



The Power of **Hope**

Returning to School

**What You Need
To Know**

2020-2021

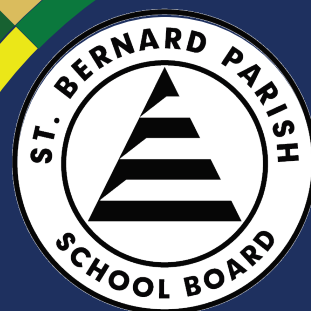




Table of Contents

Message from the Superintendent	2
Monitoring Student Wellness	3
Presumptive or Confirmed Positive Case of COVID-19	4
Environmental and Physical Standards	5
Teaching and Learning	6
St. Bernard Parish Public Schools Virtual Option	7
The Educational Experience	8
Communications	9
Distance Learning Platforms	10
St. Bernard Parish School Board Members	11

Message from the Superintendent

Families -

We hope that each of you and your families are healthy, safe, and well during these difficult times. Today we are sharing our comprehensive reopening plan for St. Bernard Parish Public Schools. This plan will be followed by specific school procedures and protocols that you can expect to receive from your school principal.

As a school district, we are preparing for a reopening that prioritizes the safety of students and staff above all else while also providing strong learning opportunities for students regardless of the reopening scenarios.

To do this, St. Bernard Parish Public School System will be providing families with two options for the upcoming school year:

- Primary Option: Students will return to school following the educational model outlined in the plan provided.
- Secondary Option: 100% virtual option. Different from what families and students experienced in the spring, students will engage in learning with recorded video lessons, and attendance and grades will be monitored. A separate registration is required for this option, and information can be found in the plan.

The plan provided was developed based on current guidelines and recommendations and is subject to change based on additional information from national, state, and local government and health officials. All updates and critical information will primarily 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 Facebook accounts. We will also be sending out updates via email and over the phone. Please be sure to have an up-to-date email address and phone number on file with your schools.

Each year, our school district unites around a single theme. This year, we have come together around the word **HOPE**. As we navigate this health crisis together as a community, we must remember that hope is being able to see the light despite the darkness. We as a community have persevered and even thrived during difficult times before, and we will do it once again.



We hope this plan provides clarity and assurance that we can begin the school year safely and effectively. We deeply appreciate your continued support as we continue to navigate this ever-changing public health crisis.

Sincerely,

Doris Voitier
Superintendent of Schools

Monitoring Student Wellness

St. Bernard Parish Public School System's number one priority is maintaining the health and well-being of our students and staff. As such, St. Bernard Parish Schools will be following the policies and procedures specified below during the COVID-19 crisis.

The protective measures outlined below are intended for students while on school campuses.



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

All students', employees', and visitors' temperatures will be taken upon arriving on campus. If a temperature is registered at or above 100.4°F, or an individual exhibits other signs of illness, he/she will be removed from the classroom setting and isolated until he/she can be picked up by a parent or guardian.



Visitor Policy

The safety of our staff and students remains the district's primary concern. Therefore, visitors will be limited and require an appointment. Visitors will be required to wear a face mask upon arrival, and temperatures will be taken.




Masks

All adults and students (3rd grade and up) must wear face coverings. It is strongly recommended that PreK-2nd grade students wear face coverings. Face coverings must be worn in all areas of the school including classrooms. Most importantly, face coverings should be worn during arrival, dismissal, and any other transition within the school building. Face shields may be worn in addition to face coverings but do not take the place of face coverings.

However, individuals with severe breathing difficulties, as documented by a doctor's note, may be excused from wearing a face covering and instead may be required to wear a shield.

Face coverings 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.



Presumptive or Confirmed Positive Case of COVID-19

Given the levels of COVID-19 currently in our communities, 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.** If a student has a presumptive or confirmed case of COVID-19, the following must happen:

1. Parents or guardians must provide school administration with documentation confirming exposure or positive COVID-19 test results.
2. Students must remain home until they have recovered and have been determined to no longer be infectious by their doctor.
3. Students can only return to campus once they have documentation from their doctor stating they are no longer contagious. This documentation must be submitted to school administration prior to return.

Individuals who were in close contact with an infected student or faculty member may be identified and contacted as part of the Office of Public Health (OPH) contact tracing process. Close contact is defined as a person who was less than six feet away from the infected individual for more than 15 minutes, as determined by the OPH contact tracing process. Individuals identified as close contacts will be asked to stay home and monitor symptoms for 14 days.

Students who are quarantined or isolated will transition to a distance learning platform until they are able to return safely to school.

St. Bernard Parish School District is working closely with Children's Hospital and the Region 1 Medical Director. If the school environment is determined to be a source of ongoing COVID-19 spread, the school may need to close for 3-5 days for a deep-cleaning.

Environmental and Physical Standards



Group Size

Class and group sizes are determined by the phase the State of Louisiana is operating under at any given time. Regardless of class size, elementary students will remain in static groups, to the best of our ability, throughout the day. Given the nature of the middle and high school schedules, we will make every attempt possible to ensure social distancing practices are in place throughout the day, and students come in contact with as few individuals as possible.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
10, including adults	25, including adults	50, including adults



Spacing

All non-essential furniture has been removed from classrooms to be able to maximize the space between students in the classroom.

While our cafeterias and playgrounds will be accessible, utilization of these areas will be decided upon at the school level and follow all CDC guidelines.

Families should anticipate changes to drop-off and pick-up processes to ensure physical distance recommendations are maintained to the maximum extent possible.

Further information will be provided by school administrators.



Cleaning

We have intensified all cleaning and disinfecting efforts throughout our school buildings and buses. High-touch surfaces (e.g., desks, doorknobs) are cleaned before and after each group's use.



Personal Hygiene

Routine handwashing practices will be implemented throughout the school. Schools have established hand sanitizer and hand washing stations throughout the building. Nursing staff will continue to meet with students and teachers to review best practices regarding common illness prevention.

Students in 3rd-12th grade will be required to wear a mask while on school campuses. Students will also be encouraged to practice social distancing throughout the day.



Teaching and Learning

While teaching and learning will look slightly different come this fall, 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 2020-2021 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:** Teacher led remote instruction and learning

Based upon the **current** guidelines provided, St. Bernard Parish Public School System is prepared to begin the school year as safely as possible. Based on the protective measures outlined by state and national officials, St. Bernard Parish 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.

	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools + Rowley Alternative	Chalmette High School
Phase 1	Distance	Distance	Distance
Phase 2	Traditional	Traditional	Hybrid
Phase 3	Traditional	Traditional	Hybrid/ Transitioning to Traditional

Please note, these plans may be subject to change if guidelines or criteria are adjusted by state or national authorities.



St. Bernard Parish Public Schools Virtual Option

In these uncertain and unprecedented times, St. Bernard Parish Public School System is committed to providing a high-quality, rigorous educational experience for all students. We know that some families may want an alternate learning option for their child(ren) next school year. In response to COVID-19, St. Bernard Parish Public School System will be providing an at-home, virtual learning option that will support K-12th grade students throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

SBPSB Virtual Option will

- Occur five days a week
- Engage students using online learning platforms
- Use high-quality, aligned instructional resources
- Offer flexibility for the time of day assignments are completed
- Allows students to conduct self-paced virtual learning;
- Provide instruction in ELA, math, science, and social studies for K-8th grade students
- Provide instruction in courses required for graduation for 9-12th grade students
- Provide students with technology, if necessary

Teachers will

- Monitor students' attendance and completion of assignments. Lessons will be recorded and provided to students on an online platform.
- Grade weekly assignments and provide feedback to students
- Provide accommodations for diverse learners
- Be available for individual students who may need additional support
- Communicate regularly with parents/guardians via email and phone

Students will

- Participate in required lessons
- Complete all required homework and assignments
- Be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities offered by the school

Parents/Guardians will

- For K-8th grade students, commit to nine-week increments with the option to continue with the virtual option for the entire school year
- For 9th-12th grade students, commit to a semester with the option to continue for the entire school year
- Ensure students participate in lessons and complete all required assignments and homework in a timely manner
- Ensure students take all required local and state tests
- Communicate with teachers to ensure student success

Additional information

- Any student who participates in the virtual option will remain a student of the St. Bernard Parish Public School System.
- Families interested in signing their students up for this option must complete the registration found at www.sbpsb.org/virtualoption
- A School Instructional Model Change Request must be completed in order for a student to exit the virtual option at the end of the nine weeks (K-8) and semester (9-12).



The Educational Experience

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.

Cultural Arts, Music, and Physical Education

Cultural Arts, Music, and Physical Education classes will continue at all grade levels in accordance with the CDC guidelines.

Athletics

St. Bernard Parish Public School System will follow all Louisiana High School Athletic Association's Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities.

- Phase 2: Non-contact, non-high risk athletic activities are allowed to resume
- Phase 3: Practices associated with contact, high-risk sports allowable within defined groups
- Be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities offered by the school in Phase 3. Please note, during Phase 2 extracurricular activities will be limited. During this phase, students enrolled in the Virtual
- Option will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities unless sanctioned by the LHSAA.

Recess will be held at the elementary level.

Field Trips

Until further notice, all field trips will be discontinued during Phase 2 and Phase 3.

School Assemblies and Large Gatherings

All school assemblies and large gatherings will be discontinued in accordance with CDC guidelines.



Communications

The need for clear communication between schools and families has never been more important. That is why 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

Starting with the 2020-2021 school year, our educators will begin using a new platform called SchoolStatus to connect with parents. This means that all teachers, counselors, and administrators throughout our district will be reaching out using this new communications tool. This will replace individual teachers' need to create separate RemindApp or ClassDojo accounts. Teachers and administrators will 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

St. Bernard Parish Public School District and each individual school utilize Facebook 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 Quick Links section on either the school or district website homepages or by visiting their student's individual teacher website.

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 Web Pages

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

Home Access 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 Home Access Center by visiting www.sbpsb.org/grades or visiting their school or district websites. The Home Access Center (HAC) will give parents access to current information regarding your child's schedule, attendance, class work, interim progress report, report card grades, test scores, and registration information.

School Board



District 1:
Katherine Lemoine



District 2:
William Egan



District 3:
Darleen Asevedo



District 4:
Sean Warner



District 5:
Joseph Long



District 6:
Carly Jackson



District 7:
Diana Dysart



District 8:
Clifford Englande



District 9:
Shelton Smith



District 10:
Rosiland White



District 11:
Donald Campbell