

Re: Jackson Center Schools Re-Start Letter #3

8/7/20

Dear Parents and Members of the Jackson Center Community:

This letter will address two important "Back to School" topics: **Face Coverings and Remote Learning**. These two topics certainly have become more related since the governor's announcement mandating masks on Tuesday 8/4/20.

Face Masks (Coverings): As of the morning of 8/7/20 there is no new guidance posted on the state website regarding face coverings. There is nothing listed in terms of exceptions, rules, guidelines etc., so this letter will attempt to address the issue using previous state guidance posted for various activities, common sense and through the lens of a Jackson Center Student.

• There will be areas that face coverings are absolutely required. We are committed to doing what we can for the protection of our most vulnerable students and staff members. Therefore, we will be requiring face coverings in certain classes and certain areas. The students will know those areas either through a letter or communication on the first day of school.

• We will follow the mandate to the best of our ability. Teachers and administration will remind students to put their face coverings back on if they do not have a legitimate excuse or they are not participating in a situation where a face covering is prohibitive. If a student repeatedly refuses to put their face covering on, a meeting will be held between the administration and the students' parents regarding an online learning option.

• There will be times that face coverings are prohibitive. Lunch, recess, gym class, marching band, demonstrating a phonics skill, outside class where distancing can be easily attained are all examples of times when face coverings would be considered prohibitive or not needed. Consideration will also be made for the various age groups and their ability to wear a mask for prolonged periods of time.

This is definitely a "learn as you go" situation. There is no way we can anticipate every situation and have an answer at this point. We are asking all staff, students and parents to be patient as we figure it out each day.



Remote Learning: Up until the "mask mandate" was issued on Tuesday, we thought we had remote learning figured out. We would respect the choice of some parents and if they **did not** choose a completely separate online school, we decided to renew a previous relationship with an online vendor. Those students would still be Jackson Center Students, but work with teachers not affiliated with our school. However, as the number of students choosing an online option started to grow, we became more concerned with students falling behind or not connecting with their "regular" classroom. We are in the process of putting together options that would allow for:

1) the possibility of a Jackson Center teacher to be a liaison between the online student and the regular classroom

2) the possibility for the student to log in to their regular classes each day

3) continue our relationship with the online vendor.

There are challenges to overcome in all of those options and a few of them may not be feasible, but once we have the numbers figured out, we will contact those choosing online with their final options.

Feel free to ask questions - 937-596-6053 b_reichert@jctigers.org, j_reese@jctigers.org , g_heuker@jctigers.org

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