

Louisiana Department of Education

Create a World Class Education System for all students in Louisiana

MISSION

- Ensure high academic achievement for all students
- Eliminate all achievement gaps
- Prepare students to be effective citizens in a global market

High School Redesign

GOALS

- Reduce dropout rates & increase high school graduation rates
- Increase readiness for post-secondary education
- Increase career readiness of students
- Increase participation in post-secondary education

A Message From:



Paul G. Pastorek
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

"We hope this newsletter builds a better understanding of High Value High Schools and a greater appreciation for the positive strides Louisiana is taking toward ensuring that our graduates are college and career ready. Check out the new 'What's Up' section on the back to communicate how your school is contributing to the high school redesign effort."



New Initiatives and New Facility at Parkway

It is more than the start of a new year at Parkway High School; there is the smell of varnish, walls with fresh paint and the sight of a construction worker or two still putting the finishing touches to a new 200,000 square foot facility that is state-of-the-art. Five years ago, the Bossier Parish School Board called for a bond issue that included building this new high school. After securing 40 acres of land and holding meetings with architects and engineers, construction of the facility, and a busy summer of moving, the new Parkway High School is a reality. The new facility provides more than 70 classrooms all under one roof. With its modern hard-wired and wireless internet and zoned video surveillance, it is truly a 21st Century School!



Parkway High School

But the educators at Parkway know that it takes more than a new building to find success. Many initiatives had been underway before the big move, and many more are coming to fruition at this monumental time. Parkway High School has received and is in the process of implementing several grants that will have a large impact on opportunities available to students. The grants include a High School Redesign 9th Grade Initiative, a Louisiana Innovative High School Grant, a Project Lead the Way: Career and Technical Education Grant and an Individual Learning Plan Study.

The 9th Grade Initiative Grant provided the opportunity for Parkway faculty and staff to study and implement many components of 9th grade redesign. The Kick Off Program, an orientation and mentoring program for freshmen, was implemented in 2008 and is expanding as a result of this grant. Freshmen attended Kick Off Day on August 4th. They received information about the new

school, met the upperclassmen mentors and "guardian angels," learned school cheers, the fight song and pep rally protocol, and got their schedules, found their classes and learned how to open their lockers. Parkway has also implemented a freshman transition initiative that involves cooperation and proximity scheduling of freshman core classes. This initiative is called: T.R.A.C., Training a Responsible Academic Community. This past summer, teachers of 9th grade classes spent time planning and designing class policies, curriculum integration, academic and behavior award systems, assemblies, and conferencing practices. The faculty and staff of Parkway High School are committed to ensuring that all 9th grade students get off to the best start in high school, have academic, emotional, and social support, and have the best opportunity to realize their greatest potential.

In addition to the 9th Grade Initiative Grant, Parkway is also involved in several other initiatives that will help the school achieve the state-wide goal of an 80% graduation rate by 2014. **[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]**



Terrie Johnson
Assistant Principal

Walter Lee



Mr. Lee has served on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) since March 1991. He was the BESE Vice-President in 1999, 2004, and 2007. Mr. Lee serves as Chairman of the Legal


Due Process Committee, Vice-Chair of the Literacy and Numeracy Committee, and is a member of the Legislative Committee, and Board Administration/Relations Committee. Mr. Lee's areas of education focus are school finance, school and district accountability, and teacher quality.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE] Those initiatives include:

- » Louisiana Innovative High School Grant funds provided Parkway stakeholders the opportunity to study innovative high school models of best practices and to visit model schools.
- » Project Lead the Way provides equipment, training and resources for implementing the Project Lead the Way pre-engineering program at PHS, which has led to two full sections of Introduction to Engineering Design, where relevant engineering principles are learned through computer modeling, problem solving, project-based learning, theoretical and conceptual studies in engineering

and design development, and hands-on activities.

- » The Individual Learning Plan Grant Study is a program by the University of Wisconsin and the Department of Labor that studies the effects of individual career planning and exploration for all students.
- » Parkway is also piloting the Senior Project initiative for Bossier Parish Schools.

For additional information about these initiatives or to tour the new Parkway facility, contact Assistant Principal Terrie Johnson at (318) 759-2207 or Terrie.Johnson@BossierSchools.Org. 

Biz2School Connects Baton Rouge Business with Area Schools

The majority of projected jobs in Louisiana for the next 10 years require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree. Education must provide meaningful and rigorous academic preparation, but education must also be relevant to real-life work applications, and many students are entering the post-secondary world of "real life" without the necessary skills they need to be successful. Responding to this skills gap requires new thinking and new approaches.


Therefore, the Louisiana Department of Education is pleased to announce the pilot launch of the Biz2School website, www.Biz2School.com. The goal of the Biz2School website is to bridge the gap from the classroom to the workplace.

"The concept of the site is easy to grasp, once we say that it's like Match.com for schools and business," Ava Dejoie, business liaison for the Louisiana Department of Education, explains. "Schools create a profile and post requests to businesses and organizations for job shadowing experiences, mentoring, classroom speakers, internships, curriculum advisory participation through the Career and Technical Education Office, Senior Project assistance, career awareness activities mandated for 6-8 graders in Act 1124, and many other requests. Businesses create a profile offering their services and matches are made."

LDE business liaison Dawn Saucier explains the practical use of the website. "The website has received positive feedback, that is, once we get past the first question of 'Why should I use the site?' there are a lot of reasons to sign up; but one reason that educators identify with most is lack of time. It takes time to track down the right person who has

Biz2School bypasses the front desk and puts you in contact with the right person from the start.

the authority to approve a request. The reality is not every educator has a spouse, neighbor or contact who works for a Dow Chemical or a Turner Industries. It's not an easy task to cold call businesses, and sometimes a teacher, principal, or counselor can't make it past the front desk. Biz2School bypasses the front desk and puts you in contact with the right person to begin the process."

If your school is in the Greater Baton Rouge area and you would like to participate in the pilot launch of Biz2School, please contact Ava Dejoie (225)219-0345 ava.dejoie@la.gov or Dawn Saucier (225) 219-4446 dawn.saucier@la.gov for more information. 

Upcoming Events

High School Redesign Commission Meeting

Monday, November 9, 2009
9AM – 2PM @ The Galvez Building | Baton Rouge, LA

Middle to High School Transitions Task Force Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2009
8AM - 3PM @ Pineville High School | Pineville, LA

Regional Action Plan Meetings:

Oct. 4, 2009 - Region 4	Oct. 7, 2009 - Region 5
Oct. 8, 2009 - Region 8 & 3	Oct. 13, 2009 - Region 1
Oct. 27, 2009 - Region 7	Oct. 28, 2009 - Region 6
Oct. 30, 2009 - Region 2	

Professional School Counseling Conference

December 1-3, 2009 | Marksville, LA

WHAT'S UP?

We want to hear about the great things going on at **YOUR** school! The High School Redesign office is requesting publication-ready articles from schools involved in redesign efforts.

REQUESTED TOPICS:

- 8th Grade Transition Activities
- Dropout Early Warning Systems
- EMPLoY (or pre-GED) programs experiencing success
- Increasing the Graduation Rate
- Journeys to Career Pilot
- Mentoring
- Reducing Dropouts
- Senior Project/Project-based learning
- Sustainability of efforts during the time of "budget cuts"

BESE Members

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7th BESE District
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Member-at-Large
Ms. Glenny Lee Buquet
3rd BESE District
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4th BESE District
Ms. Tammie A. McDaniel
Member-at-Large
Mr. Charles Roemer
6th BESE District
Ms. Jeannette Vosburg
Executive Director

State Staff

Executive Director
Dr. Kerry Laster
225.342.3629

Director
Debbie Schum
225.342.3353

Deputy Director
Ralph Thibodeaux
225.342.3352

Adm. Prog. Director
Wendy Thibodeaux
225.342.3342

Ed. Cons 5-B
Dr. Jennifer Falls
985.449.7136

Ed. Prog. Consultants

Dr. Beverly Faust
225.219.7392

Mary Gugich
225.342.3352

Martha Levy
225.342.1193

Tiffanie Lewis
225.342.9219

Josh Posey
225.342.1031

Jason Cooper
225.219.7392

Admin. Assistants

Kaffia Johnson
225.219.4441

Jennifer Robertson
225.219.0369

Regional Coordinators

Region 1
Vacant

Region 2
Caroline Woods
985.549.2514

Region 3
Shelba Harlan
985.449.7136

Region 4
Vacant

Region 5
Stephanie Rogers
337.4912951

Region 6
Susan Horne
318.357.2427

Region 7
Kelly Sandoz
318.797.0728

Region 8
Sheila Walker
318.325.0451