



Bobby Simpson
Interim Director

LOUISIANA SCHOOL FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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August 31, 2010

Dear Parents:

I hope this letter finds you and yours doing well after a very productive summer. We are off to a great start at LSVI for the 2010- 2011 school year. Both staff and students are excited about the beginning of the year. We have many new faces on our faculty joining our existing team making this an exciting time for LSVI. It is my hope to write to you monthly again this year informing you of the many things that have happened during the previous month, and also the things we hope to have happen the next month.

Starting with academics, I am pleased to announce our staff now includes both a middle school and high school mathematics teacher and a high school Spanish teacher. Eliminating our need to participate in the Virtual School program, our students will receive all math and Spanish in a normal classroom setting. We are also pleased to have a VI certified teacher instructing living skills to our students. This school year will be used to develop a program that we feel is appropriate for our students. We are also working on a transition program to ascertain how we can assist parents and students with long range planning of what can be expected after leaving LSVI. We anticipate having a counselor on staff within the next two weeks to assist with this task. During the summer, textbooks were ordered for all subjects and grades to allow students and teachers better access to our curricula. We have also instituted a Braille curriculum in every grade level, making Braille as important to our non-print reading students as writing is to our reading students. Heavy emphasis is being placed on Braille in all of our subject areas.

We are very pleased to have two of our students, Amber Meaux and Joaquil Wilder, enrolled in a freshman English class at Baton Rouge Community College. From our Art Department comes the following: "Starting in May 2010 and to re-occur each year, the graduating class will think of symbols that represent their class. Last May, the class of 2010 left the symbols of two hands reaching down to three roses with a dove in the sky. These images were recreated with raised lines on canvas. The underclassmen are filling in the image with bottle caps. When complete, it will be hung in the school building. When May 2011 comes around, the seniors will leave their symbols behind. Thus, a tradition begins - a visual reminder of the seniors who have gone before the rest of the student body."

It is with great excitement that we announce many new programs for our students. Friday, August 27th, students running for office in our newly formed student government gave speeches before the student body during an assembly. Afterwards, an election was held and we are pleased to announce the following results:

Reply to: P. O. Box 4328, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4328
LSVI is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

President:	Dimitrios Kouniaris
Vice President:	Blake Ellington
Treasurer:	Dylan Faughn
Secretary:	D'Shonda Jones

These officers will represent our school at many functions and civic events throughout the school year. Our president and vice-president will represent us on the East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor's Youth Advisory Council in meetings that will occur monthly with representatives of every high school in East Baton Rouge Parish. We also are in the planning stages for beginning a 4-H Club at LSVI. Three of our students are now on the LSD football team and will compete against other schools beginning in September. We will begin our wrestling and cheerleading programs on September 1st. On October 14th, our Orientation and Mobility Department will be sponsoring the "White Cane Safety Day," which is celebrated nationally to bring attention to the mobility issues of the visually impaired. We would like to ask that you attend this event if you are able, particularly if you are visually impaired and use a cane. Details of this event will be on our website at www.lsvi.org. Our Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program has been implemented to reward students for good behavior. Our 2010-2011 Pupil Progression Plan has been completed and submitted to the state of Louisiana. A copy of it also can be seen on our website.

We have now moved and installed all playground equipment from our Government Street campus. We have also purchased a lot of new dormitory games and equipment. We have procured dormitory furniture from LSU, and it is now in all of our dorm rooms. I hope to announce plans soon for an upcoming project that will provide our students with a state of the art gazebo to be erected by our dormitories that will allow a place for our older students to "hang out."

As you can see, things have been very busy at LSVI. I am extremely proud of the work that has been done by our administrative team of Ms.' Bello, Etienne, Geiss, Dupont, Carloss, and Martin. When you think of all that has been done over the summer months—summer school, hiring of ten teachers, dorm and classrooms furnished and equipped, textbooks and supplies ordered and inventoried, school policies rewritten and updated, Pupil Progression Plan rewritten—you can see that we have a very dedicated team working to improve the education of your children. We need you to assist us by encouraging your child to pay attention to their classroom activities and to make sure that they are in the classroom every day. We are extremely excited about this school year and hope to make it the best in every aspect for you and your child.

Sincerely,

Bobby Simpson
Interim Director

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