

JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SMART RESTART



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Students will be able to return in person on **January 19, 2021.**

INTRODUCTION

Again, Jackson Public Schools has been hard at work planning for the safe return of our scholars. This document covers our plans for a Smart Restart in the spring semester of 2021. It includes the learning options, academic schedules, safety measures, and new routines we are utilizing to continue learning and engagement.

Although school will resume virtually as scheduled for scholars on January 5, 2021, those who opt to do so will return to in-person classes on or after January 19. The District has built in a self-quarantine period following the holiday break and potential exposure during holiday gatherings and festivities.

Our number one priority is ensuring your child is safe and has a comfortable physical environment. We are sharing this information with our JPS parents and families so you can determine which learning option will be the best fit for your scholar and family. This plan is subject to change. We will continue to refine this plan as circumstances change and in coordination with our health officials, elected leadership, families and community members. As we face these unprecedented times together, we appreciate your continued partnership to protect our scholars and team.

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Letter from Dr. Greene

November 20, 2020

Greeting JPS Community,

As you know, back in July, we made the very difficult decision to move our entire educational program to a virtual setting. We made that decision based on multiple convenings with a variety of our stakeholders including teachers, students, parents, and community partners. And now, as we prepare for the spring semester, we are reminded that not all of our JPS families are similarly situated, and we must therefore offer more options to ensure that our scholars succeed.

So here is our plan for the spring semester:

- All JPS scholars will have the option to continue real-time, virtual instruction.
- Elementary scholars will have the option to return to in-person, traditional instruction Monday-Friday with appropriate social distancing and enhanced cleaning.
- Middle and high school scholars will have the option to participate in a hybrid instruction program on alternating A and B Days to allow for greater distancing and enhanced cleaning.

We believe this is the right decision for the following reasons:


- We will have enough devices for each of our scholars to have their own.
- The social and emotional needs of our scholars are great, and it's very difficult to offer support for those needs virtually.
- Our youngest scholars require in-person instruction to ensure they have the foundational skills for greater success.
- There is a promising vaccine on the horizon.
- We have been learning lessons from others who have run in-person, traditional instructional programs during the pandemic.
- While it's critical to maintain our safety, we must also ensure that our scholars are prepared for life after the pandemic.

I'm excited to transition to this plan that we've coined a Smart Restart. We will continue to monitor the data and adjust the plan as necessary. Our community, like others around the world, has developed strategies for living through the pandemic, and I know that you'll do everything you can to help keep us safe.

Thank you to the many members of the JPS community who have demonstrated our core values of excellence and growth mindset: Our teachers who have embraced this new normal and learned new technologies and ways to engage students virtually; our bus drivers and Child Nutrition workers who have altered their approaches to deliver meals and collect instructional packets; our school leaders and support staff who have led virtual staff meetings and supported staff members with drive-by parades; and our families who have supported scholars through virtual learning and created home classrooms, dropped off packets, and organized mini church schools.

To all of you, we see you and appreciate your support as we brave these circumstances together. We'll need your continued support as we move forward with a Smart Restart.

Thank you,



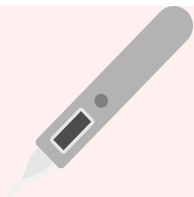
Errick L. Greene, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Our number one
priority is your
child's **safety.**



Safety Measures

View our **COVID-19 Prevention Strategies Video** prepared by the Nurses Unit (Office of Climate & Wellness) located at www.jackson.k12.ms.us/COVIDPrevention.



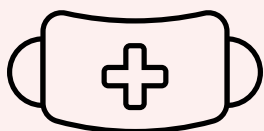
ENTRY SCREENING

Parents are urged to perform temperature screenings before arriving on campus. Daily temperature checks will be taken as scholars board buses or arrive at school.



INCREASED HAND WASHING

Regular handwashing and hand sanitation breaks will be provided throughout the school day.



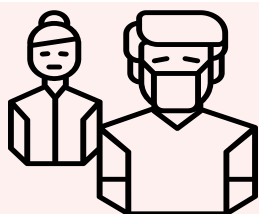
MANDATORY FACE COVERINGS

Facial coverings will be required from the boarding of a school bus or arrival on campus through the end of the school day. Scholars will be provided two washable and re-usable facial coverings for grades 3 through 12 and 1 face shield for grades Pre-K through 2.



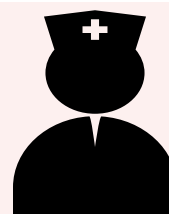
LAPTOP DEVICES

Each scholar will receive a device along with training on how to navigate activities & properly disinfect the device. Classwork will be conducted using technology.



SOCIAL DISTANCE

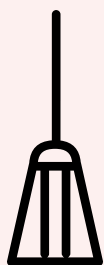
Separation will be maintained to the extent reasonable and practical, including while in hallways, restrooms, cafeterias and other common areas.



NURSING & WELLNESS

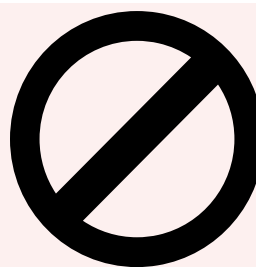
Scholars and staff will be continually monitored. Nurses will be in regular contact with administration should anyone become symptomatic. Parents will be notified if their child becomes symptomatic with recommendations concerning further actions.

Routines & Procedures



DEEP CLEANING

All buildings will have daily deep cleaning. High touch points and restrooms will be disinfected throughout the school day.



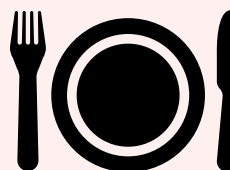
NO VISITORS

Only scholars and staff will be allowed into buildings. Deliveries will be strictly controlled. Parent meetings will be held virtually or by phone. Scholar pickup and drop off will occur outside entry doors.



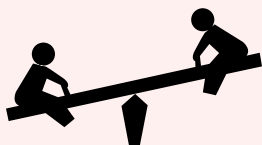
SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Temperature checks will be performed before boarding buses. Drivers will be masked and gloved. Scholars will sit in designated areas with mandatory facial coverings. Disinfecting will occur between routes in high touch areas.



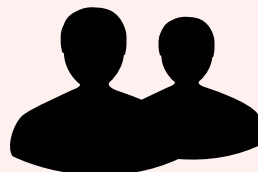
FOOD SERVICE

Meals will be provided in classrooms or socially distanced in cafeterias. A modified "Grab & Go" meal service will be offered to virtual scholars.



SCHOLAR MOVEMENT

Schedules will limit large gatherings of scholars and staff. Outdoor activities and "unmasking" breaks will be integrated into the academic schedule.

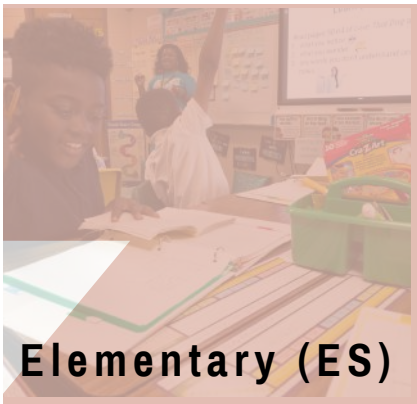


SOCIAL WORK

Educators and staff will monitor scholars and each other for emotional distress. School counselors will assist with implementation of social-emotional learning and counseling sessions.

Learning Options

Depending on their grade level, JPS families will have TWO options for educating their scholars in the spring. **Once selected, families will maintain their instructional option through the end of the grading term.**



Elementary (ES)

Onsite Learning OR
Virtual Instruction



Middle (MS)

Hybrid Learning OR
Virtual Instruction



High (HS)

Hybrid Learning OR
Virtual Instruction

The Traditional/ On-Site Learning Program will consist of the following (ES):

- **Blended instructional delivery in classrooms Monday-Friday** (frequent technology use, students access learning programs and electronic textbooks, etc.)
- **Extra care and consideration** to be provided for our youngest scholars (environment, behavior expectations, breaks, etc.)
- **Reduced activities to achieve distancing** (assemblies, field trips, athletic programs, etc.)

Hybrid Learning will consist of the following (MS & HS):

- **A/B Day Schedules**
- **Middle:** Scholars alternate in-person attendance days based on assigned cohort (Cohort 1, A; Cohort 2, B)
- **High:** Scholars alternate in-person attendance in core subjects by grade (9th& 10th, A; 11th& 12th, B)

The Virtual Learning Program consists of the following (ES/MS/HS):

- **Scholars utilize technology** for both synchronous (real time) and asynchronous (video) learning experiences each day
- **Teachers engage scholars in learning experiences** based on a clearly defined schedule
- **Scholars with special needs are supported** by the classroom teacher as well as other support staff
- **Parents/guardians provide additional support** and guidance with learning outcomes

IMPORTANT: If the impact of COVID-19 impedes the District from implementing the traditional and hybrid instructional models, we will be prepared to move into a distance learning model. During this time, students will utilize online platforms to receive instruction and complete assignments. This will allow students to remain on track within the curriculum. Distance learning days may also be used to assist with transitioning back into the traditional and hybrid learning environments after extended breaks. Students will be held accountable for attendance and assignments during this online learning time.

Selecting Scholar Learning Option

As we prepare for our scholars to return in January, we ask families to assist us by informing us of your child's preferred learning option. While it is impossible to know how conditions may change in the next few months, it is our goal to open schools in January in accordance with the health-safety guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and the Mississippi State Department of Health for the entire JPS family.

We need parents to assist us with this planning by providing your intentions for your scholars for the upcoming semester. Selections should be made by Tuesday, December 1, 2020. You may access the portal to select your child's learning option for the second semester by clicking the link below and providing your unique password.

Indicating Your Scholar's Learning Option Choice

1. Go to the [JPS Parent Smart Restart Learning Option Portal](#).

2. Enter the unique password for each child, formatted as follows:

- School Code ([Look up your 3-digit school code](#).)
- Student's First Name & Last Initial
- Students Date of Birth (6 digits, MMDDYY, no spaces or dashes.)

Example: The unique password for John Smith, enrolled at Casey Elementary and born May 25, 2015, would be entered as 020JohnS052515.



Academic Schedule

ELEMENTARY (Grades PK-5)

Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Elementary schools will use the **virtual** and **on-site, face-to-face** learning models for providing quality instruction in all core academic courses.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6-8)

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Middle schools will use the **virtual** and **hybrid** learning models for providing quality instruction for all courses.

HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)

Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

High schools will use the **virtual** and **hybrid** learning models for providing quality instruction for all credit-bearing courses.

Exceptional Education: Scholars that receive instruction in a functional skills classroom will use the **traditional** and **virtual** instructional models for providing quality instruction. Support services including **Exceptional Education and Gifted** (Open Doors) will follow one or more models:

- Staff wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) will “push-in” by providing services to scholars in the classroom.
- Staff wearing PPE will pull a scholar out individually or with classroom peer scholars to provide services.
- Staff will pull a scholar out with non-classroom peer scholars. All staff and scholars will wear PPE and social distance as much as possible given room constraints.

Athletics & Co-Curricular Activities

If social distancing is feasible and modifications are made, sports will resume with high school basketball and soccer games in December 2020 and middle school games in January 2021.

Due to the fluid nature of the circumstances, these plans are subject to change.

To ensure that our scholars are safe, the following guidelines will be implemented:

- **Transportation:** Girls and boys teams will ride on separate buses.
- **Participation Limits:** Basketball teams limited to 15 players. Cheer teams limited to 8 at a time.
- **Attendance Limits/Seating:** Game seating limited to 25% capacity. First two rows from court will remain vacant. Spectators will skip one row vertically and sit six feet apart horizontally. No more than two may sit in close proximity.
- **Clear Bag Policy:** The clear bag policy will be enforced.
- **No Mask, No Entry:** Masks will be required for everyone inside the gym.
- **Dismissal At Conclusion of Game:** Spectators will be dismissed by campus enforcement and school administrators in sections. Teams will exit court immediately.
- **Sanitation:** Hand stations will be at the gym entrance, concession stand, score table and both sides of gym. Custodial staff will monitor restrooms. Locker rooms will not be used. Team seating area will be cleaned between games and at half time.
- **Concessions:** Only pre-packaged food will be sold. Workers must wear gloves and masks.
- **Scores Table:** Only bookkeeper and clock operator will be allowed at scores table.

Shared Responsibilities

Working together,
we can promote
learning and safety.



TOPIC	FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES	JPS RESPONSIBILITIES
PPE & SUPPLIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launder/clean face coverings. • Replace unserviceable face coverings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 2 face coverings (Grades 3-12) and 1 face shield (Grades PK-2) for all JPS scholars. • Provide hand sanitizer, soap, gloves, and disinfectants to custodial teams.
HEALTH CHECKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your child's temperature each morning. • Keep your child at home when sick. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check temperatures for scholars prior to boarding buses and all staff/scholars at entry of schools.
TECHNOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide internet connectivity for child's device OR indicate need for support with connectivity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an internet-ready device for all JPS scholars. • Provide technical support to parents.
REGISTRATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register your returning scholar for school online. • Register your new scholar at Poindexter Complex by appointment (601) 960-8850. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer online registration support to families. • Streamline new scholar registration appointment process.
COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate any symptoms or illness to your child's teacher. • Provide updated contact information in event of a move or life change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide frequent and timely updates on our website and social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, & YouTube). • Launch new JPS mobile app with push notifications with key updates.
VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor your child's progress with virtual learning. • Provide a quiet space and consistent schedule for completing online coursework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide high-quality virtual instruction. • Develop engaging units for scholars learning virtually.

School Reopening Advisory Committee

The administration of Jackson Public Schools wishes to thank the members of the **School Reopening Advisory Committee** (SRAC). The committee — made up of city leaders, health professionals, JPS parents and scholars, board members, and district staff — conducted five virtual meetings and considered what was best for students, staff, and the community through the lens of physical health, social-emotional health, & student achievement. We are also appreciative of the scholars, parents, and teachers who contributed their ideas and wisdom to the **Superintendent's Reopening Panels**. Your thoughtful counsel was vital to the formation of this Safe Reopening Plan.

Important Contacts



CHILD NUTRITION

(601) 960-8910

CLIMATE & WELLNESS

(601) 960-8705

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

(601) 960-8945

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

(601) 960-8905

QUESTIONS ABOUT DEVICES & TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

CALL YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

Download our online directory at

www.jackson.k12.ms.us/DistrictDirectory

CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

Communicate with your child's teacher via SchoolStatus.





JACKSON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Transforming lives through
excellent education

Core Values

At Jackson Public Schools, we believe in the importance of equity, excellence, growth mindset, relationships, relevance, and positive and respectful cultures.

EQUITY

Our vision of equity, put simply, is “all means all.” We ensure equity by celebrating each scholar’s individuality, interests, abilities and talents; providing each scholar in each school with equitable access to high-quality instruction, courses, and resources; and holding high expectations for all scholars to graduate college-ready and career-minded. Similarly, we recognize and value the individual abilities, experiences and talents of our staff; providing all staff with equitable access to opportunities for development and growth; and ensuring that such opportunities are provided through clear and transparent processes.

EXCELLENCE

High expectations for our scholars help to prepare them for college and career paths. High expectations from and for all adults foster ownership, consistency, and transparency. Every member of our district performs with an attention to detail and the quality that each task demands in order to achieve great outcomes.

GROWTH MINDSET

Our leaders—scholars and staff—thrive in environments where belief in their abilities is affirmed. Everyone in the organization embraces the ideal that effort and perseverance lead to success.

RELATIONSHIPS

It is essential to develop relationships through mutual respect of culture, social context, and community. This allows us to create a community of safety, trust, productive vulnerability, and genuine connection as we celebrate successes and value opportunities for constructive feedback.

RELEVANCE

Scholars experience relevant education that is engaging, motivating, and inspiring, leading to a lifelong commitment to learning. Our scholars must learn to connect with each other, the larger community, and the 21st-century world, ultimately developing agency to contribute to positive change in Jackson, in Mississippi, and in the world.

POSITIVE AND RESPECTFUL CULTURE

Scholars and staff thrive in learning environments where growth and achievement are the highest priorities and climates are safe, positive, and respectful. These environments engage and excite all scholars, leaving them hungry for more knowledge. All adults contribute to a positive and respectful culture allowing them to experience more productivity, increased retention, and joy at work.



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Jackson Public Schools

662 S. President St.

Jackson, MS 39201

contact us:

covid19@jackson.k12.ms.us