

2026-2027

School

HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT



KIPP COOPER NORCROSS
LANNING SQUARE MIDDLE

KIPP Lanning Square Middle School

School Handbook Supplement | 2026-2027

Contact Information

School	KIPP Lanning Square Middle School
Grades Served	5th – 8th
Address	525 Clinton Street, Camden, NJ 08103
Phone	856-966-9600
Fax	856-583-6006
Website	kippnj.org/schools/kipp-lanning-square-middle/
Instagram	@KLSMRevs

Leadership & Family-Facing Staff

Role	Name
School Leader	Bridgit Cusato-Rosa
Assistant School Leader – Humanities	Iran Mercado
Assistant School Leader – Culture	Isabel Goss
Assistant School Leader – STEM	Dennis Nelson
Asst. School Leader – Special Education	Shawn Harper
Assistant Dean of Students (5th Grade)	Paul Gay
Assistant Dean of Students (6th Grade)	Richard Gaines
Assistant Dean of Students (7th Grade)	Alvin Gay
Assistant Dean of Students (8th Grade)	Aleisha Dudley
Social Worker (5th & 6th)	Quiesha Gibson
Social Worker (7th & 8th)	Juliana Harris
Director of School Operations	Rahim Shiver
School Operations Manager	Theresa Baylock

School Hours

Regular School Day: 8:45 AM – 3:45 PM, Monday through Friday

KIPP has an extended day, which sets students up for success in college and career.

Students may not be dropped off before 8:45 AM — no KIPP staff are on duty outside prior to that time.

Abbreviated School Day: 8:45 AM – 1:15 PM, On Select Days

Students may not be dropped off before 8:45 AM — no KIPP staff are on duty outside prior to that time.

Delayed Opening Start Times

Delay	LSM Doors Open	Camden City District
1 Hour	9:45 AM	9:40 AM
90 Minutes	10:15 AM	10:10 AM
2 Hours	10:45 AM	10:40 AM

Mission, Vision & Values

Mission

The mission of KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy (KCNA) is to create a network of schools in Camden, New Jersey that instills in students the desire and ability to succeed in college in order to change the world.

Vision & Values

KIPP Lanning Square Revolutionaries believe in the same core beliefs. At KIPP Lanning Square Middle, we empower scholars to become thoughtful, active citizens of Camden and the world. Through rigorous, joyful, and culturally responsive teaching, we equip scholars with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to choose their own futures.

We believe that academic excellence and social-emotional growth go hand in hand, and both are essential for success. Rooted in revolutionary love, we build strong relationships with our scholars and families, always holding high expectations while celebrating who they are. At KLSM, we work hard, play hard, and show up for each other as one team — una familia siempre.

HeartBEAT Values

Value	Definition	Key Indicators
Be Kind	We recognize, appreciate, and encourage others.	Encouragement; Inclusivity
Effort	We work diligently and stay focused on tasks.	Resiliency; Problem-Solving
Accountability	We take accountability and responsibility for our actions.	Responsibility; Advocacy
Teamwork	We collaborate and work together to achieve the greatest outcome.	Community; Collaboration

Academic Belief

At KIPP Lanning Square Middle, we believe every scholar has the ability to achieve at the highest levels. We hold high expectations for all scholars— not in spite of who they are, but because of who they are.

We believe that academic excellence and social-emotional growth are not in competition — they reinforce each other. Rigorous, joyful, and culturally responsive instruction gives scholars the knowledge and skills to choose their own futures.

Learning at LSM is built on revolutionary love: deep commitment to our scholars, their families, and the Camden community. We believe in doing whatever it takes — every day, every scholar.

Course Offerings

5th – 8th Grade Core Courses

Students receive the following daily instruction:

- 60 minutes of ELA
- 60 minutes of Math (Algebra offered)
- 60 minutes of Science
- 60 minutes of History
- 45 minutes of iReady (blended learning & intervention)

45 minutes of Specials: STEM, PE, Art, or Music/Band (Upper School scholars select their elective)

Extracurricular Offerings

We believe in educating the whole child, so we offer a variety of afterschool programming for all of our students.

Competitive Sports

- Cross country, volleyball, boys soccer, girls soccer, girls flag football, field hockey
- Boys basketball, girls basketball, cheerleading,
- Track and field, softball, baseball, boys flag football, golf

Clubs & Activities

- Homework club, kumdo martial arts, yearbook
- Drumming, graphic design, band, mentoring, dance, art

Participation Criteria: Coaches and program leaders may set criteria related to behavior, attendance, or GPA, communicated through a signed contract at the start of each season. For competitive sports, LSM follows Camden City Schools guidelines.

Arrival & Dismissal Logistics

Arrival

Doors open at 8:45 AM. All students must arrive by 9:00 AM.

- LSM students enter through the Broadway entrance at the corner of Broadway & Berkeley Street.
- Students arriving after 9:00 AM must enter through the main entrance and will be marked late. Breakfast is available until 9:15 AM.
- No KIPP staff are outside for arrival before 8:45 AM — please keep this in mind when dropping off early.
- Students may NOT go to the corner store without parent permission. KIPP staff are not present at the store at all times.

Dismissal

Dismissal Times:

- Full Day: 3:45 PM (M–F)
- Half Day: 1:15 PM

Important Notes:

- LSM students (with and without siblings) should be picked up from Broadway.
- The daily dismissal list is finalized at 10:00 AM. All dismissal changes must be called to the main office before that time.
- The main office closes 20 minutes before dismissal as students transition to dismissal locations.
- You MUST show a photo ID and be on the approved pick-up list when picking up a scholar.
- Students not picked up by 4:00 PM (full day) or 1:00 PM (half day) will be brought to the cafeteria. After one hour of no call/no show, police will be contacted.
- For dismissal changes, contact Ms. Nancy at 856-966-9600 or nmunoz@kippnj.org.

No early dismissals are permitted during the following windows:

- Full Days: 3:15 PM – 3:45 PM
- Half Days: 12:45 PM – 1:15 PM

Main office is closed to visitors and parents 30 minutes before dismissal.

Recess Policy

Recess provides scholars with a short break, fresh air, and informal participation in positive social and physical activities.

- Recess will be held indoors or outdoors depending on conditions.
- Students are expected to dress appropriately for the weather.
- Parent requests for indoor recess during cold weather create supervision challenges, as teachers are required to be outside with students. If a student has a medical reason preventing outdoor participation, please contact the school nurse.

Students may miss recess if they earn a detention for in-class behavior.

Uniform Policy

All LSM students are required to wear the complete LSM uniform every school day. Our uniform policy builds pride in our school community and ensures students look professional and remain comfortable as they learn.

Required Tops (one of the following)

- Purple LSM t-shirt
- Purple LSM short sleeve polo
- Purple LSM long sleeve polo
- Purple LSM crew neck sweatshirt (no hooded sweatshirts)
- LSM SWAG item earned during the school year

Only LSM shirts/sweatshirts are permitted. All other sweatshirts or jackets must be left in cubbies or lockers at the start of the day.

Bottoms

- Jeans, khakis, or sweatpants — must be properly fitted (not baggy or extremely tight)
- No rips, holes, or cut-out designs. If rips are present, tights or leggings must be worn underneath.
- Belts are recommended.

Additional Dress Code Rules

- No sleeveless or midriff shirts or blouses
- Jewelry must be minimal and may be removed if distracting
- No hats permitted inside the building
- Athletic or dress shoes permitted (students must be able to safely run during gym/recess at teacher discretion). No sandals, slides, slippers, flip flops, heels, platforms, or wheeled/light-up shoes.

Violations

Any item that becomes a distraction will be sent home with a note. Students dressed improperly may be required to call a parent/guardian to bring appropriate clothing. Repeated or intentional violations will result in additional consequences.

Ordering from Flynn & O'Hara

How to Order	Details
Online	www.flynnohara.com
Phone	(856) 931-8838
Store	Garden State Pavilions, 2240 W. Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
Hours	Mon 10am–7pm | Tue–Wed 10am–6pm | Sat 10am–5pm

Parent Involvement

Parent Communication

Online Platforms: Parents are encouraged to check DeansList and PowerSchool weekly to stay informed and review essential information, including grades, culture reports, and paychecks.

Paychecks: Each student receives a weekly paycheck displaying BEAT points earned through behavior and homework completion. Students can earn incentives based on their paycheck points.

Progress Reports: Distributed weekly. They display current progress toward standards, absences, tardies, and other student data. Students are responsible for showing progress reports to parents..

Report Cards: Distributed quarterly (four times per year). Report card conferences are held three times during the school year.

LSM Parent Association (KPTA): Meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Helps plan school events and participates in school functions.

Social Media: Follow @KLSMRevs on Instagram for updates and school news.

Visitors

All visitors to LSM, including parents and guardians, must check in at the main office upon arrival.

- Visitors must sign in using a photo ID (driver's license preferred) and will receive a visitor badge to wear while in the building.
- Even regular visitors must sign in through our visitor system.
- This process helps us account for all adults in the building, especially in an emergency.
- Please sign out at the main office before leaving.

Staff and security reserve the right to ask anyone not following security procedures or being disruptive to leave school grounds.

Birthday Policy

LSM recognizes the importance of birthdays and will do our best to make each student's birthday special while respecting those who choose not to participate.

To celebrate a birthday at school, please follow these guidelines:

- Families must notify the child's teacher(s) at least one day in advance.
- Families may send birthday treats on the scheduled day, to be distributed at a time determined by the classroom teacher.
- All birthday treats must be store-bought, sealed, and may not contain nuts as an ingredient.

Recommended Supplies

Daily School Supplies

Students are expected to bring the following to school each day:

- 4 pencils
- Homework binder
- Novel (reading books and binders are provided by the school)

A full supply list is sent home every summer for scholars and families.

At-Home Supplies (for homework)

- 1 box of at least 24 crayons
- 1 box of washable markers
- Scissors (school-safety scissors with blunt tips)
- 1 bottle of glue or a large glue stick
- Loose-leaf, white-lined, wide-ruled paper
- Extra pencils and pencil sharpener

There will be frequent homework assignments that require these supplies.

Bathroom Accidents

Students may use the bathroom at the teacher's discretion whenever necessary throughout the school day. Please notify the school if your child has unique restroom needs.

If a student of any age has a bathroom accident with no extra clothes, the following procedure applies:

1. Student will wait in the nurse's office until a change of clothes is secured.
2. Parent/guardian will be notified to bring clothes to school. We ask families to comply as soon as possible.
3. If a student has frequent bathroom accidents, the parent should follow up with the student's Primary Care Provider.

Personal Electronic Device Policy Summary

To ensure our students can thrive in a distraction-free environment that promotes academic excellence, social-emotional growth, and character development, KIPP Cooper Norcross schools implement a strict No Cell Phone Policy during school hours, including recess.

Implementation

- All students will use Phone Lockers to store personal devices during school hours.
- All devices must be switched off or silenced and stored before school begins, including during recess.
- Exceptions for emergencies or specific learning needs will be handled on a case-by-case basis by school administration.
- Staff will model appropriate behavior by limiting personal device use to non-instructional times.

For all official policies and additional important information, visit the KIPP Cooper Norcross Regional Student & Family Handbook at:

https://kippnj.org/school-resources/

KIPP COOPER NORCROSS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

kippnj.org

This is a school supplement only. To access official district policies, see the KIPP Cooper Norcross Regional Student & Family Handbook at: https://kippnj.org/school-resources/