

START OF SCHOOL

Benjamin School will open its doors for our students on Monday, August 17. We are so excited to begin classes and have students back on campus, and we are looking forward to a great year!

As the public health crisis continues, we plan to open the 2020-2021 school year with a focus on the health, safety, and well-being of our students, staff, and community. The situation with COVID-19 is continuously changing, as are the protocols and measures needed to keep students and staff safe. Plans will remain flexible to accommodate potential changes in guidelines and regulations. As adjustments may be necessary throughout the school year, it will be the district's priority to keep the school community informed of those changes.

In order to ensure the safest start possible for our students, staff, and school community, we will be making the following adjustments:

- Parents/Guardians will be required to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms each day before sending them to school. Additional screening may be conducted during the school day.
- Parents must not send children to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms. The screening should include: The student is sick or has been ill in the past 14 days. Symptoms to watch for (and that are not normal for the individual) include:
 - fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
 - cough
 - shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - chills
 - muscle pain
 - headache
 - sore throat
 - new loss of taste or smell
- Parents must not send children to school if they are lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Parents can opt for the child to receive remote instruction during this time.
- Staff will also be conducting temperature checks with touchless thermometers on students as they enter the building or get on the bus. We ask that parents not leave the bus parking lot until the bus has left.
- The school doors will open at 7:30 a.m. Please do not drop your child off prior to this time.
- On the first day of school, parents of Pre-K students and KG students may walk their child to his/her classroom. Those parents should be wearing a mask as they enter the building. For safety reasons, no other parents will be allowed to escort their child to the classroom. Staff will be available to escort any younger students to their classrooms.
- After the first day of school, only parents of Pre-K students will be allowed to escort their child to the classroom. Pre-K students will need to enter the building on the west end near the Pre-K classroom after the first day of class. School personnel will be available at that entrance.

- Students are reminded to bring their face covering (Grades 4-12) and their pre-filled water bottle to school daily. Additional water will be provided for students at school if needed.
- Per Governor Abbott's executive order, students are required to wear face coverings (over the nose and mouth) while on buses, in hallways, common areas, upon arrival and dismissal from school. Face coverings will not be required while eating or drinking. Face masks must be school appropriate.
- Lunches are not allowed to be brought in for students at lunch time. If a student wishes to bring his/her lunch, it must be brought in with the student at the beginning of the day. Parents are not allowed to eat in the cafeteria with their child.
- If you have a child who is new to the district, we ask that you call the school office at 940-459-2231 to set up an appointment.

We all realize that learning takes place best face-to-face. We want and encourage all of our students to attend class on campus. In stating this, Benjamin ISD is planning for two different instructional environments: 1) in-person and 2) remote learning.

Asynchronous instruction refers to self-paced instruction where students engage in the learning materials on their own time, interacting intermittently with the teacher via the computer or other electronic devices or over the phone.

Synchronous instruction is similar to on-campus learning. It is two-way, real-time, live instruction between students and teachers through the computer or other electronic devices or over the phone.

Benjamin ISD will be adopting an asynchronous learning plan to utilize in the event a student opts for remote learning or should the campus have to close for a short duration. This asynchronous plan will utilize both asynchronous and synchronous learning, with a main focus on the synchronous model so that the student(s) can more fully engage with the teacher in real-time.

The first bell will ring at 7:40 a.m. each morning. First period classes begin at 7:45. Students riding the bus should expect the bus to arrive for pickup in the mornings approximately 5-10 minutes earlier than last year to allow time for temperature checks.

We will have a short meeting on Monday, August 17. This meeting should begin around 7:50 a.m. Teachers and students will attend via zoom from their classrooms. Parents/Guardians will be receiving a zoom invite if you wish to attend remotely. This zoom invitation will be sent out over Remind and through the email we have on file.

We appreciate your patience and support as we begin a new and unique school year. Our goal is to provide a safe, yet fun environment for your child as we give them the best possible education we can!