

JESUP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



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March 24, 2020

Dear Jesup Parents, Students, and Staff,

We are now in our second week of the four-week school closure. The first week was filled with so many changes happening so rapidly, it felt as though every update we would send out was “old news” within hours. This week, while there is still so much uncertainty, we have not had the changes happening so rapidly. We will continue to work hard to keep you informed as well as answer any questions that you may have. I encourage you to continue to stay connected through our mass emails, district Facebook page, as well as the archived list of communications on the district website under [COVID-19 District Communication](#). We have a few updates to share with you and they are included below:

Special Board Meeting

The Jesup School Board has set a special board meeting for this Wednesday, March 25th at 6 p.m. This meeting will be held entirely remotely with school board members calling/logging in to participate. The public may also log or call in and listen if you wish. Log in and call-in information is located at the top of the meeting agenda. We have three items on this agenda that will be discussed and voted upon. The first item will be taking formal action on our 2019-20 school calendar. During this item, we will be recommending to forgive 17 days of instruction due to the school closure and making Monday, April 13th a student attendance day as this was originally scheduled as a teacher PD day. The second item we will approve is the suspension of some board policies that may conflict with state or federal guidance in response to the coronavirus pandemic. This is a standard policy that the Iowa School Board Association is recommending all school boards consider approving. The last item is a revision to our district budget for the fiscal year 2021. At our regular March board meeting, we approved a budget for publication. This budget assumed a 2.3% increase in state funding for next year. While this amount has been approved by the state legislatures and signed by the Governor, we want to also prepare ourselves in the event that between now and April 15th (deadline to approve budgets), that there is a change in this amount. School districts are not allowed to approve a tax rate higher

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than what is publicly published, but they may always approve a lower rate. The board will be considering publishing a budget that includes a 0% increase in funding to ensure that we comply with the law in the event that there is any changes in what was originally approved and signed into law earlier this month. If the funding stays at 2.3%, then the district could take action and approve the lower tax rate.

Voluntary Online Resources

Our building principals and teachers met remotely last Wednesday morning to develop plans for teachers to work remotely during this four-week closure. One of the first priorities for all building levels was to develop and distribute online learning resources and activities for families to utilize if they wish during this four-week closure. Hard copy packets will also be made available for families who may have limited access to on-line materials. We must stress that these resources and activities are **100% Optional and Voluntary** and will not take the place of any teaching or learning that is missed during this school closure. These are only provided to families as a way to provide options and to help keep students engaged if academic-based activities if they wish. I would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to all of our teachers as within a couple of days (or even hours), we have seen a ton of fun and engaging resources made available if families wish to utilize. We have compiled all of these resources into a central repository, which is linked to the district website located below and will be updated by teachers regularly. These resources are there for you and your children to use as you wish but do not feel obligated to do so or guilty for not. There is enough on many of our plates right now and please first take care of yourself and your family before all else.

<https://www.jesup.k12.ia.us/district/remote-learning-opportunities.aspx>

Emergency Meal Plan

This week was our first week of the Emergency Meal Plan. Anyone requesting meals for their children age 18 and under we would ask you to complete this Google form by clicking on the link below. If necessary you may also leave a message at 319-827-1700 ext. 1401 and we will add you to the list. Please include your phone number when doing so. We ask that you complete this form or contact us by 6 p.m. the evening before the meals are delivered. Completing the form or notifying us is not required but will help us to ensure the appropriate number of meals

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are available at each site. You may go back in each week and fill out again if you are not sure when or if you will be needing meals.

Delivery time will be from 11-11:30 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays at the following locations:

- Jesup Soccer complex parking lot @ 1115 Duroe St.
- Jesup Food Center parking lot @ 1314 7th St.
- Hook-an-Liner parking area in Littleton

All deliveries will be from Jesup Community School vehicles.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScr450JXjF5kwxOXe33OPo6UycfIojwI7N_-lsGiyJpWZXS5w/viewform

Thank you to everyone, on-site employees working through this time, off-site employees who standby ready if needed, principals and supervisors for your leadership, parents for your patience and understanding through this, and students for adapting and pushing through this disruption in your school year. As always, please communicate with us any questions or needs that you have. Lastly, be sure to take care of yourself so that you can continue to take care of one another. We are better together!

#jhawkproud and #jhawkstrong,

Nathan Marting
Superintendent

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