



East Avenue Primary

**Many Tribes. One Nation.
Meeting People Where They Are.**

Return to School Guide 2020-2021

For Parents and Students

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Introduction

Conditions surrounding the coronavirus pandemic are ever-changing. Gonzales ISD's return-to-school plans for 2020-2021 are fluid and will be continually evaluated and updated in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines. The most updated information from Gonzales ISD will be published on our district website. In addition, the District will continue to notify families of any and all major updates that are published. Gonzales ISD has developed this Return to School Guide for 2020-21 to inform parents and students about their choices for the new school year. Regardless of the instructional option parents select for their child, Gonzales ISD is fully prepared and committed to providing a high-quality, rigorous learning environment that focuses on students' safety, as well as their academic, social and emotional well-being.

Mission

GISD is committed to a spirit of excellence in caring service and partnerships that equip students for continuous learning supporting resilience in achieving personal aspirations, compassionate and dynamic citizenship in an ever-changing world.

Although the current pandemic creates new and dynamic challenges for our school system, we are committed to focusing on this core purpose with an even greater urgency. The purpose of this document is to communicate our plan for the 2020-21 school year as it relates to four key areas:

Health & Safety

Instructional Options for Families

Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

Student Support Services

Commitments

Gonzales ISD is committed to excellence in our return to school plan. We aim to:

- Adopt protocols that place student and staff safety at the forefront.
- Achieve educational equity and access for all students through opportunities and resources to help students reach their full, individual potential.
- Offer a full range of individualized programming through face-to-face, in-person learning or remote, online learning
- Follow a shared scope and sequence whether learning at school or at home.
- Adhere to District grading guidelines, teacher expectations, and student support systems.
- Hold students accountable to the 90% attendance requirement for earning course credit regardless of a student's chosen learning environment.

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our staff and students remains our highest priority. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the protocols and steps we have outlined in this document are based on public health and governmental directives, as well as advancing scientific knowledge on the transmissibility of COVID-19. They are intended to increase the likelihood that staff and students can teach and learn in a safe school environment and reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus. Consistently implementing these protocols is the best way to reduce the potential negative impact of infection on students' educational experiences and on the health and safety of students and staff.

Transitional Start

Gonzales ISD is scheduled to start the 2020-21 school year August 17.

Parents will have the choice between two learning environments for their child. They may continue with online instruction, or their child may transition to face-to-face instruction by attending school on campus each day. More information about Instructional Options for Families can be found in the next section. Parents will be asked to make their decision for onsite instruction or online instruction no later than Monday, August 10.

Prevention and Mitigation Practices

Arrival/Dismissal	<p>ARRIVAL (7:30-8:00) <i>Breakfast begins at 7:30 am and ends at 7:55 am.</i> <i>Instruction begins at 8:00 am.</i></p> <p>It is highly recommended parents work with their child practicing buckling and unbuckling their seatbelts, as well as opening and closing car doors. Campus staff will not be allowed to assist students exiting vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents will not be allowed to drop-off their students until 7:30 am. ● Parents who are driving their children to school should remain in their vehicles. ● Parents or older siblings who are walking their children to school will be asked to remain outside. ● Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available inside the main entrance.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Once the building opens, students will report to their homeroom, first-period class or other designated location according to campus procedures. <p>DISMISSAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Campuses may designate staggered dismissal groups. Staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, bus riders or grade levels will help manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time. ● Sanitizer stations will be placed at each exit and students will be encouraged to sanitize hands prior to exit. ● Parents picking up students during the day are required to call ahead so that students can be sent to the office ahead of time and paperwork for exit prepared. ● Early pick-ups will not be permitted one hour before the dismissal time, with the exception of required doctor appointments.
Cafeteria: Breakfast & Lunch	See Cafeteria Guidelines listed towards under Student Support Services - towards the end of this document.
Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Class size will depend on the number of parents who elect the onsite instructional model for their students. ● Each classroom will be outfitted with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visual reminders of distancing requirements and best practice; ○ Hand sanitizer; and ○ Disinfectant wipes or spray based on product availability. ● Teachers and staff will have access to disinfectant wipes or spray to sanitize high-touch surfaces and shared objects during the instructional day. ● Teachers will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Require hand hygiene (washing or sanitizing) when entering the classroom and after group activities; ○ Create physical distance between desks and tables as much as instructionally practical (3-6 feet); ○ Establish appropriate student responsibilities to clean personal areas and materials/supplies, as needed; ○ Incorporate outdoor teaching when appropriate;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where appropriate and feasible, keep classroom doors open to improve circulation and reduce the touching of door handles; and ○ Limit the use of shared supplies and sanitize any shared supplies. ● Teachers will monitor their students throughout the day and refer to the nurse if COVID-19 symptoms are present.
Cleaning and Disinfecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District has obtained or is ordering cleaning and sanitizing supplies. The Texas Education Agency also has procured some supplies for school districts. ● Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned daily. ● All high touch areas will be disinfected daily. ● Custodial staff will wear face coverings and gloves during work hours. ● Child nutrition staff will wear face coverings and gloves during meal preparation and service. ● Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction. ● Buses will be disinfected after each morning and afternoon route.
Common Areas and Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff will wear a face covering unless eating, drinking or exercising (athletics, PE, recess). ● Students in grades PK-2 will wear a face covering during arrival/dismissal and transitions as directed by their teacher. ● Staggered releases from each class may be organized to limit the number of students in the hallway during transitions. When transitioning between classes, students will travel corridors as far to the right as possible. ● Visual markers will be developed to help students maintain physical distance and adhere to established campus traffic flow in hallways. ● Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus that separate individuals to the greatest extent possible. Traffic patterns will “keep to the right” when transitioning to and from locations. Access to hand sanitizer will be provided in common areas.
Face Coverings (to include cloth face covering, mask, shield)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff are expected to wear a face covering at all times except when eating, drinking or exercising.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students in grades PK-2 must wear a face covering during arrival/dismissal and during transitions as directed by their teacher. ● All students must wear a face covering when riding the school bus. ● Certain individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, or other sensory sensitivities may be unable to effectively wear a face covering. ● Parents must send their children to school with a clean face covering each day.
Hand Washing and Sanitizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at the main entrance to the campus, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus. Classrooms will have hand sanitizer and/or hand soap at sinks for hand washing. ● Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands. ● Students will be instructed to use hand soap or hand sanitizer upon entry to the classroom with periodic teacher reminders during the instructional day. ● Students will be instructed to thoroughly wash hands after recess, before and after eating and restroom breaks.
Health Screenings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff are expected to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to coming to work, including checking temperature. Staff with COVID-19 symptoms should not report to work, but should contact their health care provider and their supervisor. ● Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their students to school or putting them on a school bus. ● Parents' cooperation in not sending children to school who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms and in screening their children for COVID-19 symptoms each day before school will be critical to keeping our children and staff safe and healthy.
Hygiene and Safety Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will receive instruction on the first day and during the first week of school on appropriate hygiene and mitigation strategies, including proper hand washing technique and respiratory etiquette.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student and staff training will be reinforced frequently throughout the school year. ● Signage will be placed in visible common areas and in classrooms with reminders about health and hygiene protocols and safety measures.
Isolation Protocol (for students/staff displaying COVID-19 symptoms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>See district Return to School Guide**</i>
Parent Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ARD meetings, 504 meetings, and parent conferences (including discipline hearings and grievance hearings) will be held virtually. ● The format for the annual elementary conferences will be determined at a later time. ● Parents and teachers are encouraged to communicate regularly via email and/or Google Classroom to ensure students have the necessary support to be successful.
Recess (exercise/play)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outdoor transmission of the virus is known to be much lower than indoor transmission. To mitigate the risk of transmission, we will work to cohort students and limit the size of groups at recess at any given time. ● Although we will teach children to maintain safe distances from each other while on the playground, enforcing physical distancing on the playground may be difficult. ● Children will wash or sanitize their hands at the beginning and end of recess. ● Face coverings will not be required during recess. ● High-touch surfaces on the playground such as railings and handles will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
School Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>See district Return to School Guide**</i>
Student Health Services (nurse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students must be in compliance regarding immunizations prior to school starting. ● Teachers and other adults will monitor their students throughout the day and refer to the nurse if COVID-19 symptoms present.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The campus nurse will educate teachers on what to look for in students and what types of issues require a referral to the nurse. ● In the event a campus nurse is out, there will be a substitute nurse or other staff member/substitute trained to address COVID-19 issues and other illnesses.
Symptoms	● <i>See district Return to School Guide**</i>
Transportation	● <i>See district Return to School Guide**</i>
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GISD will limit visitors to campuses to essential visits only, including restricting parents from eating with children in the cafeteria or classroom. This period will include at least the first 12 weeks of school. ● At any time a visitor comes to campus, he/she will have their temperature taken using a contactless thermometer. A person with a temperature of 100°F or higher or who answers yes to either of the questions below will not be allowed to remain on campus. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you have any new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19? 2. Have you had any known close contact* with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19? <p><i>Note: *Close contact is defined as being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or within 6 feet for a prolonged period.</i></p>
Water	● The use of water fountains will be restricted. Students are required to bring a water bottle from home each day.

Return to School Criteria for Students

- ***See district Return to School Guide*****

Instructional Options for Families

For the 2020-21 school year, Gonzales ISD will offer each student the option to attend school 100% of the time on campus for face-to-face, in-person instruction. GISD will offer a second option for 100% online, virtual instruction. Both options are available for children in grades PK through 12. Online learning is an “opt-in” learning model. A student will automatically be placed in onsite instruction unless otherwise selected.

Option 1: ONSITE

The onsite model will consist of face-to-face instruction that is 100% on campus with safety protocols in place to help protect students and staff. Instruction on campus will happen Monday through Friday following a traditional bell schedule that parents and students are familiar with.

Option 2: ONLINE

The online model is entirely virtual, requiring students to have a consistent online presence and daily log-in requirements. Virtual instruction will happen Monday through Friday but may not necessarily follow a traditional bell schedule. A loaner device (Chromebook, iPad) is available from the District upon request if a student does not have his/her own device. Reliable home access to the internet is essential for the delivery of online instruction.

Selecting a Learning Option for Your Child

We believe that the face-to-face, in-person instructional setting of a classroom and the relationship and interactions with teachers and peers provide the best environment for the vast majority of students; therefore, we encourage parents to send their children to school. However, we understand that some parents may prefer for their students to learn virtually from home. To assist parents in making the decision between the ONSITE and ONLINE learning models, we have created the comparison chart below to show similarities and differences.

Learning Options At-A-Glance

	ONSITE	ONLINE
Assessment	Students will take curriculum-based, District, and State assessments	Students will take curriculum-based, District, and

	according to GISD assessment calendar.	State assessments according to GISD assessment calendar.
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TEA attendance policies will be followed for all students. ● Students must abide by the 90% attendance/completion for credit. ● Attendance will be taken daily during each campus' official attendance time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TEA attendance policies will be followed for all students. ● Students must abide by the 90% attendance/completion for credit. ● Attendance will be taken daily based on that day's student participation in Google Classroom/computer-based programs, student-teacher interaction, and/or submitted assignments.
Curriculum	Teachers will provide instruction according to the Texas state standards in the order and pace designed in the GISD curriculum plan.	Teachers will provide instruction according to the Texas state standards in the order and pace designed in the GISD curriculum plan.
Grading	Grades will be assigned according to District grading guidelines.	Grades will be assigned according to District grading guidelines.
Student Schedules	Students will receive a daily schedule with 450 instructional minutes.	<p>Students will receive instruction through the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Daily live student/teacher interaction and engagement via videoconferencing ● Online activities and programming via Google Classroom ● Computer-based instructional programs The number of instructional minutes is comparable to onsite instruction to ensure that students stay on-track in grade level curriculum.
Parent Engagement	● Parents will ensure their child attends school each day	● Parents will ensure their child attends virtual school each day and

	<p>and meets the 90% attendance requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents will monitor their child's progress and grades. ● Parents will maintain regular communication with teacher(s). 	<p>meets the 90% attendance requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents are encouraged to enroll in district-provided training regarding supporting their child in online learning. ● Parents should monitor their child's progress and ask for evidence their child is on track with assignments and coursework. ● Parents should check the campus homepage for links to teacher lessons and provide assistance on daily activities unless the work is designated by the teacher as "independent" work. ● Parents should establish and monitor the daily schedule communicated by the teacher and the campus, including creating a designated learning space at home. ● Parents should maintain regular communication with teacher(s) by phone, email, and/or online meetings to create a learning partnership.
Teacher Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers will provide daily instruction, support, academic feedback and progress monitoring to students in-person. ● Following the GISD Employee Handbook and Dress Code ● Monitor and Adjust instruction and support based on student need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers will report to their campus each day to facilitate their virtual classes, with the exception of special circumstances. ● Teachers will provide daily recorded or interactive instruction, support and progress monitoring. ● Teachers will provide academic feedback through Google Classroom or similar platforms. ● Following the GISD Employee Handbook and Dress Code ● Monitor and Adjust instruction and support based on student need

Student Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will attend school each day according to their class schedule and complete assigned classwork and homework to show mastery of the curriculum. ● Following the GISD Student Code of Conduct and Dress Code during online instruction. ● Taking responsibility for asking for help, asking questions, and taking advantage of tutorial sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will participate in virtual learning each day (logging into Google Classroom, watching instructional videos, and/or interacting with teachers according to the student's schedule and teacher expectations). ● Students will complete assigned classwork and homework to show mastery and submit through Google Classroom. ● Following the GISD Student Code of Conduct and Dress Code during online instruction. ● Taking responsibility for asking for help, asking questions, and taking advantage of tutorial sessions.
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CONSIDERATIONS FOR DECISION MAKING

ONSITE	ONLINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Does your child receive primary instruction (grades PK-2)? ★ Does your child benefit from hands-on, in-person interaction to learn new concepts? ★ Does your child benefit from frequent support or supervision to complete assignments? ★ Does your child need extra support to read on grade level? ★ Does your child need additional behavioral supports to stay focused during learning? ★ Does your child have a disability or learning challenges that are best addressed via in-person instruction? ★ Did your child struggle with online learning during the spring of 2020? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Is your child able to read grade-level material independently? ★ Is your child self-motivated and self-disciplined in order to take ownership of learning and stay organized? ★ Will your child recognize when to ask for assistance and seek support from their teacher? ★ How did your child do with online learning during spring of 2020 (understanding that the 2020-2021 virtual school will be more in-depth, challenging, and time intensive for your student)? ★ Do you and/or your child have adequate computer skills to email, submit assignments, and access online learning platforms? ★ Does your student have their own device and access to reliable internet service throughout the instructional day?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Is your child starting at a new campus next year (PK, 1st)? ★ Did your child experience significant loss of skills after school closures in spring of 2020? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Do you have a designated space for your child to engage in instruction and complete assignments with limited distractions? ★ Are you able to provide appropriate supervision and support within the home to allow for implementation of student schedules? ★ Are you able to ensure your child is available during the instructional day for virtual lessons and meetings with their teacher? ★ Do you have reliable transportation to access the school periodically for specialized classes or assessments?
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Timeframe for Selecting a Learning Option

Because the planning required to safely open school is unprecedented, we respectfully request that parents make their selection of ONSITE or ONLINE instruction as quickly as possible. The sooner the District has accurate enrollment numbers, the sooner we can make necessary assignments and adjustments to our programming to meet student needs. *A parent who does not select a learning option will default to the ONSITE model and have their child automatically assigned to classes on campus.* Parents who have multiple children in GISD will be allowed to choose the learning model that best serves each child. **A student will remain in the selected learning environment until the end of the 6-week grading period.**

The deadline for parents to select either online or onsite instruction is Monday, August 10.

All students, regardless of the learning environment, must be registered for the 2020-21 school year. Students who are not registered will not receive a schedule or be assigned into a classroom.

Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

Whether ONSITE or ONLINE, Gonzales ISD is prepared to address the needs of all students in the 2020-21 school year. This includes their needs related to grade level achievement, academic supports, social emotional development, and more. **This section focuses on explaining the online school option.** While parents and students gained some experience with this mode of learning during our school closure in the spring, the new version of our virtual school platform as well as our protocols for virtual learning need additional explanation and detail.

Overview by Grade Band

PK - 2nd Grade

Core Curriculum	<p>Students will receive instruction based on required state standards in the same order and at the same pace as students receiving on-site instruction. Students may receive instruction in the following ways to include, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Live interaction with the teacher (whole class, small group and individual sessions) ● Teacher-created instructional videos and additional resources ● Authentic student work/assignments submitted through Google Classroom with timely and relevant feedback for continued progress in learning of the standard; ● Work in computer-based instructional programs for a specified amount of time ● Work in other digital platforms. ● Students will take curriculum-based assessments, District assessments, and state assessments according to GISD's assessment calendar, including TELPAS, and CIRCLE.
Bilingual	<p>Students receiving Bilingual education services will continue to receive bilingual instruction following the district's language framework for grades Pre Kindergarten through Fourth grade. ESL Students receiving ESL services will continue to receive services through sheltered instruction.</p>
Dyslexia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>See district Return to School Guide**</i>
Gifted/Talented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>See district Return to School Guide**</i>

Special Education	Students will receive services as described in their Individualized Education Plan to the maximum extent possible. ● <i>See district Return to School Guide**.</i>
Specials	The district will provide lessons for music, art, computer, and PE.
UIL Activities	Students who selected the online learning option will be able to participate in extracurricular activities in accordance with UIL rules and District guidelines.

District and State Assessments

All students, whether they select onsite or online learning, will take curriculum-based, District, and State assessments according to GUSD's assessment calendar.

Special Education

Students eligible for Special Education Services will be provided a Free, Appropriate, Public Education according to each student's individualized education plan (IEP). To the extent possible, IEP services will be provided through both in-person and virtual learning options.

In-person Services

- Special Education Staff will provide the instructional and related services included in the student's IEP within the school building or in designated outdoor spaces.
- Campus Administrators will work with Special Education staff to ensure schedules are created to ensure IEP services are provided, while minimizing the number of students each staff member serves.
- Shared spaces utilized for Special Education services will include barriers and strategically spaced student and staff seating as necessary to align with social distancing guidelines.
- Speech and Related Service providers will create schedules in collaboration with campus administration to ensure students remain with peers in their assigned classrooms as often as possible.
- To the extent possible, Speech and Related Services staff will be assigned to campuses across the district to minimize the number of campuses, students and teachers that are served by a single provider.
- Speech Therapists, Dyslexia Teachers, Sign Language Interpreters and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teachers will be provided with clear masks and face shields to utilize during instruction and therapy sessions.
- Students and General Education Teachers participating in the Regional Day School Program for the Deaf will be provided clear face masks and face shields to use during instruction.
- Individual materials will be provided to each student whenever possible to minimize student contact with shared materials.

- Student IEPs will be developed and revised as necessary through IEP Amendment or an ARD Committee Meeting.

Virtual Services

- Special Education Teachers will collaborate with General Education Teachers to ensure instruction and assignments are appropriately accommodated and/or individualized for each student.
- Special Education Teachers will provide individualized instruction as indicated in student IEP's in accordance with GISD's Online Learning Plan.
- Speech and Related Service Providers will implement IEP services via teletherapy, parent consultation, and individualized therapy plans provided to students.
- Certain service providers require verbal and/or written consent to provide teletherapy services.
- Special Education Providers will regularly monitor and document student participation and progress in virtual instruction and therapy.
- Special Education Teachers and Providers will provide additional strategies, supports, and instructional opportunities to students who are not making adequate progress.
- When additional supports are not sufficient in meeting student needs, teachers and providers should request an ARD committee meeting.
- Student IEPs will be developed and revised as necessary through IEP Amendment or an ARD Committee Meeting to address student needs associated with virtual instruction.

Specialized Safety and Health Considerations

- Students with disabilities will be provided visual supports, specialized instruction, and additional supervision as necessary to promote health and safety guidelines established by GISD, including hand washing, social distancing, moving safely from class to class, and eating and playing safely.
- In certain environments, additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves or air purifiers will be provided as necessary.

Student Support Services

After School Programs

The ACE program is available at each elementary, intermediate and middle school campus with in-person programming for students participating in onsite learning and a virtual option for any interested students. Tutorial and family support services will be offered to all students who are part of the ACE program.

Child Nutrition

- Parents are asked to *send a packed lunch* **with** their child **IF** they are not having their child receive the lunch provided by our cafeteria. In case your child forgets their lunch they will be provided a school lunch. **Parents are not to bring lunches to the school for their child at any time during this Covid 19- Corona Pandemic.**
- Lunches that are sent with the student are to be easily accessible for the child to manipulate on their own, as staff members on lunch duty will not be allowed to handle the student's lunch items. (Please practice with your child at home before you send them with their lunch).
- We highly discourage parents/guardians from coming to school and checking their child out for lunch and returning to check them in.
- During this Covid 19-Corona Pandemic parents/guardians are not allowed on campus to eat lunch with their child.
- During this Covid 19-Corona Pandemic families are asked not to send or bring Birthday treats/food for their child's birthday, as we will not be allowed to distribute or share these items. We will do our best to recognize your child's special day verbally.

Counseling Services

GISD counselors will work collaboratively to support students.

Transportation

Gonzales ISD will continue to offer transportation for the 2020-21 school year; however, some capacity limitations may exist. We will institute safety measures to help limit the spread of COVID-19, including:

- Hand sanitizer will be required when students enter the bus.
- The bus driver and all students will be required to wear a cloth face covering, mask or face shield.

- Students must remain in their seat facing forward, according to an assigned seat on a seating chart.
- Bus will be disinfected daily after the morning route and again after the afternoon route.

COMMUNICATIONS

GISD has created a Back to School Planning hub on the district website that will be updated regularly. In addition, the District and campuses will use Blackboard to communicate directly with families via phone, email or text; notifications and alerts through the mobile app; district and school websites; newsletters; and social media accounts. Parents and students who have questions or concerns or who need information related to our return to school plans should contact either their school principal or the Gonzales ISD Communications Office at 830-672-9551.