

Making a fresh start for this school year

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By Joshua Cogswell



Yellow school buses will be a familiar sight on county roads this week as many of the county's children return to school Friday.

By the time you read this, we'll be less than 24 hours from the start of the new school year for Rankin County's nearly 20,000 students in public and private schools.

Kaylin still has a little while before she starts school, so for me, the return to school means a return to leaving earlier for work. Old Fannin Road promises to be royally congested. Even though she's not going to school, don't think that means we won't be breaking the bank on school supplies; day care just sent home her supply list last week.

While I don't have to go back this fall, I fondly remember those first days of class.

They were so full of possibility; I'd often have trouble sleeping the night before.

I'd usually have a new pair of shoes, a new hair cut and a brand new outfit waiting to be worn for the first time.

Growing up in Florida, the first day was always a little more exciting. Every year, hundreds of new families were moving into the area. It was a great opportunity to make new friends and to make a fresh start.

On Friday, thousands of kids, teachers, administrators and parents will be making that same fresh start.

There's a lot going on in the Rankin County schools. At the top of the list is the Highland Bluff Elementary School, which will open to students for the first time this week.

That the district has to keep building new schools to accommodate the influx of school-age kids is a testament to the quality of the schools here.

Elsewhere on this page, state Superintendent Hank Bounds writes about the expectations that the state has put in place.

The state will be making its assessment tests and its curriculum tougher to bring students more in line with national standards.

We're used to high expectations in Rankin County. If there are any districts in the state that are poised to meet them, they are the Rankin and Pearl public school districts.

We also have some top-notch private schools that will be turning out highly qualified graduates this year.

To those of you going back to school, as you return to the classroom this week, remember those expectations and strive to meet them. We're counting on all of you to continue to make Rankin County such a wonderful community in which to live.

Be safe and be in touch this school year.

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