

July 27, 2020

Dear Gryphon Families,

I hope that this email finds you and your family in good health. As we prepare for the opening of school for the 2020-2021 school year during this unprecedented time, we must all allow for flexibility as new information comes to light. As always, student and faculty safety is at the forefront of all of our re-opening plans and procedures. A student not feeling well for whatever reasons must not come to school. Parents must make sure that they remain at home.

As Jefferson Parish has delayed their start date until August 12th and many of our Jefferson Parish families rely on the bus, we have adjusted our start time as well. **Our new student orientation will be on August 11th from 9 – 12 PM (NO BUS SERVICE), and our first day of school for all students will be August 12th.** Bus stop and times will be emailed home to parents next week.

Please know that while our current plan calls for in-person instruction only, we are also developing plans for distance learning for the entire school should it become necessary to make the switch due to guidance from Governor John Bel Edwards and other state and local authorities. Toward that end, we are pleased to announce that Lutheran High School has been approved to be a Google school which will facilitate distant learning and taking attendance

As we all prepare for the first day of school, I would like to recap some information already presented and share some new information. As you have already been informed, we are keeping our students in grade level cohorts as much as possible during the day. Teachers will “float” between classrooms to provide in-person instruction, while reducing student movement in the school day. Both students and faculty will be required to wear a mask. Students are also required to wear a mask on school buses. After discussions with many of our parents, mask choice will be left to parents and guardians. We understand that the decision of which mask style to wear is best suited to parents to determine. It is important to note that masks must be school appropriate. The Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana Department of Health do not deem a face shield acceptable as face shields do not provide adequate protection. As noted before, we will have touchless thermometers to check temperatures as needed.

Here's what to expect in the classroom:

- Each student will be assigned a desk which will be socially distanced from other students.
- Each student will be assigned a “cubby” in the classroom where each student may store lunch, supplies, books, etc.
- Students will not share resources such as pencils, pens, markers, books, etc. in order to minimize contact between students. So that students may more easily keep track of their own supplies, each student will be given a pencil case of sufficient size to keep their supplies in. In this way, students may keep their supplies in their cubby. They are **not** to be brought home.
- Until such time that health restrictions are eased, students will bring their lunch (including a drink) and will eat in their classroom.
- As access to drinking fountains will be temporarily suspended, students are encouraged to bring a clear water bottle to school with water. Students may also bring water bottles from the grocery store. If the bottle is small, students may bring more than one to keep in their backpack or cubby.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and in each bathroom, and high touch surfaces such as door knobs and light switches will be sanitized throughout the day.

Here's what to expect school-wide:

- Water fountains will be inaccessible due to COVID restrictions
- Until such time that COVID guidelines are less restricted, only students will be permitted to enter the school. Should a student need to be checked out for an appointment, we ask that a parent call the school office when outside of the school entrance. At such time, the student will then be dismissed from their classroom and then be allowed to exit the building.
- Tylenol will not be given out to students until COVID guidelines are lifted. A student feeling unwell will be isolated in another room and a parent will be called to pick up the student.
- School computer labs will include partitions between stations, or appropriate social distancing of stations.
- Bathrooms and high touch surfaces will be sanitized throughout the day.
- Deep sanitation will occur when students are not in the building.
- Clubs and afterschool activities and group activities will TEMPORARILY be suspended as we allow for a safe opening of school.
- Ms. Loughmiller, Athletic Director, will address athletics when appropriate.

While these COVID guidelines may feel restrictive, please know that student safety guides our policy and procedures. We know that in-person instruction creates the most ideal learning environment for your child and these procedures are designed to keep your child safe. Even under these extraordinary circumstances, our teachers are excited to welcome your child to school! Rest assured, we will take care of your child if a problem arises.

Look for another email soon detailing course selections/schedules and school supplies. As always we appreciate all of our Lutheran High School families. Thank you for your continued trust and partnership as we prepare to welcome your children back to school.