

JESUP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



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September 25, 2020

Dear Jesup Community School Parents and Families,

Happy Homecoming Friday! While this week was a little different type of Homecoming for us this year, all of our students have done a great job showing off their school spirit. We would like to congratulate all of our Homecoming royalty this week and a special congratulations to King Jerret Delagardelle and Queen Mara Moore. Go J-Hawks!

As stated last week, with new guidance released from Iowa Public Health, we will be reporting weekly numbers in a little bit of a different format. As of today, we currently have 55 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. While the quarantine numbers are higher this week, I would like to provide some additional context. We did have a positive case in one of our preschool/transitional kindergarten classrooms this week. In consultation with both the Buchanan County Public Health and the State Department of Public Health it was determined to quarantine the entire class due to the age of the students and the likelihood of close contact between individuals. No other individuals in this classroom have exhibited symptoms to our knowledge or have tested positive. We are hopeful that this action will help mitigate any future cases in this section of the school.

However with the overall up-tick in cases in Buchanan County and in our area, we have been advised by Buchanan County Public Health that they recommend masks of all students and staff in all grades preschool through 12th. **Beginning on Monday, September 28th, we are asking that all students in grades preschool through 4th also begin wearing masks or face shields in addition to the existing requirement of all staff and 5th-12th grade students..** If your elementary-aged child has a specific health issue preventing this, please contact the elementary principal, Brian Pottebaum, or school nurse, Missy Walztoni, to discuss what accommodations can be made. We appreciate your assistance and support on this matter.

The county 14-day positivity rates are currently 7.5% for Buchanan County and 6.6% 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 any positive cases or exposures. We ask for your continued diligence in the use of face masks and social distancing in and out of school as this will only help us in continuing to be able to offer on-site school and activities. 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