

Keeping drainage flowing a year-round job



REGISTER FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS:

• Call 225-343-0044 and leave a message on the recording. An OEP employee will call you back;

• Go to www.wbrparish.org. Click on "How Do I" at the top of the page, and then on Emergency Alerts. On the sign up page, you can register your mobile phone or a landline, along with the types of alerts you want to receive.

TTD & language options are available.



It's hurricane season. Remember to have an evacuation plan ready for your family, including pets. Have an emergency kit prepared. Be prepared to take care of your family for 3 days without assistance. Go to Getagameplan.org for info and resources; and sign up for parish emergency alerts.

The WBR Parish Drainage Department continues to take a proactive approach to keep the parish's drainage infrastructure flowing properly year-round. This includes cleaning/digging approximately five miles of ditches and canals each month, plus actively maintaining the area's waterways.

Since not all canals require the same level of attention, maintenance is prioritized for areas showing the greatest need. Another component of cleaning/digging ditches is also making sure the many bridges and culverts throughout the parish are kept clean, free of debris and replaced as needed.

In addition to cleaning, drainage crews also mow and spray vegetation along ditches and canals on a rotational basis, with a goal of making at least three maintenance passes per year. In more densely populated areas, crews aim to make as many mowing passes as weather conditions allow.

Crews also patrol the parish's critical canal system daily to identify and address any obstructions—such as fallen trees, beaver dams, or other blockages—that could hinder water flow. During emergency events, like hurricanes or flash floods, crews work tirelessly to ensure water continues to flow freely, additionally assisting with sandbagging efforts when needed.

This proactive approach helps reduce the risk of flooding and maintains the efficiency of the parish's drainage infrastructure year-round.



A drainage culvert is cleaned out.



Thick vegetation is cleared out of a drainage canal.



Storm drains throughout the parish are consistently cleaned out to assure that water flows out of neighborhoods and business areas as quickly as possible.

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

WBR PARISH COUNCIL - Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., Parish Council Building, 225-383-4755, www.wbrparish.org

WBR PARISH SCHOOL BOARD - Committee meetings - 2nd Tuesday of month, 5 p.m. School Board meetings - 3rd Wednesday of month, 5 p.m., School Board office 225-343-8309, www.wbrschools.net

WBR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION - Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of month, 5:30 p.m., Council meeting room, Parish Council Building.

WBR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS - Meets 1st Tuesday of month. 5 p.m., Council meeting room in Parish Council Building.

TOWN OF ADDIS - Meets 2nd Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., Addis Town Hall. Phone: 225-687-4844, www.addisla.org

CITY OF PORT ALLEN - Committee meetings - 1st Wednesday of month, 5:30 p.m. Council meetings - 2nd Wednesday of month, 5:30 p.m. Port Allen City Hall 225-346-5670, www.portallen.org

TOWN OF BRUSLY - Committee meetings on 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Town Council meetings on 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Brusly Town Hall - 225-749-2909, www.bruslyla.com

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BATON ROUGE, LA
PERMIT NO. 88

City prepares for weather events by inspecting/clearing drainage infrastructure

The City of Port Allen is pro-active in preparing for significant rainfall and hurricane events. This preparation includes both individual and community-level actions to mitigate potential flooding and other weather-related hazards.

One key element of preparation is working diligently to ensure proper functioning of the city's drainage system, including ditches, canals and stormwater pipes. This is crucial to prevent localized flooding.

In the photo at top on right, workers clean out the ditches with a back hoe. The vac truck shown at right is used often to clean out city drains.



COMING EVENTS

August 21 - Senior Roundup

10:00 am until 2:00 pm

WBR Community Center

Must be age 55 or older

Sponsored by the City of Port Allen, the WBR Sheriff Office and West Baton Rouge Parish

August 2 - Community Bike Ride

6:30 pm, line up at 6 pm

Cohn Elementary

City of Port Allen and United Riders Bike

August 28 - Jack's Running Club

6:30 pm

Corner of Court and Jefferson Ave.

September 8 - Town Hall Meeting

6 pm

Meeting room in City Hall



Meetings:
City Hall, 3rd Floor,
5:30 pm
second Wednesday
of each month

Meetings aired live
on Facebook:
facebook.com/
cityofportallen

WBR LIBRARY

Library tax renewal on November 15 ballot

Voters are reminded that the Library will again ask for renewal of its 4.1 mill property tax to fund operations in the November 15 election. On March 29, 2025, voters rejected the RENEWAL of a 4.1 mill tax to fund the WBR Parish Library.

This tax is the only funding for the library. It funds all library operations, including the Bookmobile, Storytimes, public computers, books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, and daily services to the public. Without this revenue, the West Baton Rouge Library will be forced to close.

Director Tamie Martin will hold public meetings to answer any questions voters may have about the Library or the tax on Sept. 9, 9-11 am at the Main Branch, and on Sept. 11, 6-8 pm at the South Branch. Copies of the Library budgets, audits, and Board meeting minutes are available on the Library website, www.wbrpl.com. Martin can be reached at tmartin@wbrplibrary.us or 225-342-7920 ext. 222.

A home with an appraised value of \$150,000 with the homestead exemption pays only \$30 per year to support the Library. She compared that amount to the cost of a single book or one month of streaming platforms.



is published quarterly as a cooperative endeavor of West Baton Rouge Parish government agencies. It is produced by Peacock Communications, LLC. Comments: ellie@peacockcommunications.com, or call 225-929-9661.



225-342-7920
www.wbrpl.com

Parish gets \$12 million in grants for sewer, water projects

West Baton Rouge Parish has been awarded two grants for sewer and water projects that impact all areas of the parish. It has been awarded \$10 million for a sewer improvement project, and \$1.9 million for water improvements.

The \$23 million sewer project will convert 10 sewer lift stations into pumping stations that will pump sewerage to a new sewer plant near the Sun Plus property in Port Allen. The new plant will cost \$12.6 million. Influent lines will total \$4.7 million and effluent lines will cost \$3.8 million. Effluent will flow to the Mississippi River. The parish will fund the other \$13 million for this project, which is in the engineering stage now.

The water project includes upgrading water lines on Hwy. 983 (Bueche Road) from 6 inch to 8 inch lines, and installing a new 24 inch water line under Intracoastal Road for about 3,500 ft. The parish was awarded a \$1.9 million grant for the just over \$3 million project. It is in engineering and construction will begin in 2026.

WATER WELL PROGRESS: The second water well being installed at the Multipurpose Arena is well underway. The \$3.5 million project is being funded by \$2 million in ARPA funds and \$1.5 million in parish funds. The second well will serve as a back-up and will also be used to meet capacity needs. Photo shown at right.



Water well under construction.

Parish improves to Class 3 fire rating, providing property owner savings

West Baton Rouge Parish now has a Class 3 fire rating, significantly improving the parish's previous ratings of Class 6 to Class 4. This was one result of the consolidation of the Fire Department from five separate departments to one.

The improved rating should also have a positive impact on property owners' insurance premiums because insurers use the fire rating as a component in determining insurance rates. Homeowners could see a potential 10 to 25 percent savings on their insurance rates.

"By streamlining resources we've strengthened our ability to respond to emergencies, protect lives and property, and potentially provide lower insurance costs for our residents," said Fire Chief Butch Browning.

Parish Fire Medics busy with calls

The WBR Fire Medics responded to and treated 1,351 patients between January and June of 2025 - that is an average of 225 calls per month. Of that total, 1,004 were transported to an emergency room for more extensive care.

Here is a breakdown of the critical care/advanced life support care given: Stroke - 91; Cardiac Arrest - 23; Trauma - 118.

Fire Medics now provide advanced life support care to emergencies in the parish at an average of 8 minutes and 48 seconds. The national average is 10 minutes. WBR Fire Medics are also firefighters and have provided valuable assistance at 18 building fires in the parish.

Addis Museum sets open hours

The Addis Historical Society has announced that the Addis Railroad Museum is now open on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 am until 2 pm. The Museum includes info on Addis being a rail transportation hub, and also a Memorial Wall of veterans, POWs and memorabilia.



Williams & Lee Pool is a hit



The new Williams and Lee Pool opened on Memorial Day weekend for the annual Community Day in the park event. Residents have been enjoying the pool all summer and the parish maxed out its swim lessons each week.

League registrations underway

FULL CONTACT FOOTBALL registration is open for ages 5-12. Practices will begin in August and will be held at Alexander Park in Brusly.

FLAG FOOTBALL registration is open July 28 - August 18 for ages 4-10. League play is in September and October on Sunday afternoons.

SOCCER registration is open until mid-August. WBR soccer is open for boys and girls ages 4 through 14.



The Recreation Department's 4th of July Basketball Camp was a big hit, with over 120 campers sharpening up their skills this summer. Shown are some of the campers.



More than 300 kids participated in the WBR Recreation Department's many summer camps and activities. WBR Summer Camp ran for 6 weeks across the parish.

Free back to school vaccinations

The West Baton Rouge Health Center will offer free back to school vaccinations to those with Medicaid or no insurance every Wednesday in August from 8:30 am until 11 am, and 1 pm until 3 pm. Residents will not be required to make appointments for these Walk In Wednesday events.

Parish mosquito spraying ramps up

The parish has ramped up its spraying for mosquitos during the summer months, and residents are reminded that mosquitos can carry West Nile Virus. Use mosquito spray with the active ingredient DEET or Picaridin in a 15% - 20% concentration and reduce mosquitos at your home by doing the following:

Do not allow boat covers or tarps to hold rainwater. Remove standing water and empty all containers at least weekly. Flush out bird baths weekly. Drill a large hole in or dispose of old tires. Stock ornamental ponds with fish or install a fountain. Properly maintain full-sized swimming pools and regularly empty kiddie pools. Make sure window and door screens are in good condition. Seal any cracks around window AC units. Clean out clogged rain gutters.

Hazardous Materials Collection
Saturday, Oct. 25 8 am - Noon
Alexander Park, Brusly

Sponsored by Keep WBR Beautiful, Dow Chemical, & Keep Iberville Beautiful

New WBRSO mobile app now available

Sheriff Jeff Bergeron and the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office are excited to announce the launch of our new mobile app, designed to keep you informed and connected. Stay up to date with alerts, news, and more, all at your fingertips. Download it today on the App Store or Google Play!



WBRSO is now officially part of the Louisiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. With Sheriff Jeff Bergeron's prior experience as Deputy Director of the Louisiana Bureau of Investigation, we remain committed to working alongside our law enforcement partners to investigate and stop those who prey on our children.

Women learn self defense

The Sheriff's Office had its first-ever Equalizer Self-Defense class on July 9th, and it was a powerful start. Sheriff Jeff Bergeron hosted a group of strong and determined women ready to learn skills that could one day save a life.

They put in the work, lifted each other up, and left more confident than they came. Missed this one? Don't worry, Sheriff Bergeron says more classes are already in the works. Stay tuned and visit the new Sheriff's Office website at www.wbrsheriff.org.

Shown at right is a scene from the self defense class.



TOWN OF ADDIS

Police Dept. announces recent promotions

The Addis Police Department is proud to recognize and congratulate officers who were promoted to the rank of Sergeant. These promotions reflect their dedication, leadership, and commitment to serving the citizens of Addis.



Sergeant Dillon Theriot was promoted from the rank of Corporal. He has been a member of the Addis PD for 10 years and brought 2 years of law enforcement experience from a previous agency. In his new role, Sergeant Theriot is responsible for supervising officers on his shift and performing various administrative duties. He also serves as a certified TASER instructor and Field Training Officer (FTO), playing a vital role in training newly hired officers and ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to perform their duties with excellence.



Sergeant Dan Cipriano has also been promoted from Corporal. He has served with the Addis PD for 4 years and brings valuable experience from previous positions with other law enforcement agencies. In addition to supervising his shift, Sergeant Cipriano oversees other administrative functions. Sergeant Cipriano is also a certified K9 handler and holds certifications in less-lethal weapons training, further strengthening the department's capabilities.

Sergeant Ronald Carroll is the third recent promotion. He previously served with the Addis PD before a brief absence. Upon his return, he has continued to demonstrate strong leadership and commitment to the department. Sergeant Carroll is a certified K9 handler and currently serves as Sergeant over the Investigations Division. In this role, he manages all criminal investigations, assists fellow detectives, and ensures investigative reports are complete and thorough prior to follow-up action.

SAVE THE DATES



ROCKIN' ON THE RAILROAD

OCTOBER 17 - Tuxedo Speedo feat. Burke Fiscus, Craig Rhodes & Gaylen Martin

NOVEMBER 7 - Ryan Foret & Foret Tradition

Addis Museum open 3rd Tuesday of each month - 10 am - 2 pm, in old Addis Bank

Brusly PD upgrading 20 cameras to deter crime, assist in investigations

The Brusly Police Department is upgrading 20 cameras throughout town to provide better technology integration, better monitoring of public spaces and faster response to incidents. The town is using the same company, Pileum Corp., that is supplying its body and patrol car cameras.



The cameras will provide 360 coverage in the five areas they will be located, said Assistant Chief Tom Southon. "These new cameras will assist us with identifying stolen vehicles, which are commonly used in mass vehicle burglaries; provide footage of traffic accidents, identify traffic problems, assist with investigations after incidents, and maybe most importantly, they will act as a deterrent," Southon said.

"We have seen a vast reduction in crime since we installed the first cameras because our solve rate was greatly increased and the criminal element is well aware that we have the technology in place to solve these crimes," Southon noted. "Shortly after the initial roll out of the first camera system, we solved a drive-by gun fight in a residential neighborhood in just under an hour making four arrests and seizing several stolen guns, in large part because of the cameras."

The new cameras will be operated with Verkada, a company providing a unified platform for all the town's security technology. It includes remote access, AI analytics and searches, and advanced alerting tools that detect unusual activities, such as perimeter breaches or unauthorized entries. The high resolution, AI enabled cameras enable officers to detect and act upon criminal activity swiftly. "This further advances our commitment to proactive policing and community safety," Southon said.



Examples of the advanced technology cameras that are being installed throughout town.



Check out the Police Department's new unit decals.

WBR CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

West BR tourist hotspots featured in New Orleans TV show segments

West Baton Rouge tourism got a big boost in the New Orleans market this Spring, with the West Baton Rouge Museum, the Juke Joint, Brian's Furniture, the Mississippi Riverfront promenade in Port Allen, Couyon's and the Poboy House, all airing in separate features on WWL-TV.

Watch the videos!
Westbatonrouge.net/videos

The Great Day Louisiana program featured the segments as part of its One /Tank Trips series. In the segments with host Melik Mingo, viewers got

snippets of the WBR Museum's one-of-a-kind sugarcane exhibit and the other buildings on its 6-acre campus. At the Juke Joint, viewers got a tidbit of the experience of listening to live blues music in a relaxed setting while sipping a cold brew.

At Brian's, the unique outdoor items were featured, along with its Mail Box Guy products. The views shown of the Mississippi riverfront were spectacular, and Mingo raved about the food at both Couyon's and the Poboy House.

The blitz on West Baton Rouge was made possible by the WBR Convention & Visitors Bureau.



Host Melik Mingo with WBR Museum educator Andre St. Romain.

2025 OLDIES BUT GOODIES FEST & BBQ COOK-OFF





Live Music Both Days

SATURDAY - SEPT. 13

BCA CHAMPIONSHIP BBQ COOK-OFF,
LA FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS.
JUSTIN CORNETT 12PM-4PM

SUNDAY - SEPT. 14

ANTIQUE CAR SHOW, CRAFTERS,
LA FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS.
WATERS EDGE 12PM-4PM

ON THE GROUNDS OF
**WEST BATON ROUGE
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**
2750 NORTH WESTPORT DRIVE
PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA 70767

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER
FOR THE CAR SHOW OR BBQ CONTEST CALL
1-800-654-9701 - westbatonrouge.net













Communities are standing up to crime

A Pointe Coupee Parish drug dealer was sentenced to 230 years in prison in June - and the entire case was the result of law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney's Office working together, and juries being willing to render tough verdicts.

"This hard-core drug dealer will no longer prey on our communities for two reasons - our law enforcement agencies are working together, and our citizens serving on juries are standing up against crime," said District Attorney Tony Clayton.

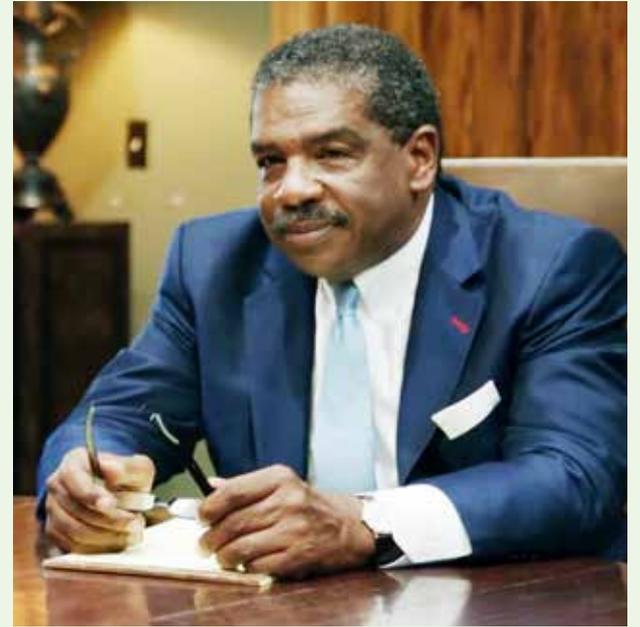
Elie T. Edwards, 46, of 12191 Boudreaux St., New Roads, was found guilty by a jury on February 27 of running a large drug operation in Pointe Coupee, including distributing heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamines, and marijuana, among other charges. Drugs confiscated in the 2022 bust had a street value of over \$600,000.

District Judge Kevin Kimball sentenced him to 40 years for distribution of heroin, 40 years for fentanyl, and 20 years each for the following convictions: possession of a firearm by a felon, distribution of marijuana, distribution of methamphetamines, and distribution of cocaine. He was sentenced to a total of 70 years on the following: conspiracy to distribute marijuana; conspiracy to distribute fentanyl; conspiracy to distribute heroin; conspiracy to distribute methamphetamines; and conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

The Edwards arrest was the result of a seven month multi-agency undercover investigation led by Louisiana State Police and the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office Narcotics division. A total of 13 arrests

"Our citizen jurors are very attentive and analytical. If we present solid evidence, they are more than willing to reach the guilty verdicts that keep our communities safe."

DA Tony Clayton



District Attorney Tony Clayton

were made in the raids by law enforcement, and large quantities of drugs and guns were seized.

The District Attorney's Office was kept informed during the undercover operation, and also during the busts. The agencies also collaborated on evidence. "We are seeing that our citizen jurors are very attentive and analytical. If we present solid evidence to our citizens on juries, they are more than willing to reach guilty verdicts to keep our communities safe."

"Together we are making a difference, and I can assure our residents that we will keep working with our agencies to get these violent criminals off our streets."

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Kont Krejol-yei
CREOLE FOLKTALES



ON DISPLAY THROUGH
OCTOBER 12, 2025

ANGELA GREGORY
The Allen Monument



ON DISPLAY
SEPT. 6, 2025
THROUGH
AUG. 23, 2026

LOUISIANA ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION PRESENTS
ANCESTRAL ARTISTRY

The Influence of Africans and Creoles of Color on Louisiana Architecture

FILM SCREENING

AUG. 17, 2025 • 2 PM
at the West Baton Rouge Museum

FREE



WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM LIBRARY WEST BATON ROUGE

MERRY NOT SCARY HALLOWEEN
OCT. 17, 2025
6 - 8 PM
at the West Baton Rouge Museum

Kont Krejol-yei
CREOLE FOLKTALES

EXCLUSIVE BOOK!
available for purchase in our gift shop

\$50.00

ALLENDALE & WESTOVER REUNION

SEPT. 7, 2025
2:30 - 4:30 PM
at the West Baton Rouge Museum

FREE

Refreshments • Choir Performances • Meditative Activities

2025 SUGAR FEST
30th Anniversary

OCTOBER 5TH
11 AM - 4 PM



How is your property value determined?

Many property owners are very familiar with paying property taxes annually but are not aware of how their property's value is determined. The West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor's Office is tasked with determining fair and equitable values for all residential and commercial properties in the parish.

"Arriving at a property's fair market value is a process that goes on all year long," said Assessor Chris Guerin. "The primary steps in the process of valuing properties in the parish are discovery, listing and valuation."

In discovery, properties are identified or located primarily by a review of construction permits from the WBR Community Development Office. These include new construction, additions, renovations and swimming pools. Other means of discovery include an ongoing review of parish-wide aerial photography and general observations by Assessor's Office staff.

Once properties are identified, Assessor's Office staff make on-site inspections where residential and commercial buildings are measured, sketches are drawn and pictures are taken.

Once discovery has been completed, listing begins. In this phase, the Assessor's Office creates an inventory of the quantity, quality and important characteristics of all properties in the parish. This leads to the Assessor's Office annually preparing and certifying the assessment roll for the entire parish.

Information needed to have comprehensive property listings includes: current owner name, acquisition date, purchase price, parcel id#, parcel type, street address, subdivision name, lot-block-tract #'s, property class, legal description, deed information, prior ownership history, and any physical attributes of the property contributing to its value. All of the above listed information is continually updated and maintained in the Assessor's Office database.



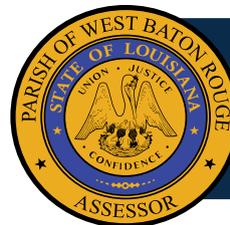
Finally, valuation is completed, in which the Assessor's Office determines the fair market value of properties. For all land and residential properties, fair market value is largely determined by mass appraising groups of similar properties using the sales comparison approach to value.

Over the past 20 years, the Assessor's Office has built a massive database of land and residential sales. Because the sales comparison approach to value most closely tracks current market value, it is the preferred method of valuation. The sales comparison approach is an analysis of comparable qualified sales in order to determine a base value of similar properties.

A qualified sale is a sale between two unrelated parties, each being reasonably knowledgeable of market conditions and under no undue influence or pressure to buy or sell. Sales between family members, forced sales such as sheriff's sales, and sales from duress would not be considered qualified sales.

For commercial properties, fair market value is largely determined by individually appraising properties using the cost approach to value. In the cost approach, the land value is determined from sales data and is added to the current depreciated replacement cost new of the commercial building.

Questions? Call the Assessor's Office at 225-344-6777.



VIEW YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

See your property on digital aerial maps!
Learn about tax exemptions, Download forms and more!

www.wbrassessor.org

PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

LOUISIANA'S DEEP DRAFT PORTS UNLOCKING TRADE POTENTIAL REPORT

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS CAN LEAD TO MARITIME SUCCESS.

A recent report commissioned by Louisiana's five deep draft ports titled "Lower Mississippi River Commodity Analysis," highlights strategies to boost trade along one of the world's key waterways. Strategic partnerships, innovation, and emerging markets are central to Louisiana's maritime growth.

"This report validates the direction our port has been going in," said Jay Hardman, executive director of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge, "and points to more opportunities that can be pursued."

Identified growth markets include biofuels, LNG, wood pellets, cement, fertilizers, and container shipments. The report encourages continued cooperation among ports. Hardman cited the Baton Rouge-Port NOLA partnership, which moves containers from the capital to New Orleans for export, as a successful example.

"By working together," said Hardman, "we're not just moving cargo—we're building Louisiana's economic future, one shipment at a time."



PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

WWW.PORTGBR.COM

WBR Schools makes gains on LEAP scores despite more rigorous state grading

West Baton Rouge students made gains on the LEAP (La. Educational Assessment Program) test scores for 2025, despite the La. Department of Education making the grading more rigorous. Following are gains for WBR Schools:

- **WBR was among the top 25 districts of 69 districts in the state that showed growth in Mastery+ across all tested subjects.**
- **For the third consecutive year, WBR increased its percentage of students scoring Mastery+.**
- **WBR students showed major gains in math in grades 3-8.**
- **All 4th grade math, 6th grade math and 6th grade English/Language Arts (ELA) scores grew** across the WBR district.
- **WBR students attaining mastery + jumped from 16th to 12th in science; jumped from 31st to 25th in math; remained 21st in ELA.**
- **The parish also increased its ranking in the state** in the following areas: 4th grade math, 5th grade math, 6th grade ELA, math, and science; 8th grade ELA and science, English I, English II, and Geometry.
- **WBR students in grades K-3 grew from 57% proficient in literacy to 68% proficient in 2024/25.**

The advances were harder because the state had raised the bar in measuring proficiency on the LEAP tests, with basic no longer being acceptable to show students are proficient in subjects. The state also implemented new higher standards for social studies, and set higher standards for the school accountability system.

“Our teachers deserve a lot of credit for the strong gains we have made in students’ LEAP scores,” said Superintendent Chandler Smith. “Their tireless efforts, hard work, and dedication to meeting all our students where they are have really paid off for our students.”

“This is just one example of why it is important to have quality, certified teachers in every classroom,” Smith added. “We are asking a lot of them, so we must also continue to value our teachers by providing good salaries, an exceptional educational environment, and the support they need to teach our students.”



School district gives stipends to keep pace with competitive teacher market

The West Baton Rouge School Board voted in June to give teachers and staff a \$1,200 stipend for the 2025-26 school year to keep pace with pay of other school districts in the

region. This is particularly important for two reasons:

- The state has increased educational standards, making it harder for school districts to meet rigorous LEAP test and school accountability standards. Meeting those standards is only possible with good teachers; and

- The teacher pool is shrinking. The number of new teachers graduating out of colleges in Louisiana has dropped significantly, and the state faces a teacher shortage.

“I am grateful the West Baton Rouge School Board understands that getting and keeping good teachers requires that we offer competitive pay,” said Superintendent Chandler Smith.

Comparison of teacher pay:*

Parish	Starting Salary
Iberville	\$62,506
WBR	\$56,274
W. Feliciana	\$54,272
Ascension	\$54,033
Zachary	\$54,022
Central	\$52,750
EastBR	\$52,000

* Includes \$2000 state stipend & local stipends.

Figures from the Advocate, 6/23/2025



Drainage improvements and new turf fields are being installed on the football fields of both Brusly High and Port Allen High.

School improvements underway across parish

Improvements are well underway at numerous West Baton Rouge schools this summer, with some projects targeted for completion before the 2025-26 school year starts on August 7. Following is a breakdown of improvements by school:

Brusly Upper Elementary - windows being replaced by July 28. Other improvements coming in 2026.

Brusly Middle School - roof replaced on main classroom building and gym will be complete by July 28.

Lukeville Elementary - A new cafeteria and gym are presently being designed and is expected to be bid out in the fall of 2025.

Port Allen Elementary - gym and kitchen roof and floors are being replaced. Both are also being re-painted, with completion set for July 28. Office renovation is set for 2026.

Port Allen High - a new field house is presently being designed and is expected to bid out in the fall of 2025. New turf fields are being installed now and will be completed by Sept. 1.

Brusly High School - new turf fields are being installed now and will be completed by Sept. 1

Cohn Elementary/Intermediate - design is presently underway. Construction is expected to begin in August 2026.



New windows being installed at Brusly Upper Elementary.



New floors at Port Allen Elementary Multi-Purpose Room.