

Help your student plan their week with daily checklists.



## Plan Extra Support

Anticipate when they'll need extra support (from you or a mentor) and schedule it.



## Daily Check-Ins

Hold a quick, five-minute accountability meeting each school day to keep them on track.



Watch our [Three-Step Parent Support Plan](#) videos to give your student the support they need to thrive this school year!

If you're short on time, check out our quick, two-minute "3-Step Parent Support Plan (in a nutshell)" video in our [Parent Video Library](#).

# Parent Resource Center

Our Parent Resource Center is your one-stop hub for all the information you need as an LAU parent. From school news to event info, this page keeps you in the loop. Click below and bookmark the page so you can easily come back to it!



[Go to the Parent Resource Center](#)

## How We Keep You Informed



### Weekly Parent Updates

Each week, we'll send you a Weekly Parent Update (via Remind) with key action items, important announcements, and upcoming events. We also have an archive of past updates on our website.

[View Weekly Parent Updates](#)



### Text Messaging with Remind

We also use Remind Messaging to share important updates throughout the school year, including occasionally time-sensitive information. Download the Remind app so you don't miss a beat.

[Download Remind](#)



### Canvas & SIS Communications

Course-specific updates are sent through Canvas, and mentors and counselors use SIS to share important information about your student's progress. To stay informed, keep an eye on your email and both platforms.

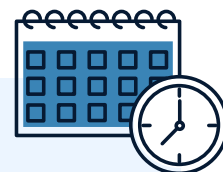
# LAU Academic Calendar

Our calendar lists all key dates throughout the school year, including important events and holidays. We recommend reviewing the calendar periodically, as new events and activities are added throughout the year.



[View & Bookmark Calendar](#)

## Important Upcoming Events



### Parent Back-to-School Night – August 17, 2026

Kick off the school year by joining our live online Parent Back-to-School Night! Meet John Tripp (our Executive Director) and other staff, get answers to your questions, and learn helpful tips. Stay tuned for an email with all the details and the Zoom link!

## Parent & Student Handbook

We recommend reviewing the Parent & Student Handbook to gain a deeper understanding of school policies, academic guidelines, student services, and how to stay connected with our community. It's a helpful resource for questions that may come up during the year!



[View & Bookmark Handbook](#)

# Getting Ready for Unique Courses

If your student is taking either of the following unique course types, read below for some helpful tips. If not, learn how they can get involved!

## Adventures Courses



[Adventures courses](#) offer hands-on learning through outdoor and leadership activities on select Fridays—building confidence, friendships, and real-world skills.

Adventures happen in two ways with our traditional in-person Friday course or new asynchronous Adventures Foundations course. Not enrolled yet? We might still have space! [Contact](#) the LAU Registrar to register your student.

## “FAVE”



[Funded Approved Vendor Electives](#) (FAVE) let your student join in-person extracurricular activities through an LAU-approved vendor. If enrolled, make sure to review all of the guidelines and commitments, including making arrangements with the vendor of your choice.

Questions? [Contact](#) our Independent Studies & Funded Electives Coordinator for help.

## Early College



Early College lets 10th-12th grade students earn high school and college credit at the same time through our Utah college partners.

If enrolled in Early College courses through LAU, **follow the registration steps** from your student's selected college and **note important college deadlines**.

Not enrolled? Visit our [Early College](#) page for details.

## Career & TechEd



We partner with Utah colleges so students in grades 10-12 can earn high school credit through technical training.

Is your student taking [Career and Technical Education](#) (CTE) classes? If so, make sure they've completed all required steps outlined on our website. Not enrolled yet? [Contact](#) your LAU School Counselor.

## Independent Studies



LAU offers [Independent Studies](#) (IS) courses that allow students to earn credit using an approved third-party curriculum for select core subjects and electives.

If your student is enrolled in IS courses, make sure they're using an approved curriculum that meets Utah State Standards. Not enrolled yet? [Contact](#) our Independent Studies & Funded Electives Coordinator to begin the steps toward enrollment.

## Debate



Offered in partnership with Independent Education Program, this course helps students build skills in critical thinking, public speaking, and persuasive reasoning.

If your student is taking Debate, check your inbox for an email titled "Reminder for Debate course registration" and follow the steps to complete enrollment. Or, [contact](#) our Funded Electives Coordinator to enroll.

# Counseling & Resources

Our school counselors are dedicated to supporting students with a variety of needs, including college and scholarship guidance, academic assistance, and mental health resources. Whether your student is navigating coursework challenges or preparing for life after graduation, our counselors are here to help them succeed!

**New high school students should talk with their school counselor** before registering for classes to ensure they are placed in the right courses for their goals. This personalized support helps students start strong and stay on track throughout their academic journey.

If you have a high school student who is new to LAU and they haven't done this, go to Counseling Resources to request an appointment.

[Go to Counseling Resources](#)

## PARENT TIP

Students do best when parents are consistently engaged in their education. Remember to use the [Three-Step Parent Support Plan](#) to help your student stay on top of assignments. Your support now helps them build confidence and independence for the long haul!

## Legacy Learning Scholarship

The Legacy Learning Scholarship celebrates graduating seniors and helps fund their next step, whether that's college, technical school, or another path. Every eligible senior who completes the application receives a scholarship, with the award amount based on the number of years attended at LAU. Seniors on track to graduate are invited to apply through a dedicated Canvas course, and applications are due by **January 31**. Learn more on our [Legacy Learning Scholarship](#) page.



# Top Parent FAQs

## ***“How can I support my student in their learning?”***

The best way to support your student is to help them start strong before classes begin! Here’s how:



**Implement the Three-Step Parent Support Plan** with daily checklists, timely support when needed, and quick accountability meetings. You can start by planning when they’ll complete their orientation assignments!



**Complete Orientation—both of you!** It’s a great way to learn about schedules, Engageli etiquette, and common tech tips.



**Look ahead at their schedule for the whole semester** so they know what to expect each week.



**Ensure they have their books** and know which classes they’re for—students can find the syllabus and book list for each course in Canvas.



**Help them create a distraction-free study space** that keeps them focused and in the zone, stocked with note-taking basics like notebooks, pens, pencils, and highlighters.

If you don’t see your question answered here, our team is happy to help! Keep reading to view more support options.

## ***“If my student needs help with their courses, what should I do?”***

There are several ways your student—and you as their parent—can get extra support:



**Engageli Office Hours:** The syllabus page of each Canvas course lists office hours when students can drop in to ask their mentor questions or get help. In some cases, mentors can adjust workloads when needed.



**Contacting Mentors:** Both students and parents can email mentors directly through SIS. Mentors strive to respond within one school day.



**Creating a Canvas Observer Account:** This lets you view your students' courses and assignments and track their progress. To get started, check out the Canvas Observer Account video on our [Parent Orientation](#) page.

**View Additional LAU Parent Support Resources**



# Important Contacts

## Executive Director

John Tripp

[executivedirector@lautah.org](mailto:executivedirector@lautah.org)

(435) 592-9201

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## Registrar

Angela Maloy

Applications, Registration, Enrollment

[registrar@lautah.org](mailto:registrar@lautah.org)

## IT Equipment Specialist

David Olsen

Chromebook/Laptop Use & Tech Repair

Monday to Friday 7:00 AM-3:00 PM MT

[laptops@lautah.org](mailto:laptops@lautah.org)

(435) 294-5242

## Book Ordering

Melanie Capener

Supply Coordinator

[books@lautah.org](mailto:books@lautah.org)

## School Counselors

Kate Chaney

Serves Students with Last Names A-L

[kate@lautah.org](mailto:kate@lautah.org)

Shauna Larson

Serves Students with Last Names M-Z

[shauna@lautah.org](mailto:shauna@lautah.org)

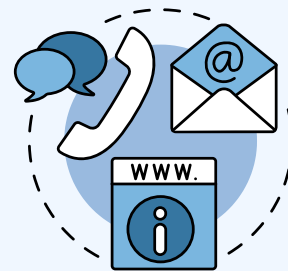
## Unsure Who to Contact?

Call or email us and we'll direct you to the right team member! You can even chat us from our website.

## Customer Support

(385) 343-4111

[support@williamsburglearning.com](mailto:support@williamsburglearning.com)



See More on Our Website

# How You Know You're Ready

If you've checked everything off, your student is officially ready for school!

## **SIS & Photo**

- ☐ Your student's SIS login is set up
- ☐ A headshot-style photo is uploaded to their SIS profile

## **Parent Readiness**

- ☐ You've watched and bookmarked Parent Orientation
- ☐ You've bookmarked the Parent Resource Center and Handbook
- ☐ Remind text alerts are turned on

## **Tech**

- ☐ Computer with working webcam + microphone
- ☐ Reliable high-speed internet
- ☐ Engageli, Google productivity suite, and Canvas tested via Tech Check
- ☐ Loaner device requested (if needed)

## **Calendar**

- ☐ Key dates are marked
- ☐ You have a plan for the Three-Step Parent Support Plan

## **Books & Materials**

- ☐ Books and materials are home or on the way
- ☐ Your mailing address in SIS is confirmed correct

## **Orientation & Benchmarks**

**Note:** Complete during Live Orientation on August 10-11

- ☐ Orientation assignments in the LAU Hub are complete
- ☐ Benchmark assessments (reading, writing, and math) are done
- ☐ Courses have unlocked in Canvas

If you've checked everything off, your student is officially ready for school. Now kick back and celebrate—you've earned it!

**We'll see your student in class soon!**