

CLAIBORNE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

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The start of the new Claiborne Parish school year is rapidly approaching. The current start date for students during the 2020-2021 school year is Thursday, August 6th. Throughout this pandemic, we have all been working hard to prepare for the upcoming school year that holds so many unknowns. We are currently in Phase II and will be proceeding with the start of the new year as though we will still be in Phase II on August 6th. Phase II requires many safety precautions to be put in place and limits our ability to transport and educate all children within the school walls every day. Bus transportation is limited to 50% capacity at this time. If we are able to move into Phase III, at some later point in time; that would allow for transportation of more children daily as well as gatherings of larger groups within the school buildings.

Please note that we will be following the guidance suggested by the Louisiana Department of Health and adopted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. We are working closely with the Louisiana Department of Health and Dr. Martha Whyte, Region 7 contact. Currently, Dr. Whyte supports our start date of August 3rd, for teachers, based on the recorded cases of COVID 19 for Claiborne Parish. If her recommendation changes, so will our plans accordingly.

On August 6th, we will begin our staggered start at each school campus as shown below:

August 6 th & 7 th	PreK (school will notify of alternating days by gender)
	K-2 (school will schedule times for diagnostic testing)
	3 rd and 4 th grades
August 10 th	5 th grade begins
August 11 th	6 th grade begins
August 12 th	7 th grade begins
August 13 th	8 th grade begins

Each high school will also phase in the high school students throughout this time period; however, it will be different for each school. For further guidance on this process, please contact your child's school administration. We will be evaluating the bus capacity each day and will begin transporting high school students as soon as we have the available room to do so.

As mentioned earlier, we will follow the recommendations provided by the Louisiana Department of Health. One such requirement is social distancing. We have the option of providing static groups of no more than 25 or providing 6 feet social distancing between each child in a classroom. We should be able to provide the static groups up thru the 8th grade, however, high school is another challenge. The fact that most high school students change classes constantly throughout the day becomes very challenging. Therefore, we will have a

hybrid type schedule at most high schools consisting of students attending school on alternating days while joining class virtually on the other days. Once we can safely get all students on campus, we will begin providing face-to-face education every day.

As mentioned in each of our Townhall Zoom meetings, we will be offering a virtual option for students as well. Each request will be taken individually. If you have such a request, please reach out to your child's school administrator.

Sincerely,

William Kennedy
Superintendent, Claiborne Parish Schools