

ST. BERNARD PARISH

 LEGACY

O F L E A R N I N G

SCHOOL BOARD

Vision. Effort. Success.

Operational Guidelines

2023-2024

*A Legacy is not what's engraved in stone monuments,
but what is woven into the lives of others.*

Message from the Superintendent

Families,

As summer draws to a close, it is my sincere hope that you were able to enjoy some time with your family and friends. We look forward to welcoming your children back for another school year, one filled with GRATITUDE for all we have, all we are, and all we share.

I am grateful for our families in our school community and your commitment to your child's education. Your support is vital to our schools' success and to our goals of academic excellence, and I thank you for your continued presence and involvement.

We deeply believe children thrive when engaged in on-campus learning and with the opportunities to participate in the learning experience outside of the classroom. As such, we plan to return to on-campus learning five days a week for all preschool through grade 12 students and offer students more extracurricular activities, pending the state of our community.

Please note, this plan was developed based on current information, guidelines, and recommendations and may be modified as additional information from national, state, and local government and health officials dictate. Critical information will be shared with you through our various digital platforms. Given the fluidity of the situation, we urge you to continue to check our websites and social media pages. We will also be sending out updates via email and phone calls. Please verify that you have an up-to-date email address and phone number on file with your current school(s).



We look forward to a great school year, and we thank you for entrusting your child to the St. Bernard Parish Public School System.

Sincerely,

Doris Voitier
Superintendent of St. Bernard Parish Public Schools

2022-2023 Return to School Guidance

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Overview

The number one priority of the St. Bernard Parish Public School System is maintaining the health and well-being of our students and staff. We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation, and taking guidance from the Louisiana Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The 2022-2023 School Operational Guidelines provide an overview of COVID-19 health and safety protocols in place throughout St. Bernard Parish Public Schools. This guidance will be evaluated and adjusted as the situation evolves and as new guidance from health and government officials is received.

The St. Bernard Parish Public School System adheres to national, state, and local guidance and requirements for safety protocols and operational standards to help keep our schools safe and our students, families, and employees healthy. School administrators use these standards to implement protocols at the school level.

The protective measures outlined within this guidance are intended for students while on school campuses.

Key Takeaways

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction is a priority.
- Based upon the **current** guidelines provided, the St. Bernard Parish Public School System will begin the school year in the traditional school setting as safely as possible.
- It is important that all students and staff properly monitor their own symptoms and conduct screenings prior to attending school or work for the safety of themselves and others.
- At this time, face coverings are optional for all pre-K through grade 12 students and employees.
- St. Bernard Parish Public Schools will continue its efforts toward daily cleaning and disinfecting.
- Students should anticipate a return to the rigorous academic coursework they have come to expect from St. Bernard Parish Public Schools. **Students will be held accountable for attendance and grades for the upcoming school year regardless of instructional model.**
- Our school and district websites provide families the most up-to-date information regarding school operations, school and district policies, upcoming events, and announcements.

Check the CDC guidelines to determine if you're considered fully vaccinated:
[When You've Been Fully Vaccinated | CDC](#)

Monitoring Student Wellness

Keep Sick Students Home

It is critical that parents keep children home when they are sick. If the child has taken any fever-reducing medications in the last 24 hours or is demonstrating any symptoms of a respiratory illness, such as shortness of breath or a cough, the student should remain home.

Symptom Monitoring

Schools will no longer be required to screen students at the beginning of each school day. It is important that all students and staff properly monitor their own symptoms and conduct screenings prior to attending school or work for the safety of themselves and others. No student or staff member should attend school or work when experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms or experiencing a fever even without having other symptoms.

Symptoms include a fever of 100.4°F or higher, new loss of taste or smell, new cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, new headache, sore throat, runny nose or congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, and muscle or body aches. If a student has any of these symptoms and/or has a reasonable belief of possible exposure to COVID-19, they should stay home.

Visitor Policy

The safety of our staff and students remains the district's primary concern. Visitors will continue to be limited and require an appointment.

Face Coverings

At this time, face coverings are optional for all pre-K through grade 12 students and employees.

The St. Bernard Parish Public School System encourages all students (parents/guardians), employees, and others to consult with their personal physicians or health care providers for guidance on the necessity of a face covering as it pertains to their individual condition and health care needs.

For those who wear face coverings, they can be of any color or pattern but cannot contain writing or symbols which may be perceived as vulgar, profane, satanic, gang-related, violent, political, or tobacco, drug, or alcohol-related. In accordance with our dress code, bandanas may not be worn as a face covering. The principal will make the final decision as to whether a face covering is acceptable.

Positive Case of COVID-19

School Campuses and Office Closures

If it is determined that a school campus or office was the focus of a COVID-19 infection, the Superintendent, in consultation with the Office of Public Health, will determine if the school/office should remain open. A positive case of COVID-19 does not necessarily warrant classroom, campus, or office closure.

Isolation Areas in Schools

Areas will be designated to isolate sick individuals from those who are well and require medical assistance for routine needs.

We have planned for and expect some students will get COVID-19 during the school year. **In the case that a student becomes ill, regardless of illness, the student must remain home.**

Isolation Protocols

The following information is in accordance with guidance from the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

An employee/student who is a close contact with a COVID-19 positive person does not need to quarantine. If the individual develops symptoms, he/she should get a COVID-19 test.

Access our [Employee and Student School/Work Isolation Return Guide](#) for additional information.

Environmental and Physical Standards

St. Bernard Parish Public Schools will continue its efforts toward daily cleaning and disinfecting. Restrooms and other common areas (corridors, lobbies, libraries, meeting rooms, etc.) will be cleaned daily. Drinking fountains will remain closed but bottle filling stations are available at all schools. Students and employees are to be encouraged to bring personal water bottles for refilling.

Group Size

Maximum group sizes are no longer prescribed but an effort to remain attentive to distancing to the greatest extent possible will be pursued for both classrooms and large spaces. Schools will operate in static groups in lower grades when able to do so. Adults will work to maintain distance to the greatest extent possible when working with students within the context of effective instructional practices. Schools will be able to utilize large spaces such as cafeterias and gyms without the necessity of barriers or dividers between individual groups.

Personal Hygiene

Students and employees will continue to have access to handwashing stations and hand sanitizer throughout the day. Students and employees will be encouraged to utilize hand sanitation resources when entering the school, exchanging classes, before and after eating, and other times throughout the day as would be appropriate.

Transportation

Buses will operate at 100% capacity. Bus drivers and all passengers should self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 from home before entering the bus. Frequently touched surfaces will be wiped daily using a disinfectant. Hand sanitizer will be available on each bus. Windows may be kept open when it does not create a safety or health hazard. Seating charts will be kept and consistently enforced where applicable.

Food Service

Students will be served breakfast and lunch according to nutrition guidelines. Meal service operations will vary from school to school.

- For the 2022-2023 school year, breakfast and lunch will be free for all students.
- Hand washing should occur before and after every meal by students, teachers, and cafeteria staff.
- Cafeterias and high-touch surfaces such as kitchen countertops, cafeteria and service tables, door handles, carts, and trays will be routinely cleaned throughout the school day.
- Signage will remain to encourage social distancing in the cafeteria serving lines.
- Students are allowed to bring food from home.
- Parents/caregivers are not allowed to drop off food for their child during the school day or eat meals with their child at school.

Teaching and Learning

Students should anticipate a return to the rigorous academic coursework they have come to expect from St. Bernard Parish Public Schools. **Students will be held accountable for attendance and grades for the upcoming school year regardless of instructional model.**

There are three instructional delivery models St. Bernard Parish Public Schools is prepared to operate within any given time throughout the 2022-2023 school year:

- **Traditional Learning:** Schools open daily to students while following recommended safety guidelines for class sizes, social distancing, and movement
- **Hybrid Learning:** Combination of traditional and distance learning
- **Distance Learning:** Remote instruction and learning

Based upon the **current** guidelines provided, the St. Bernard Parish Public School System will begin the school year in the traditional school setting as safely as possible. Based on the protective measures outlined by state and national officials, the St. Bernard Parish Public School System is preparing for school operations to vary by level and to be determined by the phase in which the state of Louisiana is currently operating.

The Educational Experience

Assessing Learning Needs and Intervention Strategies

Additional instructional support and targeted interventions will be provided as needed to students at risk of not graduating on time, students with exceptionalities, early grades, English Learners, and other students identified as being behind academically by teachers and parents.

Students with Exceptionalities

Students with exceptionalities will continue to receive special education and related services in the least restrictive environment.

Wellness and Mental Health

Individual needs will be addressed by providing support and services to enhance the social and emotional well-being of employees and students.

Vocal, Music, and Band

Band and vocal music will follow the [National Federation of State High School Associations](#) and the [National Association for Music Education Guidance](#).

Physical Education and Athletics

There are currently no restrictions for physical education. Physical education classes may occur indoors or outdoors. There are currently no restrictions for athletic team practices and competitions. Athletics in high school will follow requirements as provided by the [Louisiana High School Athletic Association](#) (LHSAA).

K-12 Sports Teams

Access [LDH's COVID-19 Contact Tracing for K-12 Sports Teams Guidance](#) for more information.

Outdoor and Indoor Spectator Protocols

Capacity guidance for school-related events and spectator capacity for athletic events will be found on the [Louisiana State Fire Marshal website](#).

The St. Bernard Parish Public School System understands that a student's educational experience extends beyond the classroom. The district will make every effort to offer these experiences while complying with health and safety guidance.

Communications

The need for clear communication between schools and families has never been more important. That is why the St. Bernard Parish Public School System has invested in multiple communications platforms for the upcoming school year.

SchoolStatus: An Easier Way to Connect With Teachers and Administrators

Our educators will continue using the SchoolStatus platform to connect with parents. All teachers, counselors, and administrators throughout our district will be reaching out using this communications tool. This replaced individual teachers' need to create separate RemindApp or ClassDojo accounts. Teachers and administrators now have the opportunity to communicate directly to parents via text, email, or phone call.

Here are a few answers to some common questions:

- **If I need to contact a teacher or administrator, what do I do?** Parents or guardians can call their student's school and leave a message with the front office for a teacher or administrator. The teacher or administrator may call or text back from his/her direct line.
- **If I respond to a text, who gets the message?** The educator who contacted you! You're not responding to an entire group. It's a one-to-one message.
- **If I miss a call, can I call the number back?** Yes! You may leave a message for the educator who called or text that same number and know you'll reach the educator who called you.
- **How does the system know my phone number or email?** SchoolStatus will utilize the contact information in the school's student system. It is critical that your phone number and email address are accurate and up-to-date. Please contact your school secretary if your contact information has changed.

School and District Websites

Our school and district websites provide families the most up-to-date information regarding school operations, school and district policies, upcoming events, and announcements. The district website can be located by visiting www.sbpsb.org, and individual schools can be found by clicking the school drop-down menu at the top of the page.

Teachers will also be posting important information regarding assignments, tests, class resources, and other helpful reminders and announcements to their Teacher Web Pages. Parents or guardians can find their child's Teacher Web Page by visiting the "Teachers" channel on their student's school website.

Social Media Accounts

The St. Bernard Parish Public School System and each individual school utilize [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to communicate with our families and community. To get the latest information, please "like" our page.

Distance Learning Platforms

In the event that a school needs to close for a prolonged period of time, or for those students operating within our hybrid instructional model, St. Bernard Parish Public Schools will be providing direct instruction utilizing the platforms below.

Clever

Clever is an easy way for children to log in and learn with all of the online programs they use at school. With their own personal portals, students can learn with resources selected by their teacher and district.

All Distance Learning will be taking place in a variety of programs, namely the Learning Management System (LMS), which can be found through the Clever portal.

Families and students can access the Clever portal by visiting the Clever icon on either the school or district website homepages.

Students' usernames and passwords were provided at the beginning of the school year, and trouble logging in should be directed to the student's teacher.

Teacher Webpages

Individual teachers may post information about themselves and their class on their Teacher Webpage, which can be located on each school's website under the "Teacher" channel.

Student Progress Center: Quick Access to Student Grades, Attendance, and Schedules

Regardless of instructional model, students will be responsible for their attendance and grades throughout the school year.

Parents may utilize the Student Progress Center by visiting www.sbpsb.org/grades or visiting their school or district websites. The Student Progress Center (SPC) will give parents access to current information regarding their child's schedule, attendance, classwork, interim progress report, report card grades, test scores, and registration information.

Helpful Resources

- [American Health Care Association](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Louisiana Department of Public Health](#)
- [Louisiana High School Athletic Association](#)
- [Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education \(BESE\)](#)
- [Traveler Restrictions | CDC](#)
- [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated | CDC](#)

School Board



District 1
Katherine Lemoine



District 2
**Henry Rodriguez
III**



District 3
Kelly Le-Bowman



District 4
Sean Warner



District 5
Joseph Long



District 6
Carly Jackson



District 7
Diana Dysart



District 8
Millie Harris



District 9
Keisa Rodney



District 10
Rosiland White



District 11
Donald Campbell