

LINCOLN PREPARATORY SCHOOL RELEASES STRONG START 2020 PLAN

Fall 2020 opening plan provides multiple options for parents: in-person, virtual and hybrid options

GRAMBLING, La. – Lincoln Preparatory School will allow parents to choose between three options for their children when the school year begins next month. Students will be able to attend class daily in-person, take advantage of virtual learning from home, or participate in a hybrid model, with in-person classes two days per week and virtual learning from home three days per week. Parents will be able to make a final selection during orientation, which will begin on August 17th. Parents will be able to contact the school office at any time to request a different option as circumstances may change. “Our team felt that it was important to give parents more time to consider each option and decide what is best for their families,” said Executive Director Gordan Ford. “I understand how difficult this decision is for parents, especially since the overall situation in the state is not improving.” Parents may choose virtual learning even if they do not have internet capability at home. Hybrid learning students will attend classes in-person on Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday. Hybrid learning students will participate in virtual learning on days they are not at school.

Lincoln Prep converted to virtual learning immediately after the initial school closure on March 13th, before most other schools in the area. Additionally, the school used a portion of CARES Act funding to provide summer school for students that were unable to participate in virtual learning or needed additional time to prepare for the upcoming school year. According to Director Ford, “Our focus, since March 13th, has been working to ensure that our students are ready for the first day of school in August.” In order to mitigate traditional summer learning loss, Lincoln Prep also provided summer learning packets for students that did not attend summer school.

When school starts, there will be designated orientation days for each grade level. During orientation days, in addition to choosing a learning option, parents will update contact information and sign out virtual learning devices for their children. Lincoln Prep has secured enough virtual learning devices for each student, using a combination of federal and state funding. After orientation days, the next task will be performing benchmark assessments on all students. For Lincoln Prep, the benchmark exams will serve two purposes. First, the school will be able to compare our returning students’ benchmarks to their previous benchmarks to see how well the virtual learning program served students in the spring and summer. Second, benchmark testing for new students will inform planning and placement for those students. Ford noted, “We are particularly concerned about our new students. As a result of being released from our court-ordered enrollment caps, we will have nearly 200 new students this year. Many of them are coming from school districts that did not require virtual learning, so those students may not have participated in any educational activities for more than four months.”

Once regular classes begin, Lincoln Prep in-person, virtual and hybrid students will meet in classes together via Google Meets. Virtual learning and hybrid students will be able follow the same schedule as in-person students, taught by the same teachers, using the same curricula. Lincoln Prep

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purchased virtual versions of all core coursework using CARES Act funding. Older students will be expected to attend live classes online daily, with attendance taken by classroom teachers, while parents will have flexibility to login to Google Classroom later in the day to review coursework on-demand with their children.

Lincoln Prep plans to physically distance students to maximum extent possible during the school day. Students will be physically distanced during all classes and during meals. Students also will not change classes each period. In grades 3-12, where students normally change classes, the students will remain in the classroom and the teachers will rotate. "This will minimize the use of shared spaces and movement throughout the day to help create an overall safer environment," said Ford. The school will have sanitizing stations at each classroom and will follow state guidelines for cleaning and sanitizing classrooms and other areas. Daily temperature checks and symptom monitoring will be supervised by an on-site registered nurse provided by Primary Health Services Center.

In another big change, Lincoln Prep will be relocating the school this fall. As a result of a federal court order in the long-standing desegregation case, Lincoln Prep is required to move off of the Grambling State University campus for the 2020-21 school year. The school is moving to the corner of US Highway 80 and R.W.E. Jones Drive in Grambling. Lincoln Prep will use the renovated former Fred's Department store to hold high school classes and 12 modular buildings on adjacent property for K-8 classrooms, special education, elective courses, computer labs and multipurpose space. Lincoln Prep will operate on this temporary campus for two years while a new school campus is constructed in Grambling.

All information regarding Lincoln Prep's Strong Start 2020 Plan is available on the school website at www.lincolnprep.school or on the school's Facebook Page. Parents that have questions should email admin@lincolnprep.school or call the school office at 318-274-6153.

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