



Iberville Parish School Board

P. Edward Cancienne, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent
Secretary/Treasurer

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President

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TO: Iberville Parish School Board

FROM: P. Edward Cancienne, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent

RE: Administrative Report
North Iberville High School

DATE: April 15, 2009

The purpose of this document is to notify the Board of a significant dilemma that high school students of North Iberville are now facing and provide a solution to that problem.

The intent of public education in Iberville Parish is to offer all children a free, appropriate and equitable education. What then, is equitable and appropriate in terms of education and are the students of North Iberville High able to capitalize on sufficient resources to allow this to happen? A study of recent data indicates that:

- Student enrollment has decreased from 116 in 2005 to less than 100 in grades 9-12 in 2008
- Course selections/electives are limited at North due to low student numbers
- Career Technical Opportunities are lessened due to low student numbers
- LVS and online courses reveal multiple problems with record keeping and documentation. Also, skill performance of students is at a disadvantage without interaction of a content-specific teacher.
- Some students, having attended high school for four years, graduate without sufficient courses or skills to enter a four year university or receive TOPS scholarships
- The SPS for grades 7-12 at North is 53.7, 18.9 points lower than the entire school population. Standing alone North Iberville High, grades 7-12, would be categorized as an Academically Unacceptable School, making student choice mandatory and would place it as a viable candidate for School Take Over by the state.

Therefore, it seems that students at North are not being afforded an equitable and appropriate education. Yet, the cost to educate a student at North (7-12) is about \$9,400 for personnel ALONE...no other resources. The district receives approximately \$4,000 from the state to fully educate a child.

Research indicates that the most successful schools offer a variety of academic and career paths for students. It is not economically possible or feasible to offer a sufficient number of pathways to so few students.

In order to meet the demands and interests of the North Iberville High student body, a recommendation will be made at the Board meeting of April 21st to close grades 7-12 at North Iberville and transfer the students to Plaquemine High School. The method of transfer and placement will take into account the sensitive issues that face students leaving their Alma Mater to attend a new school.

We no longer live in a world that changes at a steady pace. The world changes exponentially each year. *“Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”* (President John F. Kennedy) Students must have the opportunities for experience and exposure to a world beyond their own communities. We live in a global society and must give our youth every opportunity to be successful in that world that we live in today and prepare them for the world or tomorrow. A high school with less than 100 students does not, by size alone, offer the students a chance to discover their talents and explore their interests, and prepare for a life beyond the present.

President Lincoln stated, *“The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise-with occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew.”*

Should you have questions or concerns regarding this Administrative Report, please feel free to call on me at your convenience.