

JESUP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



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Dear Jesup Parents, Students, and Staff,

I hope everyone is doing well as we continue to work through these challenging and uncertain times. I have been so proud of the work that all of you have done over these past weeks as we have navigated our Continuous Learning Plan. I know that this has not been ideal for most of us but the “can do” attitude that everyone has taken shows our true J-Hawk spirit. I would ask that you continue to engage and persevere through this work as we finish the school year. Below I have provided a few updates to share from the district perspective. All of you will continue to receive building level and classroom updates from your principals and teachers with additional details.

End of School Year- At our May school board meeting last night, the board approved modifications to the current 2019-20 school year. The last day of our Continuous Learning Plan will now be May 22nd for students (your official last day of school!) The following week (May 26th-29th) will be spent by teachers and support staff closing out the school year and making plans for the start of the 2020-21 school year. We know that there will be many changes and adjustments that need to take place as we return to school in the fall and this additional time will allow our teachers to assess the material that was covered during our remote learning, identify student engagement levels, and then begin to adjust our plans as we prepare for the fall. Building principals will be sending additional communication to teachers on the schedule of work during this time.

Return to Learn Plans- The State has provided additional guidance this past week for districts as we begin developing our Return to Learn plans for this fall. This multifaceted plan will be developed by our administrators, staff, and support staff and submitted to the State for approval by July 1st. This plan will include how our district will address on-site learning, future remote learning, as well as possible hybrid systems. We will not only review academic standards and learning, but also the social-emotional needs of our students and staff, the health precautions necessary, equitable access to education, and a list of other topics to ensure a safe and successful return to school. This plan will be developed collaboratively and shared with the public with the top priority of ensuring the health of our students and staff while working to meet the academic needs of all of our learners.

Grading Procedures- The district is committed to providing as much flexibility, latitude, and grace to our students while calculating grades for the second semester. The district will offer a Pass/Incomplete

option to all students for second-semester grades if they choose. A student's grades will default to the traditional A, B, C, D, F, but if a student who prefers the grade to not impact their grade point average negatively, they may elect to take the grade as a Pass. The Pass grade does not impact grade point averages but counts towards graduation and is recognized for college admissions. A student may take certain course grades in the traditional format and others as a Pass/Incomplete if they elect. If a student is failing a course for second-semester that course will be marked as Incomplete and the student will be given a specific timeline (set by the building principal and teacher) in order to bring that grade to passing. If after that timeline the grade has not improved to passing, the grade will then be converted to an F. The high school and middle school principals will be communicating specific details on these procedures as we close out the school year.

Graduation- This Sunday, May 17th at 2 p.m., our 2020 graduates will be lined up along 6th Street to be recognized. Senior banners have been hung along 6th Street thanks to the support from Convey Sign Solutions as well as the City of Jesup. The district is still working to hold a modified in-person commencement ceremony with alternative dates set in June, July, and even August if necessary depending on guidance from Public Health. However, we feel it is still important to honor the original date of graduation and recognize our senior class. Graduates will stand along 6th Street near the banner recognizing them while practicing proper social distancing. Parents, community members, and classmates are encouraged to drive up and down 6th Street, waving, honking, displaying signs, and congratulating our senior class. We ask that all individuals remain in their vehicles at all times and be cautious while driving along the route. Additional details on the events will be communicated to seniors and their families from Mr. Rea. Congratulations to all of our Seniors and while this may not have been the year you have expected, the memories that you will have will certainly be like no other graduating class!

Summer Child Care Program- The district is continuing to monitor State guidelines and consulting with Public Health as we consider opening up our summer childcare program. It is our hope and expectation that we will be able to offer summer childcare starting June 1st on a limited basis but we are still awaiting further guidance from the Governor's office. The safety of our students and staff who are involved in the childcare program will be our top priority in making those decisions. It is our hope that by the end of this week, we will have a final decision in regards to this. Mr. Sabers, Community Recreation Director, will be sending out further information once this decision has officially been made.

Pick up of Student Items- The question of retrieving students' personal belongings has come up at various times. For our senior students, they will be able to pick up their items and return any school items this Thursday from 1-4 p.m. Mr. Rea has sent information on specific procedures to those students and parents. It is our plan at this time to schedule pick up for students in preschool through 11th grade during the week of May 26th. Specific details on the procedures that we will use and time slots for pick up will be communicated from the building principals to you. We will not be allowing students or parents in the buildings during this time, but rather we will be bagging student items ahead of time and delivering those to parent vehicles as you drive up. Staff assisting with this process will be wearing appropriate PPE and maintaining social distancing. We ask when you arrive to pick up items that you also have all school-issued items (computers, textbooks, uniforms, etc.) with you for return at this time. Again, specific dates and times for pick up during this week will be provided to you from your child's building principal.

As I close, I again would like to thank each of you for your support, patience, and positive attitudes during this time. The teachers for their creativity in providing remote learning, the support staff in

meeting our individual student needs, our custodians in cleaning the buildings, the drivers and food service staff for meal deliveries, the secretaries for coordinating efforts between staff and families, principals for your leadership and communication, parents/guardians for your support and encouragement of your children, and most importantly for our students as you have to endure some trying times and disruptions to your lives, we thank each of you for making us all #jhawkproud! If you have any questions on any of the above information or at any time as we move forward, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to help and support you in any way that we are able to.

Thank you and take care,

Nathan Marting
Superintendent