

## **Welcome Letter from Superintendent Dr. Stephen Gainey for the 2020-2021 School Year**

I want to welcome you to the Randolph County School System. On 8/4/20, the Randolph Early College High School opened its doors for the 2020-2021 school year. The other 30 schools in our school system will welcome students to campus on 8/17/20.

Without a doubt, the 2020-2021 school year will be quite different from previous school years. More specifically, schools will operate on an A day/B day format. As a result, students assigned to group A at a school will come to campus on Monday and Tuesday for face-to-face instruction. Students in Group B at a school will come to campus on Thursday and Friday for face-to-face instruction. Furthermore, all students will engage in remote instruction on Wednesday. Thus, no students will be on campus on Wednesday.

According to the previously-noted plan, a student will be engaged in remote instruction on any day he/she does not come to his/her school's campus. In fact, some students have chosen to engage in remote instruction 100% of the time. A student in this group will not come to his/her school's campus on any day of the week.

Maximum flexibility will be a major component of our school system's plan for the 2020-2021 school year. As a result, students will be able to move back and forth between face-to-face instruction (as a member of a school's Group A or Group B) and 100% remote instruction as needed. Our school system wants all students and parents to be as comfortable as possible during this time in terms of decisions made about school. In short, our school system is going to do everything possible to prevent losing our students as a result of this pandemic.

In relation to this plan, our teachers will use the Canvas learning management system to provide lessons and other academic activities/assessments for students engaged in remote instruction on all days or only certain days of the week. This work will be supplemented by the use of video conferencing of live classrooms with the aid of Google Meets as well as pre-recorded lessons, instructional materials posted on Canvas by our teachers, and paper instructional packets prepared by our teachers. Overall, a lot of hard work has been done, and will continue to be done, to provide our students with a top-flight education during this unprecedented time in the history of our school system, county, state, and country.

Our school system's work to provide our students with a sound education during this difficult time also has been accompanied by the implementation of many safety measures. These actions are aimed at protecting the safety of our students and staff members. For example, halls in buildings will be equipped with markings to reinforce the need for social distancing. Also, numerous cleaning protocols for buses and different parts of school buildings will be implemented. Daily temperature checks and assessments will be conducted for each person (student, staff member, parent, or member of the public) prior to his/her entry into a school or other facility in our school system. Finally, everyone will be expected to wear a cloth face covering at all times in a manner outlined by the Department of Health and Human Services.

In closing, despite the alternative approach to school at the start of the 2020-2021 school year, the primary efforts of our school system will remain focused on continuous improvement throughout the future while maintaining a high level of attention on the needs of our students. I look forward to observing the numerous successes of our students during the 2020-2021 school year. Without a doubt, it is a great time to be a part of the Randolph County School System "where students are first in all we do."