

CoronaVirus / COVID-19
Q & A

Q: Where can I find the most up to date information regarding school closures, educational services provided, etc. during the time schools will be closed?

A: We will use a combination of newspaper articles, all-call announcements, email, and our district website to keep you updated. It is important that you check email and phone messages frequently as information is changing on a day to day basis. We will be updating our community with the latest information on our district website. The link specific to events related to COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.lafayette.k12.fl.us/COVID19Information>. Teachers will also be communicating with parents using Remind and other forms of communication used during the time leading up to the school closure.

Also provided are links to the CDC and Florida Health Department regarding COVID-19. If you have a question regarding a sporting event or field trip the coach or class sponsor would be the best contact.

Q: How can I contact my child's teacher or other personnel within the district if I have questions not answered by the communication methods listed above?

A: A link to a staff directory is available on our district website. There, you will find email addresses for all staff within our district. Parents/Students may also call Lafayette Elementary School at 386-294-2882 and Lafayette High School at 386-294-1701. Many of our personnel will be working from home and conducting business that will prevent them from being in their office for much of the day. Please follow up with an email if you are unable to reach them by phone.

Q: What are the hours of operation for schools and the district office?

A: Hours of operation for LES/LHS are from 8a to 4p Monday through Friday each week. Hours of operation for the district office are from 8a to 4p Monday through Friday. Teachers will be available (by phone/email) to students and parents during school hours beginning March 31st. School offices and the district office will be closed on Friday (March 27th).

As new information/guidance is made available to us, these times may need to be adjusted. Please use phone calls and/or email to communicate with school/district personnel when possible.

Q: When are students expected to return to school?

A: April 16th. This is subject to change. We will keep you updated as new information is available. For now, it is important that we make every effort possible to continue providing the same high quality education as before. Things will look much different than we are used to and may feel uncomfortable in the beginning. I am confident that we have the teachers, administrators, parents, and other support staff to make this happen.

Q: Are sporting events and other extracurricular activities canceled during the school closure?

A: Yes. In following the recommended guidelines issued by the CDC and Florida Health Department, Governor, and Commissioner of Education all extracurricular events that require a gathering of 10 or more people are cancelled until further notice. This includes practices. I understand the importance sports and other competitions play in each of our lives. However, we all need to do our part in bringing an end to this pandemic. The sooner we begin to practice good preventative measures, the sooner we can return to normal operation.

Q: What methods will be used to continue providing educational services to students?

A: This plan is being developed and will continue to be modified as time goes on. The expectation is to provide educational services through a blended model of online and paper pencil type assignments. Things such as WiFi access, access to a digital device, the age of the student, and availability to deliver assignments, among other factors will all determine how educational services are provided to each student. As this plan is finalized, we will communicate this with teachers, students, and parents. It will require all of us to make this work in a way that is truly beneficial to the child.

Q: When will digital devices and initial assignments be issued to students?

A: March 31st. Students should have been contacted by their homeroom teacher explaining when each student should come on campus to receive a digital device for online learning. If not, please reach out to your student's homeroom teacher or call the front office of the school your child attends. At the same time as devices are being issued, students without WiFi access will pick up paper based assignments. **Using the student's last name**, the schedule will be as follows:

- Last name beginning with A -- E will need to be on campus from 8:00a - 9:15a
- Last name beginning with F -- J will need to be on campus from 9:15a - 10:30a
- Last name beginning with K -- O will need to be on campus from 10:30a - 11:45a
- Last name beginning with P -- T will need to be on campus from 12:30p - 1:45p

- Last name beginning with U -- Z will need to be on campus from 1:45p - 3:00p

Students should also use this time to collect any personal belongings from their desks/lockers. If you need access to a room or hallway to collect personal items, let a school employee know so they can open that area for you. Classrooms, hallways, and other buildings will be locked to limit traffic in those areas.

If students living in the same household have different last names, the scheduled time for the oldest student in the household will be used. There is no need for any family to have to make multiple trips to campus to pick up devices or assignments.

The date(s) assignments are due and how they will be turned in will be discussed with the student's teacher at the time of pick-up.

If you have questions on where to pick up a device/assignment during your scheduled time, please contact your student's homeroom teacher. If your student does not have a homeroom teacher, please contact the school office with your question. We have personnel assigned to all students.

While on campus, please only go to the area assigned to you for pick-up. To help prevent clustering of 10 or more, please move off campus once you have what you need. If you are waiting to receive a device or assignment from your teacher, keep the recommended distance of 6 feet or more from others. We appreciate your cooperation in this.

Q: How will the schools know if I have WiFi / access to a digital device and determine what method to deliver instruction to my child?

A: Parents should use the link provided on our district website to answer survey questions relating to whether or not WiFi and a digital device is available to the student. Information gathered here and also through individual conversations with your child's teacher will be used to determine the best method of providing instruction to each child. Digital devices will be available to our students upon request. Please make this request through your child's home room teacher.

Q: Will meals be provided to students during school closures?

A: Yes. Meals will be provided beginning March 18th and will continue through March 20th. There will be a one week break from serving meals (during our Spring Break ... March 23rd through March 27th). Beginning March 30th, we will again make meals available to our students while schools are closed. Information on how to order, along with how meals will be distributed can be found on our district website. If you do not have internet access or have additional questions, you can contact Vivian Taule at 294-4118.

Q: Will my child be expected to take/pass a state assessment to graduate, promote to the next grade level, etc?

A: No. The Governor and Commissioner of Education announced March 17th that all state assessments K-12 are cancelled for the 2019-2020 school year. Requirements for graduation and promotion, and final course grades will be evaluated as though those assessments which were cancelled did not exist. In other words, we will be determining graduation and grade promotion using the students final grade point average and completion of credit hours required to graduate or promote to the next grade level. It should also be noted that a parent can decide not to allow their child to move to the next grade level, if they feel they are not ready. This simply means that there is no mandate for a child to promote to the next grade level due to school closures. These discussions should include the student's teacher and principal.

Q: How will determinations be made concerning Bright Futures scholarships?

A: This applies to seniors who are set to graduate this year and plan on attending a post secondary institution after graduation. Eligibility for Florida Bright Futures scholarships shall be based on available data and results. Tests that were not available to be taken shall not be counted in this calculation.

Q: Will there be a reduction or addition to the number of instructional hours required?

A: Although the Commissioner of Education has the authority to reduce or add to the number of hours required, there are currently no plans to do so. We will be keeping a close watch on the required hours to complete the school year and continue to take guidance from the Florida Department of Education on this matter. At this time, we are not at risk of having to extend the school year to meet this requirement.

Q: My child is scheduled to go on the 8th grade class trip to Washington DC. Has this been cancelled?

A: At this time, the trip has not been cancelled. We are continuing to communicate with the travel agency and company providing transportation about the possible cancellation and or postponement of this trip. The likelihood of this trip continuing as planned is very slim. Negotiations on return of any payments made at this point are not known at this time. We will work diligently to have this money returned to those who have paid in the event the trip is cancelled and cannot be postponed to another date.

Q: Will students be allowed to take industry certification tests for courses they are currently enrolled in?

A: Yes. We are working on a plan to bring students up in small groups toward the end of the current school year to test for industry certification courses they are enrolled in. More information on dates and times for testing will be relayed through the students' teacher(s).

Q: My child is in the 8th/9th grade and currently enrolled in Algebra 1. I understand that a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC is a requirement for graduation. Will my child be required to pass this assessment in order to graduate?

A: Yes. Although current seniors will not be required to pass the Algebra 1 End of Course (EOC) exam or 10th grade Reading FSA in order to receive a high school diploma, students not graduating this year will need to receive a passing score on each of these statewide assessments prior to graduating. We will keep you updated on the next available opportunity for students to sit for these assessments. We will also be planning for refresher courses prior to the assessment being offered.

Additional information:

- All employees will continue to be paid during the school closure. Employees may be asked to perform duties outside of their normal contracted duties. It will take everyone working together and remaining flexible to make this work. Please stay in constant communication with your principal/supervisor.
- School Board meetings are cancelled through June 30, 2020 unless there is a need for an emergency meeting. If an emergency meeting is necessary, it will be conducted telephonically or through some form of video conferencing. The information for public attendance during these meetings will be provided along with the notification of the meeting.
- We are being asked to keep the traffic on our campus to a minimum. Please do not come on campus for any reason unless you have a scheduled meeting with a teacher, administrator, or other staff member. All facilities are closed to the public. This includes access to playgrounds, baseball/softball fields, batting cages, gym, library, and any other buildings/facilities that are a part of Lafayette County Schools. A few exceptions to this rule will be for the issuing of digital devices to students (March 31st), picking up/dropping off assignments, or other business that cannot be accomplished through a phone call or email. Our school and district offices will be staffed during the school closure. If you do need to meet with someone, please call to set up an appointment. We are hoping this is only for a short time. We appreciate your cooperation in this.
- If your child has questions relating to issues logging in to programs used to complete assignments or for video conferencing/meetings, please contact your child's teacher first.

If you cannot contact your child's teacher, Lisa Hancock is our technology coach and is also available to assist you. She can be reached at 386-294-4166 or lhancock@lcsbmail.net. Adam Walker will also be available at 386-294-4293 or awalker@lcsbmail.net.

- If your child is experiencing a hardware/software issue (cracked/broken screen, keyboard issue, laptop will not boot up, etc) please contact Adam Walker at 386-294-4293 or awalker@lcsbmail.net.