

# Trailers Become Schools After Hurricane Katrina



Students in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, are back at school nearly eight months after Hurricane Katrina destroyed Second Street Elementary School. But today the trip to school is different than it was before. As the children ride the bus to school they don't see the beautiful beaches, churches, and homes that once lined the roads. Instead, they see destroyed buildings and piles of debris. Even the street signs still are missing.

School is very different these days too. Now the kids go to school in a group of trailers instead of a 2-story building. The school library is a trailer with piles of books all around. All of the school's computers were destroyed by the storm -- so all of the students' work is done with pens and paper. Classes are smaller now because some students moved away after the hurricane. Many students who remain lost their homes in the hurricane and lived in tents or cars all winter long.

## **NEWS WORD BOX**

hurricane Mississippi  
destroyed trailer  
debris normal weaker

It's been eight months since Hurricane Katrina destroyed the city of New Orleans in Louisiana, and heavily damaged other towns in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Little by little, people's lives are getting back to normal. But this year's hurricane season is just around the corner. People worry that all the cleanup and rebuilding they have done could be destroyed by a new hurricane -- even one much weaker than Katrina.

## **MORE FACTS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF HURRICANE KATRINA**

- About 100,000 people in Mississippi are living in trailers and mobile homes because of Hurricane Katrina.
- Counselors are helping Bay St. Louis students adjust to life after the hurricane.

## **THINK ABOUT THE NEWS**

If you could write a letter to one of the Bay St. Louis students, what would you say to help encourage him or her?