



Office of the Superintendent
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Berg Jones Elementary School

School Choice Information for 2020-2021

March 9, 2020

Why was Berg Jones Elementary School identified as a “school in need of improvement” and how does it compare to other schools in Monroe City Schools and other schools in Louisiana? *According to Louisiana State guidelines, Berg Jones Elementary School has been deemed “academically unacceptable” with a letter grade of F. This letter grade is based on the school data from the 2018-2019 school year.*

What is Berg Jones Elementary School doing to address the issue of achievement, and what are the school system and the Louisiana State Department of Education doing to help them address the problem? *The school system administration (school site and district staff) will evaluate all areas of instruction at Berg Jones Elementary School. This evaluation will include observations and interviews, as well as analysis of relevant student performance data. The information obtained will be used to prepare a School Improvement Plan. The plan will require classroom instruction and teacher training to focus on improving the areas in which students at Berg Jones Elementary School are having difficulty. The school will implement best practice reading, writing, and math strategies, tutorial programs, and technology-assisted instruction. Consultants will work along with the administration and staff to identify the most effective instructional practices for the diverse student population that attends Berg Jones Elementary School. The State Department of Education will be helping to address academic issues through additional funding and technical assistance through Federal and School Redesign funding sources. Additional assistance includes:*

- *In-school reinforcement of skills/tutoring*
- *Staffing with highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals*
- *Effective professional development programs for all instructional staff based on evidence-based best practices targeting student engagement and academic success*
- *Additional support through curriculum coordinator, content leader teachers, state and district support personnel*
- *School-based content-specific tutors provided during the school day for students identified with weaknesses in math and ELA*
- *Summer remediation and Saturday tutorials*
- *Computer-based assessments in core subjects*
- *Wide selection of elective courses including Band, Choir, General Music, and Talented Art*
- *Clubs and organizations including Beta Club, Cheerleaders, 4-H Club, Ambassadors’ Club, Carter’s Book Sparks, and Allen’s Shooting Stars.*
- *Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) initiatives*
- *Business sponsors – Target, Captain D’s, Chase and Driven Designs*
- *Community partnerships – Omega Psi Phi, United Way and Riverside Missionary Baptist Church*

How can I become involved in addressing the issues that caused Berg Jones Elementary School to be identified as a school in need of improvement? *Families are encouraged to arrange a private conference with their child's teachers to discuss ways to improve academic performance. Families are also invited to participate as members of the School Improvement Team at Berg Jones Elementary School. The School Improvement Team is a group made up of the principal, assistant principal, teachers and parents that work to improve the education and overall learning experience for all students at Berg Jones Elementary School. Even if a family member does not serve as a member of the School Improvement Team, he or she may attend meetings of the team to discuss possible changes in any area of instruction to improve the school.*

Do I have to transfer my child to another school? *No. We are providing families with this opportunity as an option. The decision is entirely up to you, so you should base your decision on **what you think is best for your child**. If you choose to have your child attend school at Berg Jones Elementary School, continue with the registration process as required. If you do choose to transfer your child to JS Clark, he or she **must remain for there for the full school year**.*

Is my child guaranteed a place at JS Clark Magnet School? *Every effort will be made to honor parents' requests for transfer. However, students will be granted enrollment at JS Clark **based upon enrollment limits, individual achievement scores, and income levels as prescribed by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**.*

How will my child get to a receiving school? *If your transfer application is approved, your child will have free transportation to the receiving school. Transportation will be provided by the Monroe City School Board. Specific bus information will be available at Berg Jones Elementary School by Monday, August 10, 2020. Should your child become ill and need to go home early, parents must provide transportation home. Transportation will not be provided for your child to attend activities before or after school such as extracurricular activities or for parents to attend parent meetings and evening programs. *Please note: Depending on residence, bus pickup could be as early as 6:30 a.m. Return home could be as late as 4:00 p.m.*

If my child transfers to JS Clark, will he/she have choice for junior high school? *No. School Choice transfers do not extend beyond the grade levels served by the receiving school.*

What is the deadline for applying for transfer? *If you decide you want to send your child to JS Clark Magnet School, the Choice Request Form must be returned to the **Superintendent's Office by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2020**. If we do not receive the Choice Request Form from you by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2020, your child will **remain** at Roy N. Shelling Elementary School. **LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**.*

When will you tell me if my transfer application is approved? *Parents will receive an official notification by Friday, May 8, 2020, informing them if their transfer application is approved.*

Who should I contact if I have additional questions? *Parents with additional questions should reach out to Dr. Brent Vidrine, Superintendent, at 318-325-0601.*