

Dear Parents, Staff and Community Members,

As we embark on a new school year, I wanted to take a moment and share with you my thoughts on the upcoming school year. I understand for many of you this school year causes anxiety and concern. I hope my words will, to some degree help to alleviate those feelings.

In Natchitoches Parish we are embarking on an ambitious new vision to help improve our system. Our vision for Natchitoches Parish is simple—Persistent Pursuit of Progress. For us that means that every child, every educator, and every school is a work in progress. We believe that with the right levels of support all children, educators, and schools are capable of achieving greatness. Underneath our vision we have two guiding principles.

1. Student learning is our highest priority
2. Student safety is our greatest responsibility

To address student learning this year, we have created a WIN (whatever I need) period at every school, where a student's individual needs are met. For the student already at proficiency, this means a time for acceleration and enrichment. For the child who is struggling to read or reach proficiency, this will give them time to remediate or "catch up." Furthermore, we have placed at least one instructional specialist at each school to support teachers in their efforts to improve their practice. Not only have we added the instructional specialists, but we have also added a dedicated time for teacher collaboration. This is a time where teachers can look at student data and investigate if the strategies they are using are effective. We believe these initiatives will create student and teacher growth, which will ultimately lead to school and district growth.

Student safety is paramount, especially in our current environment. Students cannot achieve academically unless they know they are in a safe, uplifting environment. Parents cannot be at ease unless they know their child is cared for. There is nothing we take more seriously than when you entrust your child to us. This year safety measures have increased. We have universal masking, a voluntary testing program, robust cleaning/screening measures, access to vaccines, and a myriad of other mitigation strategies. The data we collected last year showed that through the above measures we kept your students safe, and we want you to rest assured knowing that those measures have continued and grown. We believe based on the science/data collected, we can keep your child safe.

The world we live in is full of uncertainty, but there is one thing I want families in NPSB to be certain of, we will do everything in our power to address your student's needs and keep them safe while doing so. We will be consistent but flexible while following the science as things possibly change throughout the year. We successfully navigated last year and this year, with your help, we will do the same.

Together We Can!

Sincerely,

*Grant Eloi*

Dr. Grant Eloi  
Superintendent Natchitoches Parish Schools