



Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians
From: Bill Husfelt, Superintendent
Date: May 9, 2021

Traditionally summer has been a time for students and many educational employees to relax, recharge and take some well-earned time off.

But not anymore.

In recent years, we've offered an increasingly diverse array of summer programs for our students and our teachers and other employees have either been working in those programs or completing some of the state- and district-required professional development and training.

But this summer, thanks to financial support from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund I and II, we're offering summer school at ALL of our school sites. We know that many of our students experienced learning loss this year as a result of pandemic-prompted online schooling and so we're excited about this chance to help them get caught up and even get ahead. This funding will also enable us to continue our much-needed mental health and wellness programs for students throughout the summer. Many students, unfortunately, are still struggling to deal with the impact of Hurricane Michael and the loss of socialization that accompanied pandemic-prompted closures just exacerbated those challenges for some.

Summer school at most sites will be operational four days a week for two weeks in June and for two weeks in July. Breakfast and lunch will be provided at no charge and transportation will be available. While bus routes may not be exactly what they are during the school year we are confident that a bus stop will be conveniently located for students who need that option. More information about bus routes will be posted on our website very soon.

For our elementary students, summer school this year is NOT just about learning loss. ESSER funding will allow for smaller class sizes than we've ever had before and those same funds will help us offer some educational field trips and other opportunities for enrichment. If your elementary school student would like to participate in summer school we encourage you to contact his/her teacher and or school-based counselor as soon as possible to see if he/she qualifies.

On the secondary level, our traditional school-based summer school is open to any student who needs to make up a class that is needed for promotion or graduation. In addition, many high

school students who meet the state's criteria can use the summer to attend Gulf Coast State College on a dual-enrolled basis to take classes for college credit.

While most students will be attending summer school in-person, we know that some students may need another option and so we're thrilled to be able to offer some virtual summer school as well. Essentially, we are trying to do all we can to remove any barriers students may face in order to ensure that the maximum number of students possible can benefit from these summer programs.

We're also excited to be able to offer Driver's Education classes this summer as well. This expanded program will be offered at two sites and while demand continues to exceed actual spots available we're excited to see this program continuing to grow.

Stay safe, God Bless and Happy Mother's Day to all of those who are mothers and those who love other people's children as a mother does.