

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

November 6, 2020

Dear Jesup Community School Parents and Families,

First of all, thank you to all of you who attended parent/teacher conferences this year. Whether it was in-person, remotely, or even through email, we appreciated the opportunity to connect with you on the progress your child(ren) are making in school. Especially in our current pandemic situation, the school to home is even more important in ensuring the success of all of our students. As most of you are already aware COVID cases across the state and our local counties have been rising rapidly in the recent weeks. While these cases have increased, we have not seen an increase in cases in school due to neither COVID or other related illnesses. The State guidance on when schools would be allowed to close and move to remote learning are guided by a 14-day county positivity rate of greater than 15% AND a school absenteeism rate due to illness greater than 10%. While our county rates are past this threshold, our absentee rate due to illness is not even close with numbers in the low single digits. We will continue to monitor rates closely and work with Buchanan County Public Health in the event that our absentee rate begins to increase. Thankfully we currently are not in a position where we need to consider closing school and moving to remote learning. However, if anything we have learned in these past 8 months, is that things can change quickly.

As of today, we currently have 104 individuals who are in quarantine. Up to 5 of these individuals have tested positive with the remainder on quarantine due to positive or potential positive exposures or exhibiting symptoms. 47 of these individuals on quarantine can be traced back to school exposure. 44 of the 47 individuals that can be traced to a school exposure are due to a positive exposure at one of our Amish rural schools. Please continue to do your part in helping each other stay safe and allow us to remain in person for teaching, learning, and activities.

The county 14-day positivity rates are currently 18.0% for Buchanan County and 22.6% for Black Hawk County. This data changes frequently and can be found at <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/>. We continue to monitor this data closely and we work hand-in-hand with Public Health as we address all positive cases and potential exposures. We appreciate your support in helping to make this happen. If at any time you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's building principal. Stay J-Hawk Safe and J-Hawk Strong!

Thank you and take care,

Nathan