



July 23, 2020

Dear New and Returning 1st-12th Grade Discovery Families:

I hope this communication finds you well and that you enjoyed a safe, healthy and fun summer break. School is set to begin on Wednesday, August 5. Discovery has partnered with Ochsner Healthcare Safe Return to Schools Team. They are providing resources that will help us maintain safe campuses for all students, faculty, and staff.

**ONLINE STUDENTS:**

Thank you to the 400 students who signed up for online learning. Our Discovery online program was so popular that the slots are filled, and the online school is full. Dr. Kennedy and I will be messaging you soon about an online calendar and procedures for technology pick-up. We are also planning a meet and greet for your students and their online teacher(s). We have a good plan for your children. Your family will be part of an exciting pilot program for Discovery schools to possibly offer an online school in our future. We will count on your input during the year to improve our outcomes and operations. We have done a lot of research about successful online schools and look forward to this year-long challenge. We are excited to offer a rigorous, creative online Discovery education. Stay tuned for more information.

The remaining portion of this message is for our 2,000+ on-campus students.

**ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS:**

This letter is full of information and details. Please read carefully. Each principal will convey specific schedules for your child's grade level and campus.

I will start with news most parents are waiting to hear - campus assignments have changed once again to an often requested status. Due to our large online school, we were able to change campus configurations.

The new and **final** campus assignments are as follows:

- ALL DJOD K-4th grade on-campus students will be located at the Jefferson Hwy. campus (2012 Jefferson Hwy.) No Rivertown campus!
- KDHSA K-4th grade on-campus students will be located on Maine campus (2504 Maine)

- KDHSA 5th-7th grade on-campus students will be located in Vintage modular campus on the Loyola campus (201 Vintage)
- KDHSA 8th-12th on-campus students will be located in the new High School facility on Loyola campus (3837 Loyola Dr.)

All on-campus students will be assigned to a static pod (classroom), and we will refer to the pods as either Group 1 or Group 2. All static pods will be 13-18 students spaced 6' apart to the extent possible. This grouping will be used at various times throughout the school year.

All on-campus students will have co-curricular subjects (music, art, PE, etc.). Principals will communicate specific schedules per grade level.

**All on-campus students will begin the year with a slow and staggered start during the month of August.** This is **new** information and is based on the many routines that are required for the safe reopening of schools and the current surge of COVID-19 in our area.

We are operating half-day schedules from Aug. 10 through Sep. 4th. **ALL on-campus 1st-12th grade students will attend every other day until 12:45** (according to Group 1 or Group 2 assignments). The reasons for the slow and staggered start are:

1. Administration monitors our own community health and wellness as we return to campuses slowly
2. Students get to know their teachers and teacher expectations
3. Students receive technology equipment
4. Students learn to log into classes virtually and to be an active participant in online learning.
5. Students learn and practice all new health and wellness routines:
  - a. Temperature checks before boarding bus and/or entering school building
  - b. Washing hands every 2 hours
  - c. Maintaining 6' physical distance
  - d. Wearing masks for extended periods of time

**1st-12th grade on-campus students:** (Kindergarten students will receive a letter in regard to their schedule.) On August 5th and 6th, we are assigning 1 hour and 45 minute school visits for 6-8 students per pod/classroom. The goal of these 2 days in grades 1st-8th are to determine the students current level of performance in math and reading and to teach/practice safe entry and exit procedures. The goal of students in grades 9th-12th is to meet the teachers and learn course expectations. Parents will receive this time slot visit for your child next week.

On **August 7th**, there is **NO SCHOOL for students**. Faculty will compile assessment data and group students strategically in homerooms for the best possible academic outcomes. See table below for an outline of the slow and staggered start schedule.

<b>1st-12th ALL Campuses Student Schedule</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
Wednesday, Aug. 5 Thursday, Aug. 6	Each student will be assigned a 1 hour & 45 minute window to come to school. Priority: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To gather baseline data on current performance in reading and math.</li> <li>2. To learn safe entry and exit routines.</li> </ol>
Friday, Aug. 7	NO School for Students. Priority: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Faculty compiles data and places students for the best academic outcomes for the year.</li> <li>2. Group 1 and Group 2 assignment sent to parents</li> </ol>
Monday, Aug. 10	Bus Transportation Begins

<b>1st-12th ALL Campuses Student Schedule</b>		
	<b>Early Dismissal (1st-4th) 7:45 AM - 12:45 PM</b>	<b>Early Dismissal (5th-12th) 7:35 AM - 12:45 PM</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>GROUP 1 SCHEDULE</b>	<b>GROUP 2 SCHEDULE</b>
Aug. 10-14	M, W, F	T, TH
Aug. 17-21	T, TH	M, W, F
Aug. 24-28	M, W, F	T, TH
Aug. 31-Sep 4	T, TH	M, W, F

**Considering the wellness of our Discovery campuses, the goal is to start our Phase 2 full day schedules on Tuesday, September 8th.**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>K-12 ALL Campuses Student Schedule</b>
Sep. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kindergarten - 5th grade &amp; all high needs SPED students attend school in person daily.</li> <li>• 6th-12th students attend every other day and follow their assigned group schedule.</li> </ul>

Faculty and students will be required to wear masks all day as stipulated by Act 9 passed by the BESE Board. All students will wash hands frequently and keep hand sanitizer in their desk for frequent use.

As the Head of School, I will make decisions about the ability of each campus to remain open or to close and transition to online learning. That decision will be based on specific metrics that I have determined are important with the consultation of area public health officials and our Discovery School Board. Honest and immediate reporting of potential health care issues is going to be essential to maintain the wellness of our larger community. We will send you directives for each campus for reporting illness for your child(ren).

I realize that the slow and staggered start is not ideal for parents with work and scheduling concerns. However, it is the most cautious way to reestablish our on-campus learning while monitoring the wellness of our community. Once we have the students back for at least a brief amount of time, we can launch a fully virtual program more successfully if needed.

I know these are unusual times requiring unusual routines and schedules. We have worked hard to identify priorities to reopening each campus and providing the safest environment possible for all students, faculty, and staff.

Due to COVID-19, our plans are fluid and have changed daily. Thank you for your patience as we plan the safest and best education for your children this school year.

With an Appreciative HEART,

Dr. Glaser  
Head of School  
Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy  
Dr. John Ochsner Discovery Health Sciences Academy