

Baldwin County Board of Education
A Charter System of Georgia

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Dear Baldwin County School District Families,

I hope you are continuing to stay safe and healthy during the summer break. Thank you for your flexibility and adaptability as we quickly transitioned to remote learning in March. I am extremely proud of the work that was accomplished and how we worked together during these challenging times to have a successful ending to the school year.

Now it's time to focus our efforts on preparing for the 2020-2021 school year. I am sure you are wondering what school might look like for the upcoming school year considering the unforeseeable ending to the academic year we all experienced. While there is nothing more I would rather do than have our students and staff return to normal activities, we must keep the safety of our students and staff as our top priority.

On June 1st, the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Department of Public Health released a document, [*Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools*](#). This plan provides guidance – not mandates – regarding reopening school this fall. The plan addresses practicing prevention; transporting students; entering school buildings; serving meals; transitioning between classes and other areas within the school; conducting large group gatherings; supporting teaching and learning; and protecting vulnerable populations in areas of substantial, minimal to moderate, and low to no spread of COVID-19. The plan advises school districts in Georgia to use this document as a guidepost in creating the best method for returning to in-person instruction.

Although the first day of school is scheduled for August 3rd, we are still having ongoing discussions about the best model(s)/option(s) to start the 2020-2021 school year. Therefore, I have formed a task force to develop guidance on how to reopen Baldwin County Schools safely for students, faculty, and staff. The task force consists of representatives from the school district, parents,

business leaders, community members, health care professionals, local emergency and law enforcement personnel, faith-based organization leaders, civic and non-profit organization members, and representatives from all three local colleges/universities. Through this collaboration, we hope to develop a plan(s) to ensure a safe and successful reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Baldwin County School District will be seeking input from our parents/guardians on their preference regarding the various options we are considering for reopening schools via a survey. Please take the time to complete the survey as we value your input. In addition to the survey, we are also holding Town Hall meetings. They are scheduled for Monday, June 29th at 5:30 p.m and Tuesday, June 30th at 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. These meetings will be held virtually through Zoom and Facebook Live.

Finally, we need to be fully prepared for any scenario that may arise, and there are a multitude of different factors to consider. Options range from a full traditional reopening to a hybrid model that would involve staggering student schedules or alternating days or weeks to allow for social distancing to full-time remote learning for all students. All suggestions and recommendations will be reviewed, and a draft plan will be presented to the school board at the board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 7th and the plan will be shared with you by July 10th.

No matter how we reopen schools, our amazing faculty and staff will continue to focus on the health and well-being of students and families. As we explore potential options, we will continue to seek guidance from the Georgia Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Georgia Department of Public Health. Please continue to check the District's website and social media for updates on the reopening of schools.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we continue to work through these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,
Dr. Noris Price
Superintendent of Schools