

Jackson Center Schools

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Re: Jackson Center Schools Re-Start Letter #2

7/22/20

Dear Parents and Members of the Jackson Center Community:

This is the 2nd “Back to School” letter to address more of the details regarding how school will reopen and operate. I first want to thank all of our staff members and parents that represented our community as we went through some of the details and changes of our daily operation for the 20-21 school year. This committee does not have another “set” meeting, but is willing to revisit aspects of school life as the year goes on. In order to make all of the details more concise for parents, a checklist will be created so that everyone knows exactly where and when they can help.

- **Student Drop Off** - The school doors will now be open starting at **7:30**. Students **will be** allowed to go to the cafeteria for breakfast or to their home rooms. Students **will not** be allowed to “hang out” in the hallways, at their lockers or in the locker rooms. Students can stay outside if they choose, but they will not be permitted to stand in the breezeway no matter the weather. We hope that by opening up a little earlier, we can stagger student entrance times a little more and avoid congestion at the opening bell.
- **Student Pick Up** - Our only set change for student pick up is that students will be exiting different doors to relieve congestion. If your student is not a bus rider, they may exit doors 1, 2, 3 or 24 depending on where they are at the end of the day. If we decide to further stagger the pick up times, parents will receive notification from Mr. Reese, Mrs. Heuker or their teacher(s).
- **Face Coverings** - As of today (7/22/20), face coverings are not mandatory for students, however, they are allowed and the wishes of the parents will be respected. Students will be responsible for their face covering, but if they lose one, we will provide a replacement. Face coverings are mandatory for staff. In order for staff to be effective at their jobs, parents may see a variety of them being worn. Many children need to see their teachers’ facial expressions or see their mouths so they can read lips so we will do our best to find the balance between the requirement and what is needed to educate the students in the best way possible. In addition, to ensure a high degree of safety for our staff, some teachers will be requesting their students wear masks in their particular classrooms or work areas. We ask that parents support the request when discussing the subject with their student. It is possible that the teacher request could evolve into a district requirement for attendance in that class if the request is not honored.

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- **Daily Classroom Experiences** - Teachers will do their best to distance students within their classrooms. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends keeping students 3-6+ feet apart and the Center for Disease Control uses the operational definition of 'exposure' as 15 minutes or more. Seats will be assigned and classrooms/high touch areas will be sanitized each day or more when possible.
- **Face to Face/Remote Learning** - Students and parents will have a choice of:
 - (1) Face to face learning at Jackson Center Schools
 - (2) Remote learning through Jackson Center Schools via an outside vendor. In this option, the student remains a Jackson Center student, but does not come to the physical school and is not taught by Jackson Center teachers.
 - (3) Parents can also choose a completely separate online school if they wish.

Please notify the school by August 7th if you are choosing a remote learning option.

If a parent wishes to re-enroll their student into face to face school from an online option after the start of the year, Jackson Center will develop a policy that will address that issue in the near future.

- **Visitors** - Visitors during the school day will be evaluated on a case by case basis and will be limited as much as possible. Visitors will need to safely social distance from the students and staff, wear a mask and not engage with any students in close proximity for prolonged periods of time. Visitors may also be subject to temperature checks. Further details regarding parent involvement with birthday parties, holidays etc. will be sent home by the teachers or principals.
- **Lunch** - The smaller lunch periods will have students spread out in the cafeteria so that social distancing can be achieved as much as possible. For the larger lunch periods, the village of Jackson Center will be bringing over picnic tables so that students can sit outside and spread out as much as possible. When there is inclement weather, grade levels will be staggered upon entering the lunch room and other parts of the building will be utilized to keep the students spread out as much as possible. At the start of the year, there will be no salad bar offered and the al-a cart line will be mostly 'grab and go' types of food.
- **Recess** - We will do our best to go outside as much as possible even during the winter months. We will monitor temperature, wind chill and other factors, but the ability to spread out and exercise will help our kids stay strong and healthy. We will be asking parents to make sure all students are adequately prepared for outside recess.

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- **Field Trips** - Each field trip request will be handled on a case by case basis and viewed through the lens of having the ability to social distance and limit contact. Parents will have the ability to “say no” to a field trip for their child if the original field trip request is granted by the administration.
- **Staff or Student Feeling ill** - We will do our best to isolate the person feeling ill and make sure they are sent home as quickly as possible no matter what the illness.
- **Confirmed Case of Covid-19 by Staff or Student** - We will work closely with the Shelby County Health Department if/when we have a confirmed Covid-19 case. They will provide us with information about the confirmed case and we will aid them with any contact tracing if asked to do so.
- **After School Activities** - We have no intention of shutting down any after school activities or sports. However, mandates may change from the Ohio Departments of Health and Education and we may need to adjust.

Please understand that each day there are changes regarding how our state and local officials handle this pandemic. We will do our best to keep up and keep you informed.

Feel free to ask questions -

Bill