



# ST. BERNARD SCHOOL

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251 East Bridge Street • Breaux Bridge, LA 70517-5027

Office: 337-332-5350 • Fax: 337-332-5894

Est. 1891

Thursday, July 23, 2020

*Feast of St. Bridget*

Good evening, SBS families,

On Monday, July 27 we will be sending you our full reopening plan for the 2020-2021 school year. We look forward to sharing with you our plans to keep our students safe and healthy while on campus. Our plan will provide information on the form of our instruction in each of the three phases, protocols for arrival, dismissal, lunch, and additional general information pertaining to our entire student body. We will also provide you with dates and times for grade-band specific meetings where we will be able to go deeper into specific details pertaining to the students in those grades. We hope our communication on Monday along with these meetings will assist in addressing your questions and concerns for the next year.

In the meantime, we are asking for your assistance in completing [this questionnaire](#). These three questions will greatly assist us in the many logistics associated with this school year. One of the questions speaks directly to our Aftercare program. In order for us to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, we must have an accurate count of the number of students who will be in attendance in Aftercare this year. We will not be able to accommodate any drop-in students this year. Therefore, if you wish to participate in Aftercare, you must notify us prior to the start of the school year.

In an effort to assess our community needs, we have also included a question to survey our families' on their desire for a distance learning option, if such an option is determined to be both feasible and prudent. To be clear, our primary objective is to have students on campus next year, but we want to be as thorough as possible in our understanding of where each of our families stand.

Finally, we would like to bring your attention to our Parent/Student Handbook and our Athletic Handbook for the 2020-2021 School Year. Our advisory council has recently approved these handbooks. There are a few updates to both handbooks and we ask that each of you take a moment to formalize yourself with the policies and procedures found in each, which will be uploaded to the school website in the coming days. For your convenience, I have attached the Parent/Student Handbook to this email. Any updates are highlighted in yellow for quick reference.

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*Once a Crusader, Always a Crusader*

[www.sbcrusaders.com](http://www.sbcrusaders.com)

I would like to draw your attention to three specific additions for the 2020-2021 School Year:

- Lunchroom Policy (p. 26) - It has been both school-level and Diocesan-level policies that students are not allowed to bring their lunch to campus even for specific dietary reasons. Food and Nutrition Services is more than equipped to assist any dietary needs of the students. Therefore, beginning in the 2020-2021 School Year, “Students who attend St. Bernard School must participate in the meals prepared by the School Nutrition Program. Out of the direct concern for the health and well-being of all of our students, students are not permitted to bring their own lunch. Specific dietary needs do not qualify a student to bring lunch to campus. The Food and Nutrition Services are more than capable of assisting with any and all dietary restrictions. In order to charitably and justly ensure this policy, students that have had permission to bring their own lunch in the past may continue to do so.” No new permissions will be granted.
- Cell Phone Policy (p. 34-35) - Students have never been allowed to have a cell phone on their person throughout the school day. However, in the past, we have provided a collection method at the start of the school day for students to turn them in to be retrieved only if they check out or at dismissal. Even if they had a cell phone to turn in they, would not be able to have access to them in the event they need to give some sort of communication. In such an event, they would only be allowed to use the office phone or the family would have to contact the school. Due to this, the large liability placed on the school for holding the devices throughout the day, and now, the health issues associated with the severe risk of cross contamination students will not be allowed to bring cell phones to campus during the instructional day.
- Finally, in recent years we have begun an informal tradition of Spirit Shirt Fridays. In the spirit of school pride and joy, students have been allowed to wear an approved SBS spirit shirt with uniform bottoms on Fridays. We have now made this tradition formal policy in our handbook. This replaces the previous policy that students could wear extra-curricular shirts with uniform bottoms on days they had meetings/activities.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters and we look forward to sharing our reopening plans with you next week.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Masterson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a set of horizontal dotted lines.

JP Masterson  
Principal