

Memorandum

To: Richland Parish School Board Employees
From: Superintendent Sheldon Jones
Date: August 1, 2018
Subject: 2018-2019 School Year

Welcome to the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year for the Richland Parish School Board. I hope each of you had an enjoyable and restful summer vacation. Staff development days are scheduled for August 8-10, 2018. Our students will return to school on August 13, 2018. We will not have the General Assembly at the Richland Arts Center this year. Instead, employees will participate in diversity training on discipline of African-American students provided by the Intercultural Development Research Association based in San Antonio, Texas. Completion of this training was agreed upon by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Richland Parish School Board prior to full unitary status being granted on February 12, 2018. Training sessions will be conducted at the Richland Arts Center, RPSB Professional Development Room, and RPSB Board Room. See agenda below for details.

All schools in Richland Parish will participate in the School Redesign Initiative. The initiative is the result of our parish being awarded approximately \$400,000 per year by the Louisiana Department of Education to improve the performance of our schools. Richland Parish is partnering with ANet (The Achievement Network) and TNTP (The New Teacher Project) to achieve the milestones of our plan. The three-year initiative will support our district implementation of Tier 1 curricula for English language arts (EL Education in grades K-2 and Guidebooks 2.0 in grades 3-12) and mathematics (Eureka Math, Agile Minds, and Springboard Math). You'll receive more information pertaining to the initiative at our back-to-school professional development days and during on-going, job-embedded professional development at your assigned school site.

Our schools have submitted articles to the Richland Beacon outlining our plans to begin the new school year. Back-to-School Parent Teacher Conference Nights have also been planned. Student safety remains the top priority of our school district. Within the first 30 days of the school year, each school

will conduct a safety drill to rehearse components of the Crisis Management Plan. We will continue to implement best practices from last year's A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training. Employees should not make inappropriate comments to or contact with students.

Let us work collaboratively to provide each of our students with quality instruction daily. Our kids deserve it. I hope each of you has a successful beginning to this school year and look forward to seeing you on our school campuses.

August 8, 2018
 IDRA Training
 (Intercultural Development Research Association)

| | Art Center (Between Rayville High School and Rayville Junior High) | Board Room (Central Office) | Professional Development Room (Central Office) |
|--------------------|---|--|---|
| 8:00-10:00 | Bus Drivers | Mangham Junior High Mangham High School | Delhi Elementary School Holly Ridge School |
| 10:30-12:30 | Rayville High School | Delhi High School Delhi Middle School | Mangham Elementary School |
| 1:00-3:00 | Rayville Elementary School | Start School RCCA | Rayville Junior High School *Central Office |

Your entire staff is to be trained. This includes custodial staff, secretary, paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers, assistant principals, and teachers.

*Central office staff should attend a session. Supervisors may prefer to attend training with assigned school. Pupil appraisal and special education staff shall attend the 1:00-3:00 session.