



Back-to-School

2020-21

In this issue:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 Baldwin County Back to School Plan | 8 Gulf Shores City Schools Plan |
| 3 Baldwin County School Calendar | 8 Gulf Shores School Calendar |
| 4 Virtual School FAQs | 9 School Websites & Apps |
| 6 Baldwin County COVID-19 FAQs | 10 Free & Reduced Lunch |

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Baldwin County Schools let parents choose how to school

Baldwin County Public School classes will resume Aug. 12 and parents will have a choice to send their children back into the buildings or attend the Baldwin County Virtual School.

The Virtual School program began about 10 years ago for upper-grade students and has been recognized as one of the best in the state. This year it has been expanded to accommodate children in grades K – 12.

Parents will have to decide by the end of August whether to send their children to traditional classes or Virtual

Attending school means virus exposure

EDDIE TYLER, BALDWIN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, MINCED NO WORDS WHEN IT CAME TO THE POSSIBILITY OF COVID-19 SPREAD IN SCHOOLS THIS FALL.

"Parents, please understand that we're going to create as best we can, an environment, where when your child comes to school, there is a certain level of expectation of sanitation, safety, things of that nature," Tyler said in a recent press conference. "But I'm here to tell you that when your child comes to our brick and mortar, there's no way that I'm going to guarantee you that your child's not going to come in contact with COVID. I can't, and I won't. I know that's harsh. I hope that most of my parents understand that's reality and I hope they appreciate that message. But, if you're concerned, we have our virtual school as an option."

School. Students must remain in that placement until the end of the semester before they can switch between the virtual and in-person classes.

Other changes to Baldwin County Schools for the 2020-2021 school year include:

- Due to Gov. Kay Ivey's order to require everyone in Alabama older than 6 to wear a mask in public officials plan to require all students and employees to wear masks on school grounds and buses.
- Masks will also fall under the school sys-

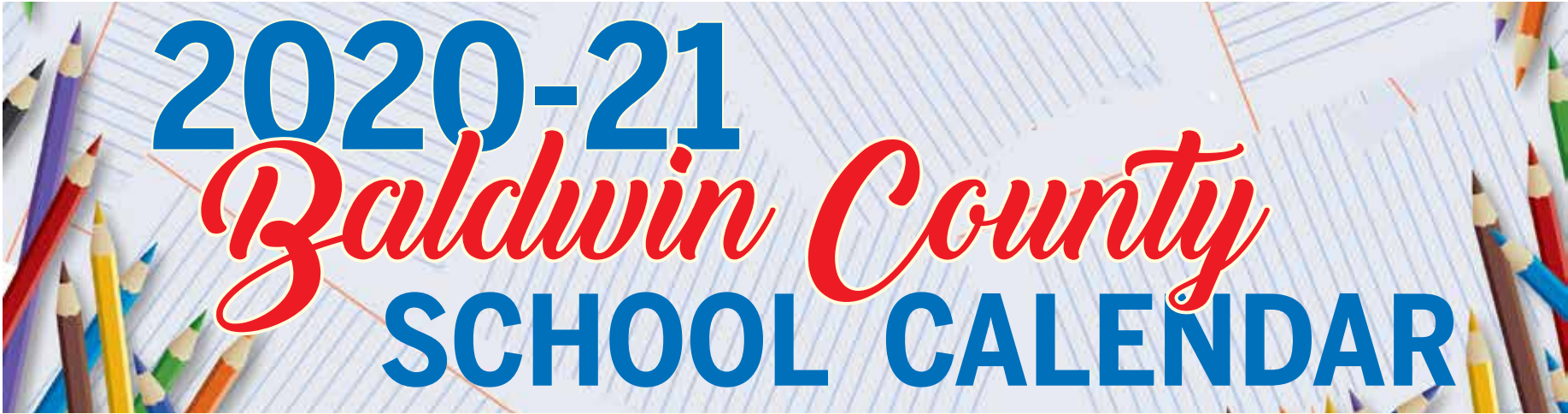
tem uniform code and may not carry inappropriate language, messages or symbols.

- Schools will also require social distancing when possible, but with an overall enrollment of 31,000 and some schools having more than 1,000

students on campus, space is limited and social distancing may not always be possible.

- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized after students are taken to school in the morning and again after they are carried home in the afternoon.

- Due to the number of students on buses, social distancing will not be possible. Parents are encouraged to transport their students to school if possible.
- More breakfasts will be served as "grab and go."
- In some schools, particularly in older grades, more areas will be available for dining, including outside locations and, in some cases, halls, in order to allow social distancing.
- All assemblies and pep rallies have been cancelled for now.



2020

2021

AUGUST

3-11 Principal Discretion / Teacher Workday
12 First Day of School

SEPTEMBER

7 Labor Day

OCTOBER

8 End 1st Quarter (41 days)
9-12 Fall Break
13 PD for Teachers

NOVEMBER

11 Veteran's Day
23-27 Thanksgiving Holidays

DECEMBER

17 End 2nd Quarter (41 days)
18 Teacher Workday
21-31 Christmas Holidays

JANUARY

1 New Year's Day
4 PD for Teachers
5 Students Return
18 MLK Jr. Holiday

FEBRUARY

15-16 Mardi Gras Holidays
17 PD for Teachers

MARCH

12 End of 3rd Quarter (45 days)

APRIL

2 Good Friday Holiday
5-9 Spring Break

MAY

25 Last Day for Students (46 Days)
26 Teacher Workday

Baldwin County Virtual School opens doors to K – 12

The Baldwin County Virtual School opened 10 years ago when local officials realized the traditional classroom setting may not meet the needs of each family. Since then the program has seen great success with its 7-12 grade classes.

This year the school is welcoming K – 6 grade students to help lessen the spread of COVID-19 in the traditional classrooms.

Unlike distant learning during spring of 2020 when schools shuttered for COVID-19, the virtual school provides digital direct instruction developed by master teachers through Google Classroom.

This is not classroom education and there will be significant limitations. Children must have a guardian who can stay with them and work with them on their personal challenges.

Virtual students are being provided a top of class, online curriculum in partnership with a national digital education vendor. Our custom program will utilize the same curriculum offered

to all classroom based students with custom enhancements for our Baldwin County students. We will also provide scheduled “face to face” access to certified elementary teachers for tutoring at sites across Baldwin County.

Virtual School F.A.Qs:

What is the curriculum and is it the same as the spring?

No. The curriculum will provide direct digital instruction developed by master teachers through Google Classroom and will utilize the same curriculum offered to all site-based students. Additionally, face to face access with certified elementary teachers will be offered as needed for tutoring in sites throughout the district. For 7 – 12 graders, virtual is an intensive, self-directed curriculum which covers all core and elective subjects with full digital instruction and assessment.

How does this compare to in-classroom learning?

Students will be online

for assignments and instruction in a home setting with teachers available at designated locations as needed. Assessments will be taken with a proctor unless we have another complete shutdown of our system for COVID-19.

Does my child attend a “class”?

Your child will have scheduled times to take assessments at designated locations and times scheduled with instructors to assist with any academic needs.

The only time students are required to come to their site is for State Assessment. K-3 will have one when school starts. We will practice social distancing and students will need to wear a mask. There is no schedule from the State yet.

Middle and high school students are required to take mandated standardized state tests such as the ACT for 11th grade or ACAP for middle schoolers.

Are there teachers?

Your student will be learning through online

instruction comprised of videos of actual teachers as well as computer generated instruction. Baldwin County teachers will be available for scheduled in-person tutoring and instruction periods to support your child’s learning and monitor their progress.

Is attendance or activity monitored?

Yes. Students will be required to participate in online activity. Course progress will be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis.

How many minutes a day will my child be online?

This varies per grade level.

Monday is the big instructional day. Live group class meetings involving a Leader in Me lesson for the week and then, in most cases, pre-recorded teacher lead instruction on the standards for the week will follow.

The pre-recorded instructional lessons may be stopped and replayed, as needed, throughout the week. After that, the student has the re-

mainder of the week to complete assignments. We strongly recommend parents have a printer/scanner, printer paper and pencils, especially for K, 1st and 2nd. This is our preference, for all grades, so they are not sitting in front of their laptop for hours on end.

Students/parents will submit weekly assignments online on Friday. Friday will be online assessments for 1st-6th. Friday will also be pre-recorded art, music and later on, virtual field-trip days.

How long will a Kindergarten student be online daily?

Students will need to login each morning by 8 a.m.

The teacher will welcome the entire class to the day with the pledge and a Leader in Me activity.

The teacher will notify parents when instructional video will be available for viewing. Some will be live and others will be pre-recorded, either way your child will receive instruction by a real teacher. All

will be available for viewing over and over again. After that, there will be periods of time your child will work on assignments.

We strongly suggest, for our younger students, parents have a printer/scanner so the student can use paper and pencil for practice work. This will also cut down the amount of screen time. A safe guess for kindergarten would be approximately 3 to 4 hours a day of schoolwork. That could be stretched throughout the day.

Is this similar to home schooling?

This is different from homeschool because you will be following all policies and procedures put in place by the Baldwin County Board of Education including pacing and curriculum. Students will be required to take assessments with a proctor at designated locations and students will have teachers available to assist with academic needs at those same locations.




Welcome back students and teachers!




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What are lessons like?

Sample lessons, supply lists and a suggested daily schedule can be found under the What to Expect Tab at www.baldwinvirtual.com.

If we go out of town and we can still log into the classroom, can the work be done from anywhere?

Yes, you can login and complete assignments anywhere you have internet access.

How will virtual schooling for kids their age work if they can't read yet?

This is really when parental involvement comes in. The teacher will give instruction and directions through videos and then it's up to the parent to follow those directions and practice with their child.

You will be directed to practice sites as well as sites to find a reader that matches your child's ability level. The teacher will actually conduct small group sessions through Google Meet.

Should your child need face to face tutoring, you will see there are times built into the schedule. This is arranged by appointment with the teacher and parents.

Can my child participate with an IEP or 504?

Yes, elementary students with an IEP or 504 can participate. For middle and high school, they, along with all students, must follow the guidelines to be accepted. The schedule shows built in times to service students with IEPs along with RtI and ESL. One or both days will be determined by the mins. required by the IEP. Upon registration, an IEP committee meeting or 504 meeting may be held to discuss any changes needed in the child's IEP or 504 plan based on enrollment in the Virtual School. For specific questions please reach out to Barbara English, Special Services bmenglish@bcbe.org.

How much does Virtual School cost?

There is no cost to attend Virtual School, but fees apply as in any other school in our system. Students in grades 7 – 12 might need to purchase online textbooks if required for Advanced Placement courses. Dual enrollment courses are tuition based, except at Coastal Alabama Community College where



FILE PHOTO

students can earn 18 hours of college coursework free of charge. Students are responsible for purchasing any books required for dual enrollment courses.

Are there buses to Virtual School?

No. Parents must provide transportation.

Do I need a home computer for my child to use?

No. A Chromebook will be provided for every child enrolled in the program. Home internet access is required.

Will tech support be provided if needed?

Yes, Helpdesk Support will be provided during the school day to assist with technical issues.

Where will the Virtual School be located?

There will be a base site located behind the Baldwin County Virtual Middle and High School. The address is 605 U.S. Hwy. 98 Daphne, AL 36526. We have four sites we are working to have ready after the first nine weeks of school. They are Bay Minette, Robertsdale, Foley and the main campus in Daphne. You will be assigned a site closest to where you live.

How do I enroll?

Enroll online by visiting <https://www.bcbe.org/registration>

What is the deadline to apply for the 2020-21 school year?

The deadline to apply

is July 31 for elementary school students.

Can we change our minds after the school year?

Elementary students have the option to change after each nine-week period.

Middle and high school have the option to change after each semester.

Do I need to withdraw my student from their base school to enroll in BCVSS?

No, we are going to digitally move students from their current school to BCVSS as the enrollment process is completed. You will receive an email explaining any steps you will need to complete.

Do I need to register my student with their snap code at their current school?

Yes, complete the snap code instructions you received with your students report card and we will move your student in INOW once they are accepted to BCVSS.

Do I turn in my computer to my base school before moving to virtual school?

No, keep your computer and we will move the inventory from school to school.

How do I make sure my student has the correct classes on their schedule?

We have a counselor on staff and she will be referring to your current planned schedule in INOW to setup your online schedule. She will contact you directly if she has any questions. Also, schedules can be changed during the first week of school if needed.

Can seniors enroll at BCVSS?

Yes, BCVSS does accept seniors at the beginning of their senior year. However, seniors are not eligible to enroll at mid-year.

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BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOOLS COVID-19 FAQ

This list is the most up-to-date information available from Baldwin County Schools at press time.

If you have a sick child at home, please, please **DO NOT** send them to school. In addition to any sick leave you have with your employer, and family leave provided under the Federal Family Medical Leave Act, the Federal government has now provided every employee in the United States 80 hours of guaranteed additional sick leave to care for yourself or family members who are suffering from the symptoms of COVID-19.

If someone in your household is suffering from a diagnosed case of COVID-19, or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, the doctor will direct you and your family to quarantine for up to 14 days and until you have been three days without symptoms. So, if you, your child or someone in your household is sick with

COVID-19, please do not send your child to school.

How does my child learn if they cannot come to school?

They will continue to learn in our new distance learning program. We made the decision earlier this summer to invest significantly in new distance learning software. This is not the distance learning of last year. This is also not Virtual School. Distance learning is what we provide if we have to close school or send a child home sick. Time has given us the ability to develop a much more comprehensive, digital instruction and assessment program that will be tracking along the same pacing guide your student is learning from in their classrooms. All of their work, assignments, lessons and studies are posted and will be available digitally on Google Classroom each day. As of the first day of school, we are prepared to make this move at any moment and without further preparation.

Are masks required?

Yes. Students with documented medical issues will be handled on a case by case basis.

Will the uniform policy change due to COVID-19?

No, the BCBE uniform policy will not change as a result of the coronavirus but that mask being worn by students is subject to our uniform policy regarding printed items and accessories.

I am concerned about my child getting sick.

We should all be concerned as the coronavirus is very contagious. If you are worried about sending your child to traditional school, you should consider enrolling your child in the virtual school program. Visit www.BaldwinVirtual.com for more information.

What happens if someone at school gets sick?

If a child is sick, we will send the child to the nurse. From there, we will process the child quickly to identify if they are exhibiting

symptoms of COVID-19 which include: new onset cough or shortness of breath by themselves OR at least 2 of the following: fever (100.4°F or higher), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of sense of smell or taste, and gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting or nausea. If they are, then the child will be sent to a well-ness area isolated from others while we notify their parents for immediate dismissal as being suspected of having COVID-19. The student's absences will be excused and they will be able to continue their academic work from home, digitally, under our distance learning plan as outlined above.

Will parents be told if someone in their child's class becomes ill?

We will notify parents daily about cases and contagion in your student's school in compliance with privacy laws and regulations. It is our goal to be transparent but we fully expect sick kids and high levels of contagion.

When will a child sent home as being suspect as having COVID-19 be allowed to return?

Children suspected of having COVID-19 can return when:

1. Present a signed doctor's note clearing them to return to school
2. Present a negative COVID-19 test result
3. Remain away from school for 14 days AND have been clear of fever for at least three days without medication AND improvement of other symptoms

What do we do if an employee or student has been in contact with another student who has been suspected of or diagnosed with COVID-19?

We will notify you daily as we get this information on positive COVID-19 tests in our schools. I'm sure you will understand that we will not be able to give out the name, personal or identifiable information about the person(s) who have been diagnosed. Parents, please

note the test results generally come days after the test is given and the test isn't given until symptoms are present, which can be days after first contracted. As a result, when we notify you that your child may have come in contact with someone, that contact will have happened days or even a week prior to us receiving notification.


Will students have their temperature checked before coming into school?

We have plans for monitoring student and staff temperatures on campus but our final guidance will not be published until a later date as we await final guidance from the CDC and Pediatric Doctors.

Will self-contained special Ed classes have ways to keep assistants from having to physically touch their students?

No. We accept there will be certain risks. As an essential industry under Homeland Security we are required to

SEE COVID-19, PAGE 10



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Gulf Shores City Schools’ Safe Return to School plan

Gulf Shores City Schools announced the Safe Return to School plan July 9. School will start on schedule, Aug. 12, and all students will have the choice to learn in a traditional setting or a virtual format.



Here are the changes for the 2020-2021 school year:

- The resident requirement for the Gulf Shores Virtual Academy has been waived for the 2020-2021 school year and is now open to students outside the district. It is open to students K – 12.
- Teachers will deliver face-to-face instruction but also maintain content and assignments online for possible short-term absences by students due to COVID-19 exposure or infection.
- Middle school and high school will use the online platform Canvas, elementary school will use Google Classroom.
- Field trips, pep rallies, assemblies and award ceremonies are not allowed for now.
- During lunch, a rotation of cafeteria, classrooms, and outside dining areas will be used to promote social distancing and all meals will be served in prepackaged disposable containers.
- In the classroom students will sit facing the same direction, and desks will be separated as much as possible.
- Personal instructional items (scissors, crayons, glue, etc.) should not be shared among students.
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be available in all classrooms and hallways will be divided into two lanes to provide greater social distancing.
- Students will not change for PE but are encouraged to wear or change into shoes appropriate for physical activity.
- Social distancing guidelines will be followed as much as possible by utilizing gyms and/or outside areas for activities. PE lessons will primarily focus on personal fitness. Only games/sports with minimal physical contact will



FILE PHOTO

- be played.
- Playground equipment, weights, and other items used for PE/recess will be sanitized regularly.
- School buses will operate normal routes but to reduce the number of students on each bus, parents are encouraged to transport their child to and from school if possible.
- All buses will have hand sanitizer and masks available for students and each driver will be provided with a face shield, mask and gloves.
- Students will have assigned seats; family members will be seated together. All buses will unload from front to back to minimize student contact and drivers will open roof hatches and/or windows to keep fresh air circulating during the bus route. All buses will be disinfected after each trip.
- Children with a temperature of 100.4 or higher or who has symptoms such as cough, congestion, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, chills, or gastrointestinal symptoms should stay home.
- Each school is equipped with several handheld infrared thermometers. Any student who presents with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will be quarantined until the student leaves campus.
- Parents should notify the school nurse as soon as possible if their child is staying home from school due to COVID-19 and the school nurse will coordinate the excuse of COVID-19 related absences, and these absences will not impact truancy.

2020-21

Gulf Shores

SCHOOL CALENDAR

2020

2021

AUGUST

6-11
12

Principal Discretion / Teacher Workday
First Day of School

SEPTEMBER

7

Labor Day

OCTOBER

9

Shrimp Festival

NOVEMBER

11
23-27

Veteran’s Day
Thanksgiving Holidays

DECEMBER

21-31

Winter Break

JANUARY

1
5
18

New Year’s Day
Students Return
MLK Jr. Holiday

FEBRUARY

15-16

Mardi Gras Holidays

APRIL

2
5-9

Good Friday Holiday
Spring Break

MAY

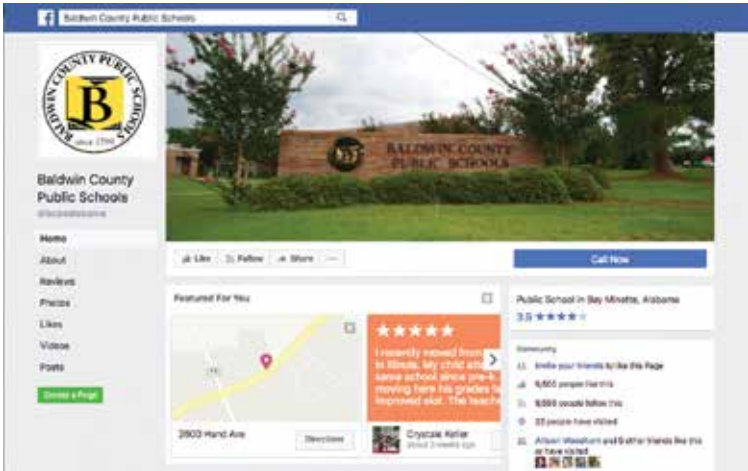
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Last Day for Students

SCHOOL WEBSITES

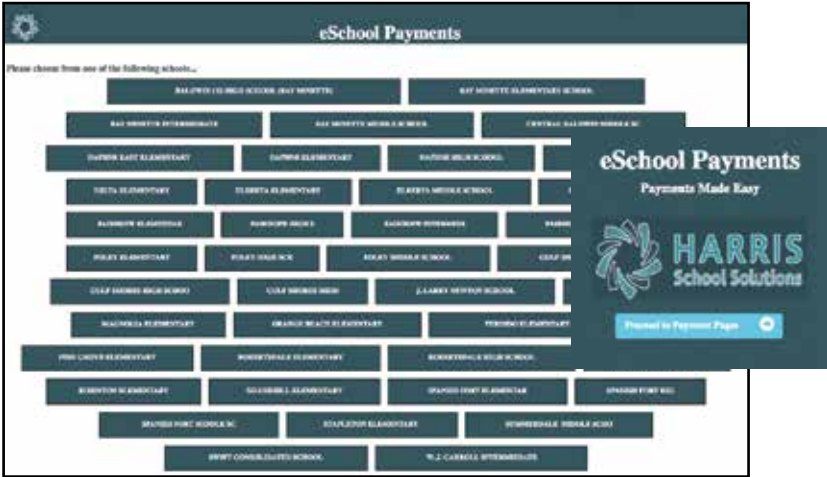
and

Apps



Baldwin County Public Schools Facebook Page

Keep up to date with all the latest news, events and information on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/bcbealabama>

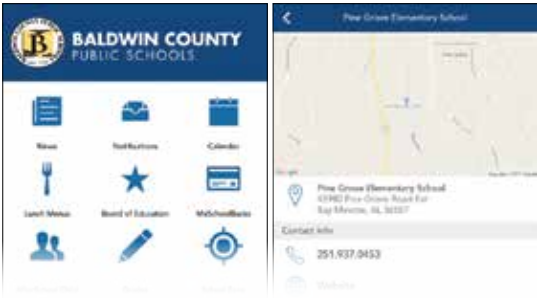


Forgot to pay a fee at school? No problem. You can make payments online to any school in Baldwin County on the eSchool Payments system. <https://baldwincoal.csiepay.com/>



Baldwin Alabama Public Schools By Custom School Apps

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Free and Reduced Lunch Program

Baldwin County Public Schools recently announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program, local school officials have adopted the following household size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART for School Year 2020–21			
Household size	Yearly Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
1	\$23,606	\$1,968	\$454
2	\$31,894	\$2,658	\$614
3	\$40,182	\$3,349	\$773
4	\$48,470	\$4,040	\$933
5	\$56,758	\$4,730	\$1,092
6	\$65,046	\$5,421	\$1,251
7	\$73,334	\$6,112	\$1,411
8	\$81,622	\$6,802	\$1,570
Each add. person:	\$8,288	\$691	\$160

Parent, if your total current household income is within the limits listed above, your children may be eligible for either free or reduced-price meals.

In accordance with program regulations school officials will be verifying the income of some households at some time during the school year. Selected households will be requested to provide income doc-

umentation in order to continue receiving free and reduced-price meals.

The last four digits of the social security number must be provided for the primary wage earner or household member who signs the application. Aliens ineligible for social security numbers should indicate their status on the application.

In certain cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a


family has such children living with them and wishes to apply for such meals for them, they should contact the school.

In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability.

Under the provision of the free and reduced-price meal policy, The Child Nutrition Pro-

gram will review the applications and determine eligibility.

If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling or the official, he may wish to discuss it in more detail with that official. If a parent wishes to review the ruling further after discussing it with the school, he has a right to a fair hearing. This can be done by making a request either orally or in writing to John Wilson, Chief School Financial Officer, whose address is 2600-A North Hand Avenue, Bay Minette, AL



To apply before the school year begins, visit <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>.

You may also apply by completing the application forms sent home the first week of school. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. The information on the application may be verified at any time during the program year. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year.

36507.

Hearing procedures are outlined in the free and reduced-price meal policy.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the household should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the household income falls at or below the level shown above.

A complete copy of the Policy is on file in each

school and in the office of the Superintendent of Baldwin County Public Schools where it may be reviewed by any interested party.

All questions on the free and reduced-price application must be completed. Failure to include information on household members, income or SNAP (Food Stamp) case number, information on social security, and the signature of an adult household member will result in the denial of benefits.



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COVID-19

CONTINUED FROM 6

continue performing our jobs but we will implement safeguards like masks, frequent hand-washing and social distancing where allowed.

Will desks be sanitized between classes?

We have purchased a product that is safe to spray on all solid material that will dry within 10 mins., this product continues to sanitize from up to 24 to 48 hours classrooms will be sanitized nightly.

What changes are being made to improve air quality and filtration in what is essentially a closed environment?

BCBE is exploring filtration systems to further clean the educational environments of our students and

staff. For the start of school there have been no recommended enhancement in air turnover or ventilation enhancements. We are evaluating technology items daily. Our focus is on sanitization and we accept there is a risk associated in returning to traditional school.

What happens if schools need to close?

We have a plan to close on a ‘school by school’ basis as needed or system wide. We can close for a few days to allow for a deeper clean or to allow a hot spot to diminish. We can close by order of a higher government official or because we are convinced that such is in the best interest of our employees, students and our community. We will not make this decision lightly. We respect the situation

of our families and the necessity of schools to continue to deliver on the dependency we have to everyone else in our area. It will be made after consultation with medical, health and government officials and for something much greater than what we are facing today.

More information:

If you have questions, please visit our coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions section at www.BCBE.org/coronavirus. Now that we are approaching the start of school, please be in touch with your principal with any concerns you may have. You should be receiving information over the next two weeks about open house events, return to school, school supplies and other back to school information.

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For extra copies of an edition of a Gulf Coast Media newspaper, contact the GCM office, 901 N. McKenzie St. in Foley, to order them and arrange a pick-up time.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Find something for the whole family!

Clothing • School Supplies • Sport Equipment • Backpacks & More




Be the first to shop for the brands they love this school year. Head into your local America's Thrift Store this weekend for our back-to-school kickoff! Explore our selection of name brand, high-quality clothing for unbelievably affordable prices. America's Thrift Stores is striving to maintain a safe environment for our customers and employees so that we can continue to serve our communities. Customers and employees are required to wear masks in our stores. For more information about our new safety guidelines, please visit: americasthrift.com



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BRYANT BANK



During these trying and unprecedented times,
Bryant Bank wants to say **thank you.**

A thank you and a salute goes to our **educators**, for your tenacity and for always putting your students first. To our **school administration**, for striving to deliver the most exceptional education possible. To our **parents**, for juggling the role of teacher with your new work from home responsibilities. To our **students**, for your positive attitude during such an unconventional school year. And lastly, to our **community**, for putting care into action for others.

While this school year may look different, we are in this together!

*From all of us at Bryant Bank, we wish you a
safe and productive school year.*



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