

7/7/2020  
(Revised 7/20/2020)

Dear Gryphon Families,

We hope that you and your families are well. The administration and faculty are working hard to prepare the school to welcome our new and returning students to school in early August. As always, the safety and well-being of your children is our priority as we plan for the opening of school. We want to share with you some of our plans for the beginning of the school year.

**The first day of school for new students will be August 11<sup>th</sup>. All students report to school on August 12<sup>th</sup>.** Bus service begins on August 12<sup>th</sup>. A change from last year, our school beginning and end times will now be **8:15 AM to 3:15 PM**. There will be no summer reading required this year. Please find attached a tentative yearly calendar that highlights school holidays, exam days, and dates that have altered or no bus service. Attached you may also find the most recent uniform pricing sheet from our uniform supplier, Schumachers. Student schedules and school supply lists will be emailed at a later date.

Louisiana is still in Phase Two of the state's COVID-19 plan. With the guidance of the State Department of Education, Jefferson Parish local government, and the Jefferson Parish School System, we have formulated a plan to open school with in-person instruction. While we are hopeful for a return to "normal" in the coming months, current conditions require that we implement extra measures to help keep our students safe. For student safety, and with direction from the state, we will be implementing the following measures:

- Mask wearing for both faculty and student
- Social distancing within the classroom
- Contactless student temperature checks
- Grade-level cohorts where students will stay in their assigned rooms for much of the day to mitigate contact. Teachers will move into classrooms to teach their subjects so that students do not need to move.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and school offices
- Extra measures will be taken to sanitize the school throughout the year

Additionally, with guidance from the state, we will not issue lockers for this school year. However, students will not be carrying books from classroom to classroom as they will stay in their grade level groups. It is important that students bring a lunch and drink to school each day as they will eat in their classrooms initially. Students will not be able to use the lunchroom microwaves and vending machines during this time. Again, this is a temporary measure until such time we receive more guidance from the state. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work toward creating a safe educational experience for your child.

Some parents have inquired about our bus service and we are happy to report that Jefferson Parish Schools will continue to provide bus transportation to our students residing in Jefferson Parish (and living more than a mile away from school). We will provide further bus information to our bus riders when it becomes available to us.

Please also know that we recognize that circumstances may change and further measures may be needed in the future. We are partnering with Google so that we will be prepared to offer hybrid learning, and/or distant learning, as required. As a college preparatory school, our focus continues to be on providing high quality instruction regardless of whether it is in a traditional face-to-face model, or through distance learning. This summer our faculty are receiving additional training in technology based instruction, and in the fall, our students will be trained in how to use Google Classroom.

We recognize that this is a constantly evolving situation and will keep you informed throughout the process. As always, we appreciate all of our Gryphon families. Thank you for your continued support and for entrusting your children to our care as we go about the joyful work of education your children. More detailed information will be shared in the near future.

Blessings in Christ,