



July 29, 2020

Ready for Learning - School Reopening Questions & Answers

Our goal will be to provide as safe an experience as possible adhering to guidelines provided by the Arkansas Department of Health.

GENERAL BACK TO SCHOOL INFO

What is the first day for students?

The official start for the school year is Monday, August 24. To ease the transition and assist students in learning new protocols, we are now planning a staggered start to the school year. We will use the following schedule for students to report to campuses:

Monday, Aug. 24	Pre-K - Boys only Kindergarten - Boys only Elementary - 3rd and 6th grade Jr. High - 9th grade High School - 12th grade
Tuesday, Aug. 25	Pre-K - Girls only Kindergarten - Girls only Elementary - 2nd and 5th grade Jr. High - 8th grade High School - 11th grade
Wednesday, Aug. 26	Pre-K - All Students Kindergarten - All Students Elementary - 1st and 4th grade Jr. High - 7th grade High School - 10th grade
Thursday, Aug. 27	All Students
Friday, Aug. 28	All Students

What are the plans for Open House?

Onsite Open Houses are scheduled for the following dates for students who are NEW to a building. Only students who are new to the building/district and students in grades 1, 7, and 10 will be able to visit the campus in person along with up to two guests. Secondary students will receive their schedules via their school email address. Elementary students will be contacted via zoom, email or phone by their homeroom teacher. Please check with individual buildings for specific information.

- Thursday, August 6 - JHS, Junior High Schools, and NEACTC
- Monday, August 10 - Magnet Elementary Schools and Jonesboro Pre-K (Flint/North)
- Tuesday, August 10 & 11- Pre-K (Flint/North)
- Tuesday, August 11- JHS, Junior High Schools, and NEACTC
- Tuesday, August 18 - Jonesboro Kindergarten Center (Virtual Only)
- Thursday, August 27 - SUCCESS Achievement Academy

What are the arrival and dismissal times for the coming year?

Our official arrival and dismissal times will not change for the upcoming school year. Please check with your specific building regarding the times doors will open.

Will supply lists be as inclusive as in the past?

Supply lists have been reduced to include only the most basic materials. Students will be required to provide individual supplies and not allowed to share items.

Learning Options

What options do my students have in regard to instruction in 2020-2021?

Students may either attend their current school site with a blended approach that will include both onsite and remote instruction or may participate in JPS Virtual Academy. Students who remain as a part of the current school will attend school onsite most days. In the event of a temporary closure, the student will participate in remote instruction and then return to their school site. The JPS Virtual Academy will be a totally online program. Students currently enrolled in the district will automatically be assigned to the onsite, blended model and their school assignment will remain the same.

What does Blended Learning mean for my students?

Blended learning is a combination of learning that takes place in a school building when possible and in an online environment when required to transition to remote learning. A student's onsite instructor will provide instruction when the student is on campus or learning remotely.

Onsite Learning: Students receive face to face instruction while on campus. In addition to traditional instruction, students learn to use SeeSaw (grades Pre-K and Kindergarten) and Google Classroom (grades 1-12). They regularly receive and submit assignments through these learning management systems while at school. This prepares students for a smooth transition in the chance remote learning needs to occur for a period of time.

Remote Learning: In the event school closures are necessary or a student becomes ill or quarantined for a limited amount of time, students receive grade level instruction through their learning management system (SeeSaw in Pre-K and Kindergarten and Google Classroom in grades 1-6) while staying at home. Students follow a weekly schedule in which teachers provide recorded and/or live lessons and participate in daily assignments from their JPS teacher. Standard grading continues under this model. Students are issued a district device.

Remote Learning is mentioned in the Blended Learning Model. Is this same as Alternate Method of Instruction (AMI)?

No. In the event students are sent home for remote instruction, students would follow a daily schedule of live and recorded lessons with their teachers. Additionally, students would complete assignments and continue working on regularly scheduled content. Standard grading will continue. There will be no packets or PBS instruction.

If my student cannot attend school because of testing positive or in quarantine, how will instruction continue?

The student will continue to work directly with their onsite teacher for instruction but will participate remotely until they are cleared to return to campus.

If my child's teacher is quarantined for two weeks, what will instruction look like for my student?

If a teacher is not ill and able to continue to provide instruction, a supervisor will be placed in the classroom to monitor students and the teacher will provide remote instruction. If the teacher is ill, a substitute will be placed in the classroom but will follow the teacher developed lessons.

What is virtual learning?

Virtual learning means a student has enrolled in Jonesboro Public Schools Virtual Academy (JPSVA) and takes all of their classes online. Curriculum content is provided by entities with extensive experience with online learning materials such as Lincoln Learning, Accelerate Education, Edgenuity, Virtual Arkansas, e-Dynamic Learning, Greenways Academy, and other providers. Students enrolled in the Virtual Academy independently complete their work at home at their own pace, online, under the supervision of a Jonesboro Public School teacher or an Arkansas highly-qualified, licensed teacher employed by a JPS partner.

Will paper packets be available for Virtual Learning?

Students enrolled at JPSVA do not receive paper copies for assignments. All learning materials are online. A hard copy of the parent guide is available upon request.

Is there a cost associated with Virtual Learning?

There is no cost to the parent for virtual courses. A school supply list is available for students to complete optional hands-on activities to support their online learning.

What about technology and Wi-Fi needs?

JPSVA students receive a MacBook Air or iPad to use for their online instruction. The JPS technology department is currently working with all families who do not have access to Wi-Fi at home.

If students choose to do full-time virtual, will they be able to participate in extracurricular activities?

JPS Virtual Academy students in grades 7-12 may participate in AAA activities in person at the school, including band, choir, and athletics. K-6 students will not participate in onsite extracurricular activities. Students enrolled in Arkansas Virtual Academy and Arkansas Connections Academy who are JPS resident students may participate in AAA activities but are required to attend one onsite course.

How will you help fill any gaps my student has from the previous year?

Curriculum teams have worked to revise the curriculum so that missed essential standards will be addressed when students return. Additionally, students will be assessed to determine individual strengths and deficits. These assessments will determine if students need additional support. At the secondary level, missed skills from a previous course will be embedded in the next course in the sequence. For example, a student enrolled in Geometry would have geometry skills embedded in their Algebra II course.

FACE COVERINGS, SAFETY AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

What are the current requirements regarding face coverings?

Staff will be required to wear masks all day, including when they are transitioning throughout the building, but may remove their mask when behind a protective screen or when social distancing can be maintained. While instructing, staff may remove their mask when 12 feet of social distancing can be maintained. If a teacher moves about the classroom, the teacher must wear his/her mask. All staff members will be provided with two masks and a face shield but may also wear face coverings of their choice.

All students will wear masks while transitioning throughout the building. In grades K -3, students may remove their masks when behind protective dividers at their desks. Students will wear their mask when their teacher is in close proximity (within 6 feet). In grades 4 -12, students will wear their masks at all times that social distancing cannot be maintained (less than 6 feet). All students who ride buses will be required to wear a face covering.

Do we need to provide masks for our student or will one be provided?

The district will provide two masks for every student at the beginning of the school year or may wear face coverings of their choice. The district will re-evaluate if additional masks are needed later in the year.

Will social distancing guidelines be observed?

Social distancing will be observed as much as feasibly possible but at times students will be closer than the recommended 6 feet apart. When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained such as class exchange time, etc., students will be required to wear face coverings. We will redesign classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the space between students but can not always guarantee it will be 6 feet.

Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?

Yes, classrooms will be arranged to provide more space between students. That might mean all desks are arranged in rows facing in a single direction. It might result in reading areas with bean bags, couches or comfy chairs being removed. It might include dividers between students who are seated at a table. We will make every effort to provide distance but not limit students ability to interact and communicate with others in their classroom. Additionally, supplies and materials will not be shared by students.

What special precautions will be implemented in regard to cleaning and sanitizing?

Sanitation and cleanliness will remain a high priority for our district as we return. We will be adding additional staff to clean high touch surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc.) and restrooms on a continuous basis throughout the day. We have purchased disinfectant sprays to quickly sanitize rooms between usage. We will provide time for hand washing and hand sanitizer throughout our campuses. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands each time they leave and enter a new space.

Will students and adults be screened daily?

Both students and adults will complete a daily screening tool. You will be provided a link to the tool prior to the start of school. Individuals will be asked the following questions:

1. Have you had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days?
2. Have you had a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell?
3. Have you been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days?

If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?

We ask parents to not send their child to school sick. If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen the student and check their temperature. If temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will be sent home and will need to be fever free for 48 hours without medication before returning to school. When the child returns to school they will check in with the school nurse.

If an individual (either a student or an employee) is exposed to COVID-19, will they be required to quarantine? Will the employee be required to use sick days? Will the student be counted absent?

An individual identified as a primary contact (within 6 feet for 15 consecutive minutes) of an individual with COVID-19 will be asked to quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure regardless of whether the individual displays any symptoms. A teacher who is able to provide instruction will provide instruction remotely and will not use FFCRA and/or sick leave. A teacher who is ill and not able to provide instruction will take FFCRA, FMLA, and/or sick leave. A student who is able to work remotely will participate in classes remotely.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?

An individual who tests positive will be required to quarantine for 14 days and identify all primary contacts. Those individuals identified as primary contacts (within 6 feet for 15 consecutive minutes) will be notified.

Will Jonesboro Public School Facilities be available for rent or use during the Arkansas Public Health Emergency for COVID-19?

No.

TRANSPORTATION AND THE SCHOOL DAY

Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for all eligible students. Based on current ADH guidance, all students will be required to wear face coverings when riding the bus. There will be hand sanitizer on the buses for students to sanitize their hands. Buses will be sanitized between routes on a daily basis.

How will you keep students socially distanced when they arrive on campus and after school (bus/car dismissal)?

Buses will have staggered arrival and dismissal times.

How normal will the day be for a student?

Our goal is for your student(s) to have as normal of a day as possible while we also provide as much safety as possible. Students will not remain in the same classroom all day but will be able to transition from one class to another. Of course, sanitation will take place before a new group of students enter a space.

Will students at the elementary still have extra classes like PE, art, music, guidance, ACE, and library?

Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes, check out library books, and receive guidance and gifted instruction. In some cases, the teacher may present the lesson in the student's classroom to reduce the amount of cleaning possible. In others situations, such as PE, students may have an assigned area in the gym with specific materials assigned to their classroom.

Will my elementary student have recess?

Yes. Elementary students will have outdoor play time with restrictions that limit the number of students they come in contact with. Additionally, playground equipment will be sanitized between groups of students.

What about programs and large gatherings?

These activities will be paused until further direction from the CDC and ADH regarding changes for large group gatherings.

Will my student eat lunch in their classroom?

Based on current guidance, the ADH is recommending cafeterias limit the capacity of students in the cafeteria. We anticipate this may mean adjustments to lunch schedules and/or use alternative areas, such as large gathering spaces or have lunch in their classroom on a very limited basis. Proper sanitation of all areas will be completed after each meal. Parents are strongly encouraged to open an online payment account for the purchase of ala carte items at the secondary level so no cash is exchanged. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students since water fountains will not be available.