

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

April 8, 2020

Dear Jesup Parents, Students, and Staff,

In accordance with the Governor's closure of all school buildings through at least April 30th, the Jesup teachers, administrative team, and school board have been working hard to put together a Continuous Learning Plan for the duration of this school closure. We, first of all, would like to thank all of the teachers and support staff for their hard work over the recent weeks in providing a variety of learning opportunities. We also thank you as students and parents for engaging in these activities as you have adjusted to all of the changes during this time.

It is now our plan moving forward to provide a more structured and targeted approach for the coming weeks to ensure that we are providing the fullest educational opportunities we can to ensure our students are best prepared for when we return to school. Building principals will be communicating out the specific plans for each of their buildings and you will receive further details from each of your individual teachers. As we work through these uncharted waters, together, we do not expect you as parents to fill the role of a teacher. As teachers, we will work hard to not overburden you or your child as we understand these are very challenging times for all of us. What we will do is provide various opportunities through videoconferencing, pre-recorded lessons, set office hours, and a variety of projects and assignments that we **expect** students to engage in. This work and these activities will not be graded and will not have an impact on your child's grade. The review of previous material and new material will be covered in order to help your child be best prepared for when they return to the regular school setting. While assignments will not be graded, teachers will provide meaningful feedback on all work submitted in order to provide checks for understanding. Please be patient with us as we navigate this process for the first time along with you. We will likely need to adapt, adjust, and sometimes pivot our work as we "figure all of this out", but what I can assure you is that each and every one of our teachers has your child's best interest in mind as we work through this together.

Our second-semester courses in 5th-12th grade will likely have the option to move to Pass/Fail status for grading purposes, if they elect to choose so. We have received guidance from the Department of Education on this matter and it was shared by the Iowa Regent Universities that Pass/Fail status will not have a negative effect on college admission requirements due to these unprecedented circumstances. We are still waiting on additional guidance on post-secondary institutions outside of the state as well as the NCAA Clearinghouse to ensure that a Pass/Fail status would not have a negative effect on students who possibly would be pursuing admissions and/or Division I athletics. We believe having this option is the

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most appropriate method to award credit for second-semester coursework given the significant loss of days and instruction. We are continuing to seek guidance from the Department of Education on what options are available for students who were receiving a failing grade in a course prior to the March 16th closure. It is our hope to find a path forward for all of our students that provides the greatest amount of flexibility and latitude while aligning with what is permissible at the state level. As we receive additional clarity and guidance, we will continue to provide updated information to everyone.

Please take care of yourself and those around you. If you have any questions in regards to these updates, please do not hesitate to call or email us. Stay strong J-Hawks!

Thank you,

Nathan Marting, Superintendent