**Multi-Tiered Systems of Support & Social and Emotional Learning**

This school year, there’s a renewed focus on helping young people make meaning of the world around them, develop their sense of purpose, and work together as caring and engaged community members. In an effort to support this renewed focus, the East Baton Rouge Parish School System is implementing Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) & Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).

**What is MTSS?**

- A systematic approach to organize and implement multiple support programs on a school campus.
- A research based process to continually examine and refine intervention practices.
- A framework to build a structure to address the needs of “The Whole Child” by recognizing that supporting the emotional and behavioral needs of a child will increase their ability to learn.
- Recognizes the need to not implement academic, behavioral and social supports in isolation from one another.

The MTSS framework provides general guidelines for structuring each tier of support, but does not prescribe specific supports and interventions at each tier. This is because each school has different needs depending on the students they serve. At its core, MTSS is driven by a decision-making process that uses high-quality data.

**What is SEL?**

SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities; manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals; feel and show empathy for others; establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.
Our Vision for MTSS & SEL

Develop a systematic, integrated approach to addressing the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional, needs of all students on ALL EBRPSS campuses.

Benefits of SEL

Research confirms and teachers, parents and principals agree: Social and emotional competencies can be taught, modeled and practiced and also lead to positive student outcomes that are important for success in school and in life.

Decades of research studies demonstrate the following benefits of SEL:

Learn more about CASEL’s research-practice-policy partnership approaches that advance ways that SEL supports equitable learning environments and optimal developmental outcomes for diverse children, adolescents and adults.

To learn more about the impact of SEL
Please click on the link below:
https://casel.org/impact/

Collaborative of Academic and Social Emotional Learning (CASEL)

www.casel.org
In an effort to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and communities, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board voted August 19 to begin weekly testing of all employees and allow for optional testing of students with parental consent.

“The goal is to continue to provide an environment that is safe, secure and healthy for everyone who walks into our building. This is one additional and proven method of ensuring that we are keeping our staff, our students and our families safe from this deadly virus and its spread by identifying those individuals in our school building who may be infected with COVID-19. It is our duty to protect the children in our care – while continuing to provide them with the best possible education – and I firmly believe this allows us to be better prepared to protect them,” stated Superintendent Dr. Sito Narcisse.

Employees with the EBRPSS will also be asked to provide their COVID-19 vaccination status through a secure and private online portal by September 15. Testing will be provided at each employee’s school or administrative site by Orion Laboratories, a trusted partner of the Louisiana Department of Health, with minimal disruption to the workday.

Further information on the East Baton Rouge Parish School System’s safe reopening plan, testing information for employees and optional testing program for students, please visit https://ebrschools.org/covid-19-2021-2022-reopening/

Follow these five strategies for successful study sessions

Not all teens know how to study. Those that don’t may spend more time than they need to on their work for school. Or they may get frustrated and stop studying completely.

Share these strategies to help your teen study effectively:

1. **Take notes in class.** Writing down what the teacher says can help your teen see what the teacher thinks is important. Reviewing his notes regularly will also improve his retention of the material.

2. **Break it up.** Research shows that frequent short study sessions spaced out over time are more effective than one long study session.

3. **Study similar subjects at different times.** Putting new information into your brain is a little like pouring concrete. Your teen has to give it time to “set up.” So between a science lesson with a lot of formulas and a math lesson with a lot of formulas, your teen should study history or English to allow the science lesson time to set.

4. **Avoid getting sidetracked.** If your teen finds his mind wandering during study time, he should keep a note pad by his study spot. They can jot down reminders or random ideas that pop into this head and then get right back to studying.

5. **Eliminate distractions.** The TV, phone and growling stomach will all distract your teen. Make sure to turn off all electronics and take care of hunger and thirst before sitting down to study.
How to Help Your Child with Organizational Skills

Organization is the thinking skill that helps a child take a systematic approach to problem solving by creating order out of disorder. Organization involves learning how to collect all of the necessary materials to complete a task while being able to step back and examine a complex situation. For example, a child is using organizational skills when they take time to gather all of their notes before starting to study for a test.

Listed below are links to some websites and articles that may assist your child with organizational skills:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Resource</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Mind Institute Organizational Skills</td>
<td><a href="https://childmind.org/topics/concerns/organizational-skills/">https://childmind.org/topics/concerns/organizational-skills/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>National Association for Gifted Children</td>
<td><a href="https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources/motivation-andlearning/organization-skills">https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources/motivation-andlearning/organization-skills</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Good Magazine</td>
<td><a href="https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_to_help_your_kids_get_organized_without_nagging">https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_to_help_your_kids_get_organized_without_nagging</a></td>
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On Thursday, August 26, students at Claiborne Elementary were afforded an opportunity to interact with members of the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars Service Project.

For context, the University of Louisiana System established the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars Program. The R.F. Lewis Scholars Program is a cohort program designed to enhance the collegiate experience of African American male students and provide educational programs, mentoring opportunities, and co-curricular experiences to enhance their collegiate experience. Two students from each of the nine member institutions (Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech University, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, University of Louisiana at Monroe and University of New Orleans) are members of the program.

The scholars toured the campus, interacted with students on all grade levels and held reading sessions with members of the 5th grade class.
East Baton Rouge Parish School System was one of only six K-12 school districts in the country to be awarded EPA’s 2021 ENERGY STAR PARTNER OF THE YEAR award for the first time! And we are the only school district in Louisiana to have ever received this award. This EPA award recognizes organizations for:

⇒ Superior energy efficiency achievements.
⇒ Adopting a continuous energy management strategy.
⇒ Demonstrating best practices.

The official award letter stated, “EPA congratulates the EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM on winning ENERGY STAR 2021 PARTNER OF THE YEAR award. Thank you for defining new standards of excellence and leading the way in energy efficiency and protecting our climate.” The letter continued, “Your application stood out among many highly competitive submissions, demonstrating exemplary commitment and dedication to leadership in energy efficiency and the ENERGY STAR program.”

Initiated in 2007, the award-winning EBRPSS Energy Program has achieved notable results, including:

- 33% overall reduction in annual energy use.
- Over $47 million in cumulative avoided utility costs.
- $1.3 million of collected utility bill refunds and credits.
- Association of Energy Engineers 2020 Region IV Institutional Energy Management Award.
- Four U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School awards.
- EPA Battle of the Buildings national winner.

The Energy Star Partner of the Year award is usually presented by the head of EPA in Washington, D.C. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the award was presented to the superintendent at a recent School Board meeting.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Hacks</th>
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<td>Instead of hitting backspace multiple times to correct misspelled words, erase the whole word by pressing “Ctrl + backspace.”</td>
<td>Get something in your eye? Using your fingertips, hold your eyelashes and pull down your eyelid. Blink rapidly several times to get rid of the foreign object.</td>
<td>Before going to a suspicious site, Google “safesearch:(website)” to see a ninety-day history of malware attempts on its visitors.</td>
<td>Having trouble falling asleep? Count backwards from ninety-nine. Chances are, you’ll fall asleep before you even get to fifty.</td>
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### September 2021

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- **September 6th:** Labor Day (No school for Students and Employees)
- **September 22nd:** End of 1st Six Weeks
The East Baton Rouge Parish School System and all of its entities (including Career and Technical Education Programs) does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, national origin, disability or gender in its educational programs and activities (including employment and application for employment), and it is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of gender by Title IX (20 USC 168) and on the basis of disability by Section 504 (42 USC 794). The Title IX Coordinator is Andrew Davis, Director of Risk Management (ADavis6@ebrschools.org) phone (225) 929-8705. The Section 504 Coordinator is Elizabeth Taylor Chapman, Director of Exceptional Student Services (ETaylor@ebrschools.org) phone (225) 929-8600. The Title II Coordinator is Dr. Sandra Horton, Administrative Director of Federal Programs (SBHorton@ebrschools.org) phone (225) 922-5538.

All students have an opportunity to participate in Career & Technical Programs of Study including, but not limited to, areas of Health Care, Construction Crafts & Trades, Automotive Technology, IT Computer Technology, IT Computer Technology, Culinary Programs, Criminal Justice and Agriculture. Admission requirements for each course can be found in the student course guide/schedule packet of the individual campus where the course is being offered. Please contact the Guidance Counselor at the specific school site for additional information, program requirements and/or any questions you may have.