

JESUP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



531 Prospect Street
PO Box 287
Jesup, IA 50648
Tel: (319)827-1700
Fax: (319)827-3905



Nathan Marting
Superintendent
nmarting@jesup.k12.ia.us

Paul Rea
High School Principal
prea@jesup.k12.ia.us

Lisa Loecher
Middle School Principal
lloecher@jesup.k12.ia.us

Brian Pottebaum
Elementary Principal
bpottebaum@jesup.k12.ia.us

August 16, 2021

Dear Jesup Community School Parents and Families,

The 2021-22 school year is quickly approaching and our buildings will “return to life” as teachers, staff, and students all start to file back in during the next couple of weeks. New teaching staff will be joining us for three days of orientation starting today, Monday, August 16th. We welcome back all staff on Thursday, August 19th in preparation for our students returning on Monday, August 23rd. When I left off with weekly parent updates, it was my hope at that time that when I resumed with these that there would be little to share on COVID-19 and we would be able to focus these updates on all of the great things happening within the school district. I will continue to use the platform to provide you with updates from our district, but unfortunately we will start the year continuing with a focus on addressing and mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

As I shared last week, we received updated guidance from Buchanan County Public Health in preparation for the start of the school year. This guidance can continue to be found on the district website at <https://www.jesup.k12.ia.us/webres/File/COVID/School%20Update%20Fall%202021.pdf> We are continuing to review the guidance and meet within our district to establish an environment that is safe and conducive to learning. Below are a few of the safety steps that we will be taking as we start the school year.

- Frequent sanitation throughout the school day will take place with the use of disinfectants in high traffic areas and the ultraviolet machine to sanitize classrooms when not in use.
- Students will be assigned seats in each classroom and seating will be spread out as much as the classroom will allow.
- We will again provide overflow lunchroom seating in the lobby in front of the south gym to spread out students during lunch.
- Masks, while not able to be required, will be recommended throughout the district. There is conflicting guidance on the requirement of masks on school buses. Iowa Code prohibits school districts from requiring masks, however the CDC states that masks will be required of all students and staff on school buses. In consultation with legal counsel, we will continue to recommend the wearing of masks, but at this time can not enforce them to be worn. Please make the best decision for you and your family.
- Notification will be made to the parents of each classroom in the event of a positive COVID-19 case but quarantining will only be necessary for students or staff who test

- positive. Parents will be asked to monitor for symptoms and to keep their children home if they are exhibiting symptoms with the expectation to get tested if symptoms persist.
- We will not be offering hybrid remote learning this year, but will work to keep students up to date on missed work due to extended absences from COVID-19. We will be accommodating in these situations to ensure students' academic needs are continued to be met.

We will continue to report the number of COVID-19 cases we have each week as well as the county 7-day positivity rates. Currently as of today, we have **0** positive cases to report. The 7-day positivity rate is **12%** for Buchanan County and **8%** for Black Hawk County.

As we continue to receive updates, we will be sure to keep you informed of any changes as soon as they occur. We appreciate each and every one of you and the support you provided us through the past year and a half. We look forward to working with you and your continued support as we start this year. We are here to meet your children's needs both academically and in regards to their health and well-being. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please reach out through email, phone, or stopping by my office. Let's have a great 2021-22 school year!
#jhawkproud

Thank you and take care,

Nathan