

BACK TO SCHOOL
Special Pages
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Alvin ISD August 19	Danbury ISD August 18
Angleton ISD August 18	Damon ISD August 23
Brazosport ISD August 18	Sweeny ISD August 19
Columbia-Brazoria ISD August 19	Pearland ISD August 18

By John Toth
The Bulletin

We just celebrated the mosquitoes in Clute; the Olympics just ended; and schools are reopening.

What? Summer has just started.

What's with all these back-to-school sales? Parents are taking their list and shopping for school supplies. What happened to sun-block, Frisbee, beach traffic, picnic lunches and summer vacations?

It's only the middle of August. It's still really hot; the county's beaches are still inviting; and the days are still long.

School is supposed to start after the Jerry Lewis Telethon. That's when we used to return to school to re-learn what we forgot over the previous three months.

The end of summer - returning to high school and then to college - were not the most exciting times of my younger days. I knew that summer life on the shores of Lake Ossipee had to end eventually, but I really wanted it to go on - indefinitely.

Then it was time to take the bus or train back to the city, from which I had escaped three months

Bye summer break; Hello real world

earlier. But at least it was September. The time had come to return to the real world.

I liked it better among the pine trees by the lake, performing a job that didn't take much effort. I was heading up a maintenance crew at a summer camp, and the biggest problems we had were stopped-up toilets.

I didn't get paid all that much, but the benefits were great - free room, free food, lots of company and a pretty good social life. I didn't care what day it was, unless it was parents weekend, when we had to work a little harder.

I didn't do it for the money as much as for the chance to get away from the city and get lost in the green world. Most of us who worked at the camp had the same reason

for being there. It was our escape from June 1 to the end of August.

That's one reason why I cannot get used to school starting back in mid-August. In my college days, I was still soaking up the sun throughout August on the lake and telling my crew which light bulbs to change.

After the kids left, we stayed for

an extra two weeks to close up the camp, which actually took quite a bit of work, but it also gave me a reason not to return to the city for a while longer.

Eventually, though, I had to register for classes, which at the time I could only do in person. So, back I went to the big city, with a heavy heart and sad face.

We all promised to call or write, and of course, never did. But next year I saw many of the same workers coming back for another season, and like me, escaping again at the end of May into another summer that would never end - again.

As the train left behind the green countryside and entered the concrete jungle one year in the 1970s, I told Ben Liemer, one of the high school students who also worked at the camp, that one day I would leave

the city and live full time in a place where summer never ends.

Then I moved to Texas and came pretty close to doing that. There are only two seasons here - summer and almost summer. And almost summer is almost as good as summer.

Today, there are some advantages to people my age that schools open back up in August. Beaches and other popular summer spots become just about empty. I can walk along the shoreline, enjoy the sunshine and the quiet as the waves lap along the sand.

It's a wonderful sound that tourists often drown out. But they have all gone back to the real world while summer continues for people like me.

I hope you had a fabulous summer, dear reader, or maybe even continue to have one. If you're too old for school, please watch out for the school zones and drive carefully. Those kids may not be watching out for you since they may still be thinking about the endless summer that just ended - too early.



Students in the Alvin, Angleton, Brazosport, Columbia-Brazoria, Danbury and Sweeny school districts will receive free meals for the 2021-2022 school year.

All students in **Brazosport ISD** will receive free breakfast and lunch every day, thanks to the extension of the "Seamless Summer" program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). BISD's Child Nutrition will begin serving free meals to students when they return to school on August 18.

The free meals will be available regardless of a student's meal status through the end of the 2021-2022 school year, or until congressional funding for the program runs out. This program will not change the menu nor the



portion size for each student. Student meal accounts will not be charged as long as this program remains in effect.

Brazosport ISD encourages parents to continue to complete the free and reduced lunch appli-

cations, even though they are not required to receive the free meals. Meeting the income eligibility guidelines may qualify you for other assistance such as PEBT, scholarships, test fees waived, etc.

In addition, the free meal program will likely expire at the end of this year; however, the student's status from this year will carry over to next year.

Danbury ISD announced its policy that for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, healthy meals will be offered every school day to all students at no cost.

While no application or eligibility determination process is required for your student to receive free meals this school year, the income eligibility requirement will likely resume for the 2022-2023 school year.

Thanks to a waiver extension from USDA, **Sweeny ISD** is proud to continue to offer breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students for the duration of the 2021-2022 school year.

Columbia-Brazoria ISD announced its policy that this school year, healthy meals will be offered every school day to all students at no cost.

While no application or eligibility determination is required for your student to receive free meals this school year, income eligibility requirements will likely resume in the 2022-2023 school year.

As such, Columbia-Brazoria ISD Nutrition Department will process household applications during School Year 2021-2022 to ensure student eligibility for free or reduced-price meals during the first 30 days of the 2022-2023 school year while 2022-2023 applications are being processed.

Students at **Alvin ISD** will receive free meals this school year. It is still important to apply for free and reduced-price meals every year so you do not lose access to other benefits and so your child's campus does not lose critical services that are based on meal applications.

Angleton ISD is offering free breakfast and lunch again for all students this school year.

Through the CEP Provision by USDA, AISD will be able to offer two meals a day to every student at no charge.

Angleton's top priority is safety

Angleton ISD's number one priority is the health and safety of its students, staff, families, and community.

AISD has implemented several recommended social distancing and cleaning guidelines for its facilities to ensure a safe learning and work environment for its students and staff. The number of individuals in specific areas will be limited as determined by the space, and social distancing will be followed. Also, the district has enhanced cleaning expectations, including frequency, to maximize safety measures.

- No visitors will be allowed into the building unless an appointment is scheduled.

- All visitors must sign into the building and report directly to where they are attending.

- Juniors and seniors will be allowed to leave campus for lunch at the high school campus.

- No outside food deliveries will be allowed for students.

Schools may assign seats in the cafeteria.

- Schools may designate and mark hallways for both social distancing and directions.

- Students will follow all hallway guidelines developed by the school.

- After students have left any AISD building, all spaces will be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly.

- All restrooms will be cleaned regularly.

- All lunchrooms, auditoriums, locker rooms, weight rooms, and hallway areas will be cleaned regularly.



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As we all work together to fight the COVID-19 Pandemic and develop a safe plan for our students to return to school.

BASF wants to thank our school districts, teachers, counselors and staff for all they are doing to educate our children.

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Students are able to repeat 2020 year

From the Texas Education Agency

The 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session passed Senate Bill (SB) 1697, which amends state law to allow parents and guardians to elect for a student to repeat a grade or retake a high school course, per Texas Education Code (TEC) §28.02124. The legislation, which went into effect on June 16, 2021, gives parents or guardians the right to opt for their child to:

1. Repeat prekindergarten;
2. Enroll in prekindergarten if the child was eligible to enroll in pre-kindergarten in the previous school year, under TEC, §29.153(b), and has not yet enrolled in kindergarten;
3. Repeat kindergarten;
4. Enroll in kindergarten if the child would have enrolled in kindergarten in the previous school year and has not yet enrolled in first grade*;
5. For grades one through three, repeat the grade the student was enrolled in the previous school year.

According to January 2021 enrollment data, roughly 24,000 kindergarten-aged students did not enroll in kindergarten during the 2020-21 school year.

For the 2021-2022 school year only, parents or guardians have the right to opt for their child:

6. For grades four through eight, repeat the grade the student was enrolled in during the 2020-2021 school year; and
7. For courses taken for high school credit, repeat any course in which the student was enrolled during the 2020-2021 school year.

District and campus administrators should share information regarding these options with all parents and guardians as soon as possible so that they are able to make the best decisions for their children as they prepare for the coming school year.

District and charter school staff should communicate this information through multiple channels to ensure all parents are aware of options for the coming school year. Information for parents related to these options is available on two TEA webpages at:

- <https://tea.texas.gov/repeat-grade>
- <https://tea.texas.gov/restart-kinder>

Parents or guardians must notify the school district or charter school in writing if they elect for their child to retake a grade level or course.

A school district or charter school may disagree with a parent who elects to have their child retake a grade level or course. If a district or charter school disagrees, the district or charter school must convene a retention committee and meet with the parent or guardian to discuss the proposed retention.

After the parent/guardian has participated in the retention committee meeting, the parent or guardian will decide if the student will be retained. The district or charter school is required to abide by the parent's or guardian's decision.

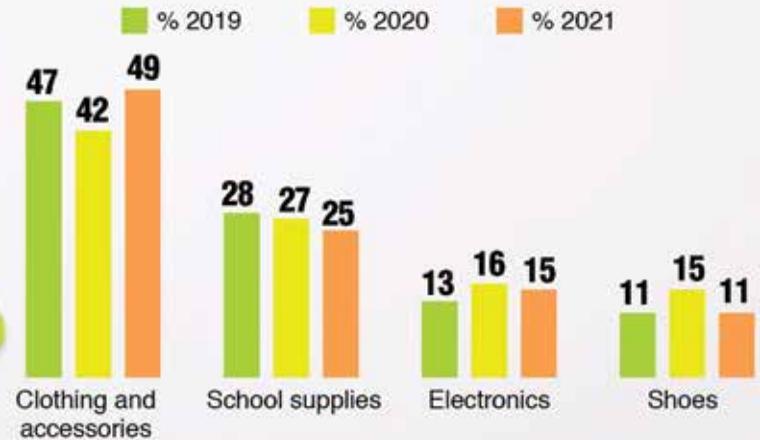
Answers to frequently asked questions are posted on the TEA website.



Goodbye pajama pants, school outfits are back

After a year of casual dress during schooling from home, students and parents are ready to say goodbye to lounge clothes and hello to snazzy new first day of school outfits.

Categories kids are most excited to shop for



PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN BRAZORIA COUNTY

Angleton Christian School

Brazosport Christian School

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Foundation Preparatory Academy

Living Stones Christian School

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic School

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A WILDCAT?

It means that every person here is a part of something greater.

AISD is the largest employer in the city. The combination of our staff with the student body and their families means that the school district directly impacts every part of the community and is woven into the very fabric of Angleton itself.

When we say, **"Because we're Wildcats,"** we mean everyone in this community.

