

JESUP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



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April 12, 2020

Dear Jesup Parents, Students, and Staff,

As we close out this Easter weekend and head into our first week of our Voluntary Continuous Learning Plan, I wanted to take just a quick moment to touch base with each of you. I know the last four weeks have been very challenging and the uncertainty moving forward can make us all anxious and nervous. I just want each of you to know that I am so very proud of our district's response to these school closures. The patience exhibited by our parents, the creativity of our teachers and support staff, the dedication of our essential staff on-site each day, and most importantly the resiliency of our students as we all push forward is reassuring in what we all know in that Jesup is a great school district and community. Now as we start things off this week, I just want to speak to each of you individually.

Parents- You are doing great! While managing all of the daily tasks at home and at work, you are doing your best to help bridge this gap in your child's schooling. We don't at all expect you to fill the role of the teacher. You are there to support, encourage, engage, and love your child. Don't feel bad if you aren't able to help your child make every Zoom meeting or complete every assignment. Just do your best, love your child, and support them to the best of your ability.

Teachers and Support Staff- Very few of you signed up for this when you decided to be a teacher or work with children. But what most of you did sign up for was teaching and interacting with young minds. You all have done such a wonderful job so far in providing great resources and learning opportunities for our families. Now as we move forward the amount of interaction, instruction and engagement are going to increase. Here are some tips. It's going to be ok to make mistakes. It is ok for a lesson to not go as plan. It is ok for "technical difficulties" to cause frustrations. We are all figuring this out together and your love for your students will shine through no matter the hurdle you encounter. You are going to do a great job!

Students- I am fairly confident that this is not how any of you saw this school year going. Whether it was your first year in preschool, your last year as a senior, or anywhere in between, this all has thrown our expectations of how things were supposed to be out the window. What I can assure you is that your teachers and support staff have worked really hard to provide you with as many opportunities to keep your learning going forward even if we aren't at school. What we need from each of you is to take advantage of these opportunities, engage with your teachers, learn for the sake of learning instead of just "for the grade". I know it would be easy to say that this is voluntary and "I don't have to do it", but what

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I can assure you is that if you do engage and connect during this time, you will grow as a student and person because of it. You will gain new information, you will learn new ways to learn and connect, you will see your peers and teachers in a different way, and if you engage in this, you will come out stronger than before.

While none of this is ideal and there will be struggles as we move forward, I am confident in our J-Hawk community of teachers, staff, students, and parents, that we will all give our best effort and when all is said and done we will look back with pride in how we tackled this challenge head-on. Take care J-Hawk family and stay #jhawkproud.

Thank you,

Nathan Marting, Superintendent