

# Jackson Center Schools

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Re: Jackson Center Schools Re-Start Letter

7/14/20

Dear Parents and Members of the Jackson Center Community:

We hope that you are all enjoying your summer thus far. This letter is the first in a series that attempts to summarize the public meeting held on Tuesday, July 7th and our committee meetings regarding Jackson Center students and their return to school. I would like to start with **WHY** returning to school is so important so below you will find excerpts from a report put together by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

*“The American Academy of Pediatrics released a set of guidelines for re-entry to school with the latest version issued on June 25th, 2020. In that document, the doctors strongly advocate that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having **students physically present in school**. The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020. Lengthy time away from school and associated interruption of supportive services often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to identify and address important learning deficits as well as child and adolescent physical or sexual abuse, substance use, depression, and suicidal ideation.*

*This, in turn, places children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity and, in some cases, mortality.*

*Beyond the educational impact and social impact of school closures, there has been substantial impact on food security and physical activity for children and families.”*

*“Policy makers must also consider the mounting evidence regarding COVID-19 in children and adolescents, including the role they may play in transmission of the infection. SARS-CoV-2 appears to behave differently in children and adolescents than other common respiratory viruses, such as influenza, on which much of the current guidance regarding school closures is based. Although children and adolescents play a major role in amplifying influenza outbreaks, to date, this does not appear to be the case with SARS-CoV-2. **Although many questions remain, the preponderance of evidence indicates that children and adolescents are less likely to be symptomatic and less likely to have severe disease resulting from SARS-CoV-2 infection. In addition, children may be less likely to become infected and to spread infection.** Policies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within schools must be balanced with the known harms to children, adolescents, families, and the community by keeping children at home.”*

[COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry](#)

We understand that it is very difficult to wade your way through the politics and drama put forth by our media. We understand how confusing all the information might be and that you may be apprehensive for your children and the rest of your family. The choice is clearly yours, **but at the end of the day, we want your kids back!** We believe that physically attending Jackson Center Schools is the best place for them to safely learn and grow.

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## Items of note from the July 7 open meeting and July 13 committee meeting:

- Statistics from all over the world verifies the thoughts shared by the AAP, but we also acknowledge the risk caused by the COVID-19 virus and we take it seriously.
- We will respect the decision of every parent. If you are not ready to send your student to school on August 20th, we understand. Other choices **could** include online independent study classes arranged through the Midwest Regional Educational Service Center or Jackson Center Schools or even a separate online school. Except in extreme special needs circumstances or a complete shutdown of our school, JC teachers **will not** be providing online schooling.
- No decision about how your child will receive their schooling has to last the entire year. Parents can re-evaluate on a daily basis and as long as we have a little lead time, you can change your mind on taking your child out or bringing them back to school.
- Students in the building for sports or extracurricular activities before school starts will be asked to socially distance as much as their activity allows and parents will be required to sign a participation release for their student.
- Cleaning supplies and protective equipment is being compiled for the start of school. Classrooms and high touch areas will be sanitized each day or more when possible. Protective barriers will be installed at high traffic areas where distance cannot always be maintained.
- We are asking all parents to check your students for signs and symptoms of illness on a daily basis before they come to school. **If they are showing multiple or severe signs of illness, please keep them home.** Spot checks will be done by staff members if a fever or other signs of illness appear in a student at school. Parents will need to pick their student up from school if requested.
- As of 7/13/20, Jackson Center staff members will be required to wear face coverings when they are working in close proximity to the students. **Students are not required** to wear face coverings, however, they may be asked to wear them in certain circumstances for the health and safety of others. Those special requests will be made through a teacher or principal.
- We are asking all parents of **bus riders** to bring their students to school **if they are able.** This will cut down on the number of students and enable us to socially distance on the bus a little better. Any help, even if it's temporary, is very appreciated.

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## Jackson Center Open House - August 18th 6:30-8:00 - REVISED

In an effort to reduce the number of people attending Open House on August 18th, Jackson Center Schools will be taking the following actions:

- **Open House** will only be for grades **Pre-School, Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 2nd grade, 4th grade and 6th grade**. These are transition years and students and parents are welcome to visit their teachers and classrooms. We ask that you choose a time that is convenient for you, but does not have to be at exactly 6:30. Arriving a little later may help spread the number of people out over the course of the evening. Please only attend with parent(s) or guardian(s) and possibly siblings if childcare is not an option.
- There will be **NO Open House for 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th-12th grades except for new students or by request**. If you have a new student or you want to bring your student in to meet with a teacher, please contact the office and let us know who you need to see and when you will arrive.

Please remember that this document and the ones to come are very fluid. Changes occur each day. We will do our best to follow the recommendations put forth by the Ohio Departments of Health and Education, but 100% fidelity will be next to impossible. We will monitor and correct purposeful violations of our policies and practices, but we know mistakes will be made and we will work through them without punitive consequences.

More to come in the near future,

Bill Reichert  
Superintendent