

Coke County schools to begin 2020-2021 school year soon

The 2020-2021 school year for Coke County will look a little different this year. Due to Covid-19, local schools are seeing changes to the timing of the start of the fall semester, method of instruction, as well as health and safety parameters.

Bronte ISD will kick off the school year on Monday, August 10, followed by Blackwell CISD on Monday, August 12, and Robert Lee ISD on August 17.

Bronte ISD and Robert Lee ISD, in addition to traditional in-school learning, will be offering parents the option to do online learning from home instead. Blackwell CISD is allowing online learning as well, however the option is only available to students that fall under one of the following categories: 1) have an underlying medical condition supported by documentation from a doctor; 2) student is experiencing symptoms of Covid-19; 3) student is positive for Covid-19.

See below for the guidelines for methods of instruction and health and safety measures each school has put in place.

Bronte ISD

Principals and staff are working to create a safe, in-person learning environment that is as similar to previous school years as possible. To ensure the safety of all students and staff, the following measures will be in place.

If Coke County has a level of at least 20 active cases, the school district will be required to follow the most recent Governor's order requiring face masks for all teachers, staff, visitors, and students in grades 4 and up. Some exceptions may apply during athletics, recess, or some extracurricular activities, and within the context of UIL rules and guidelines. The school district will provide a limited number of disposable masks for students for the 2020-2021 school year.

Parents will be responsible for screening all students for Covid-19 symptoms each day prior to dropping them off at school.

Recess will be offered at appropriate grade levels with organized games/play used to assist in maintaining social distancing.

All students will be offered breakfast in their classroom after the start of the school day. Students will either eat lunch in the classroom or in the cafeteria where social distancing is possible. Grades 9 - 12 will continue to be offered the option to eat off campus at their scheduled lunch time.

Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer that will be made available, and scheduled hand washing will be encouraged. Extensive cleaning and sanitizing will be done by the school district's custodial staff.

Social distancing will be

practiced in classrooms and common areas to the extent that it is possible.

Visitors will be restricted to only those essential to school operations during the regular school hours of operation. The office staff will screen all visitors, including parents, before entry into the campus buildings. BISD will utilize video conferencing as much as possible to allow teachers to visit with parents by appointment. To minimize traffic in the building, no outside food deliveries will be accepted, and visitors will not be allowed to eat lunch in the cafeteria with their child. This may change as the year progresses and the restrictions change.

Transportation for all qualifying students will continue to be available, with hand sanitizer to be used upon entry

to the bus. Social distancing will be encouraged to the maximum extent possible on the bus and buses will be cleaned thoroughly after each trip. If masks are required due to Governor's order, that will apply on buses as well.

The Fall 2020 remote instruction will be a more rigorous and robust curriculum than Spring 2020 and will include a combination of scheduled, virtual instruction and recorded lessons. Lessons online will closely mirror direct classroom instruction. Teachers will need to see progress every day and attendance will be taken daily. The state 90% compulsory attendance rule will be in effect and district grading guidelines are the same as with face-to-face instruction. Proctored exams can be required in person with enhanced social distancing.

A parent may choose to switch a student from virtual instruction to face-to-face instruction at the end of any six weeks.

If a child is participating in remote instruction voluntarily, students will not be allowed to come to the school to participate in class at all. They will also not be allowed to participate in after school activities and games for the duration of their virtual learning time. Some elective classes may only be offered in person and a list of virtual electives is available upon request.

Robert Lee ISD

Robert Lee ISD will hold in-school instruction with safety and Covid-19 prevention measures in place, as well as offer families a high-quality, rigorous, and engaging online experience. The school district has also outlined an instructional model that provides for a continuation of instruction in the event a classroom or the school must temporarily move to School-to-Home instruction model due to Covid-19. Although there are no strategies to completely eliminate the transmission risk in schools, RLISD is committed to keeping

transmission as low as possible in order to safely continue school.

Face-to-Face Instruction

Students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a face mask/covering when entering a RLISD facility, in common areas, and whenever a physical distance of 6 feet from another person is not possible per executive order. All staff will be required to take a Covid-19 health assessment prior to coming to work every day. Parents will be asked to administer the Covid-19 health assessment daily prior to sending their children to school, take their temperature, and keep them home if ill.

Visitations will be limited and approved by campus offices. All visitors will be required to be screened and have appropriate PPE (Person Protective Equipment).

Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will occur through the school day. Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned/disinfected at the end of each day.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON COKE CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The Coke County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2021 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on August 11, 2020 at 5:30 pm at the Coke County Courthouse, second floor jury room.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget	\$ 238,456.00
The total amount of increase/decrease over the Current year's budget	\$ 5,531.00 (1.02%)
The number of employees compensated under The proposed budget	2
The number of employees compensated under The current budget	2

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of these governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

Coke Central Appraisal District
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