



July 22, 2020

JasperPublic Schools COVID-19 Student Guidelines for 2020 - 2021

Jasper Public Schools will follow the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines and the Arkansas Ready for Learning guidance issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in planning for re-opening in the fall. We hope the following information helps answer many of the questions you may have about reopening schools.

Our goal will be to provide as safe an experience as possible that includes a rich educational experience, with opportunities for social interaction and extra-curricular activities while adhering to guidelines provided by the Arkansas Department of Health.

What is the first day for students?

School will begin on August 24, 2020

What are some key definitions?

- On-Site: Learning that occurs at school, sometimes referred to as face-to-face.
- Virtual: Learning that occurs at home or another site away from school. Virtual learning will occur online and may include both asynchronous and synchronous learning methods.
- Blended: Students attend school-based on-site learning and remote learning through a combination of asynchronous and synchronous online teaching and learning methods.
 - Synchronous Online Learning – Learning in which participants interact virtually at the same time.
 - Asynchronous Online Learning – Methods of asynchronous online learning include self-guided lesson modules, streaming video content, virtual libraries, posted lecture notes, and exchanges across discussion boards or social media platforms.

What is the difference between Alternate Method of Instruction (AMI) and remote learning?

Students will be issued devices to use at home for virtual learning. Jasper School District will continue to expand internet availability throughout the district for students to engage in virtual lessons synchronously and asynchronously.

What Learning Management System (LMS) will the district use?

An LMS is an online location platform that helps individuals manage administration, tracking, reporting, and delivery of courses, lessons, and assessments. The Jasper School District will primarily use Google Classroom for grades K-12 along with various other platforms required by some vendor partners.

Who will be required to wear face coverings?

In accordance with CDC Guidelines, JSD will teach and reinforce the use of face coverings. In JSD, face coverings are strongly recommended for grades K-3 and will be worn by students and staff in grades 4-12. Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school. Face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as feasible, and are **most** essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Individuals will be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently. Information will be provided to staff, students, and students' families on proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings. Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.

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

Parents are welcome to send masks with their child if they wish. However, the district has purchased cloth masks for every student.

Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for all students. In accordance with CDC Guidelines, face coverings will be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) when physical distancing is difficult such as on a bus. We are planning no changes to bus schedules or bus stops.

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 enters a space.

Will students at the elementary still have extra classes like PE, art, music, guidance, 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 their lesson in the student's classroom to reduce the amount of cleaning possible. In other situations, such as PE, students may have an assigned area in the gym with specific materials assigned to their classrooms.

Will my elementary student have recess?

Yes. Elementary students will have outdoor playtime with restrictions that limit the number of students they come in contact with.

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 ft. apart. When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained such as class exchange time, etc., students should wear face coverings. We will redesign classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the space between students but cannot always guarantee it will be 6 ft.

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 the student's ability to interact and communicate with others in their classroom. Additionally, the sharing of materials by students will be limited as much as possible.

Will students attend school every day or will we have some type of alternative schedule?

We plan for students to attend school daily following a very similar schedule to the traditional school day.

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

In the event an individual tests positive, we will follow the latest guidance from the ADH. Each district in the state is required to designate a Point of Contact (POC) for the school. The POC will report all information to the designated Arkansas Department of Health hotline. The POC will communicate the guidance back to the individual(s) involved regarding who is required to quarantine, etc. This could result in a brief closure of a single classroom or school within the district to provide time for additional cleaning and sanitation.

Will students and adults be screened daily?

We are asking that parents screen their child(ren) at home prior to coming to school each day. All employees will complete a screening tool each day upon entering the building. If a student or staff member feels sick, they will immediately be sent to the nurse's office for evaluation.

If I don't want my student to return to a traditional classroom, what are my options?

The District has provided a survey to all parents to collect information regarding their interest in a digital option for students. This would provide a total online educational program for students who did not feel comfortable returning to onsite instruction. Parents will be asked to sign up for the virtual education program and it is highly recommended to commit to a minimum of one quarter (9 weeks).

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

JSD REAL students in grades 7-12 may participate in AAA activities in person at the school, including band, choir, and athletics. Students must attend at least ONE class in person on the campus to participate in an AAA activity. The activity can be the one class on campus if provided during the school day.

Will we have an open house?

We are currently working to design a modified version of our open house instead of the traditional open house from the past and will be sending more information soon.

Will students be able to participate in extracurricular activities and sports in the fall?

Yes, we anticipate sports activities in the fall with possible modifications as required by the ADH. At this time, we are still awaiting guidance from the AAA.

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 either mean we will be required to adjust lunch schedules or use alternative areas, such as large gathering spaces or potentially have lunch in their classroom on a very limited basis. Proper sanitation of all areas will be completed after each meal. Procedures will not allow students to pick up utensils, self-serve, or share food. Parents are strongly encouraged to open an online payment account for the purchase of meals to limit the exchange of cash. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their student(s) since water fountains will only be utilized as water bottle refilling stations. Each water bottle should be clearly labeled with the student's name.

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

Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority for our district as we return in the fall. We will be cleaning high touch surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, etc.) and restrooms on a continuous basis throughout the day. We have also purchased disinfectant sprays to quickly sanitize rooms between usage. We will also provide time for handwashing and hand sanitizer throughout our campuses. Students will be asked to sanitize or wash their hands as frequently as possible.

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

If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen the student and check their temperature. If his/her temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will be sent home and will need to be fever-free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school. When the child returns to school they will check in with the school nurse.

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. Students in K-12 will receive targeted interventions on essential standards as needed.

What happens if we have school closures again?

If schools close again, a plan for at-home digital learning has been developed. This plan includes grades K-12 using Google Classroom for instruction and to submit assignments. Teachers will utilize Google Meet to communicate with students. Students will learn how to use these Learning Management Systems by participating in lessons throughout the week while at school. Blended learning that includes both on-site traditional instruction and digital instruction will be utilized during this pandemic. This approach will allow students who might be ill or quarantined for a limited amount of time to continue their education even if they are not physically present in the classroom. Students will need to become comfortable utilizing their Learning Management System in case of sudden school closures.

Will our students have the same arrival and dismissal times?

At this time, arrival and dismissal times will be the same as in previous years. In order to increase social distancing and to decrease the number of students in common areas before and after school, additional locations may be identified for student arrival, as well as different procedures for student dismissal.

What advice do you have for students with special health needs or students with weakened immune systems and pre-existing conditions?

The district will be prepared to accommodate students through both onsite and offsite instruction with special needs. Our district will be taking extra precautions when working with students. If parents have concerns about their students who may be at high-risk because of COVID-19, they may explore the virtual learning option which allows the student to continue their education from the safety of their own home.

In the event of a temporary school closure, how will the district serve students who have special needs (Special Education, 504, Dyslexia, etc)?

In the event of a school closure, students will participate in live instruction with scheduled Google Meet sessions. Accommodations will be followed as noted in student individual plans.