

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 16, 2021



BBBS NEWS & UPDATES

September is Big Brothers Big Sisters Month! #ItTakesAVillage to empower every young person with the access and opportunity they need to achieve their full potential. Join us by advocating for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Acadiana. Encourage friends & family to become a big!



September 15th through October 15th marks #HispanicHeritageMonth and we're celebrating the history and contributions of Hispanic and Latin American communities, including thousands of Bigs who volunteer every year!





ACTIVITY IDEAS



CHRISTOPHER KIMBALL'S
MILK STREET

VIRTUAL COOKING LESSONS

Whether Bigs and Littles cook together or separately, these classes are fun, informative and empowering for anyone who wants more confidence in the kitchen. The classes are great for Littles ages 13+.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR 1 or ALL OF THE 4 CLASSES OFFERED](#)



KIDS' DAY IN CROWLEY

The event is free to attend. Kids Day on Main Street will take place Saturday, September 18th from 9am - 12pm. Main Street will be closed to traffic from the Court Circle to East 2nd Street, so attendees can enjoy kid-friendly games, big trucks, Disney characters, train rides, inflatables, arts and crafts, a scavenger hunt, face painting, and so much more! [GET MORE INFO HERE](#)



HUB CITY FARMERS MARKET

The market is located in the Oil Center on the corner of South College and Pinhook (across from Popeye's.) in Lafayette. Every Saturday from 8am-12pm rain or shine!



ZUMBA
fitness

FREE ZUMBA

Free Zumba at the Library: West Regional Library. Join licensed Zumba instructor Sahra Arabaca for an energetic hour of movement and excitement!

[SEE MORE DETAILS HERE!](#)





COMMUNITY INFO & RESOURCES

September is Attendance Awareness Month. The Lafayette Parish School System says that addressing chronic absence is a key component of improving graduation rates, increasing academic achievement and giving young people the best chance at success in their adult life. Join the Attendance Awareness Campaign and make a difference for our community.

Attendance in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even preK, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?



Who is affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



2 in 10 low-income kids

miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.⁴



2.5 in 10 homeless kids

are chronically absent.²



4 in 10 transient kids

miss too much school when families move.³



Why it matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?⁵



64%
of kids with good attendance in K and 1st (missed 9 or fewer days both years)



43%
of kids with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)



41%
of kids chronically absent in K or 1st (missed 18 or more days one year)



17%
of kids chronically absent in K and 1st (missed 18 or more days both years)

What families can do



Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.



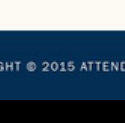
Build regular routines for bed time and the morning.



Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.



Don't permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.



Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Keep a chart recording your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.

Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help

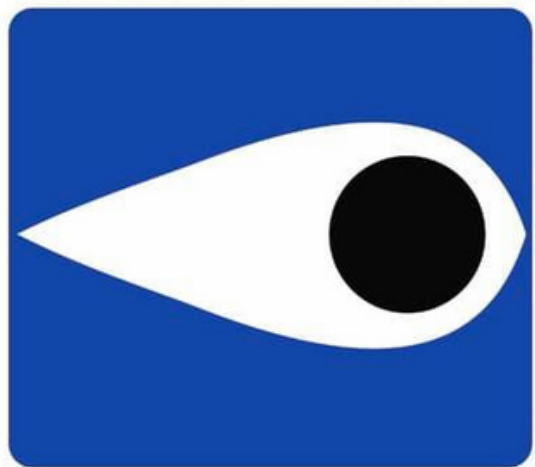
Seek support from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or no safe path to school.

¹ Chang, Hedy; Romero, Marijose. *Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*. National Center for Children in Poverty. NY, NY, September 2008.

² Chronic Absence in Utah. Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

³ Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes. Applied Survey Research, May 2011.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



FROM THE LAFAYETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

We are looking to update our list of all neighborhood watch groups within the city limits to better serve each area. If you are a part of or oversee a neighborhood watch group in the city limits of Lafayette, please email Public Information Officer Sr. Cpl. Bridgette Dugas at bpdugas@lafayettela.gov with your groups information!



COMMUNITY INFO & RESOURCES

STARTING AUGUST 13TH



FREE JUNIOR CLASSES

AGES 5-16

FRIDAYS 4:30PM - 5:30PM

Have your child experience a tennis class and give them a chance to learn a sport for a lifetime.

We provide a tennis racket if your child doesn't have one.

This class is for new players only who have **never** participated in any of our programs or free clinics before!

EACH PLAYER CAN ONLY ATTEND 1 FREE CLASS FROM THE SCHEDULE BELOW!

AUG 13th

BEAVER PARK

SEPT 3rd

THOMAS PARK

OCT 1st

BEAVER PARK

NOV 5th

THOMAS PARK

DEC 3rd

THOMAS PARK

RSVP ONLY! REGISTER ONLINE at
AcadianaServes.com under Community
Impact/ Free Clinics tab

LIMITED SPOTS! SIGN UP FAST!

BEAVER PARK, 500 Fisher Rd, Lafayette 70508
THOMAS PARK, 300 Geraldine Dr, Lafayette 70503



COMMUNITY INFO & RESOURCES

COVIDVACCINE.LA.GOV



Moderna, Pfizer and J&J Vaccine available
throughout Acadiana.

To schedule your appointment:

OPH4.timetap.com

or

Call 337-262-5311

Late appointments available.

For Vaccination Locations

please visit

<http://planacadiana.org/covid>



Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or requests!



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