

RETURN TO INSTRUCTION MESSAGE

Good morning!

As Superintendent of the Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools, I am anxious to welcome students back to campus for the 2020-2021 school year on August 12, 2020. We have spent countless hours planning each and every detail for a safe return to school for our students and staff. We recognize our part in providing for a safe learning environment and serving as a vital partner in our local economy. All components of our reopening plan follow directives from Governor Eric Holcomb and consider guidance from the CDC, Indiana State Department of Health, Dubois County Health Department and Indiana Department of Education. Our goal is to use a data-based approach to determining school operations as it relates to mitigating COVID-19 as an ongoing reality we must navigate.

Even though we hope to return at our regularly scheduled date, school will look a bit different than when we left on March 13.

Students will be given the option of returning to in-person instruction five days per week OR they may choose to participate in a COVID Online Academy.

The traditional face-to-face education includes contingency plans for eLearning if conditions change per guidance from the Governor or State and Local Health Departments. These contingency plans may result in intermittent closures with temporary shifts to eLearning to manage potential need for deep cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

EdOptions Academy will serve as our COVID virtual learning option for students that have factors that may prevent them from attending through the traditional approach. The EdOptions curriculum is limited to core components in language arts, math, science and social studies. Students are enrolled during the regular registration process and those who opt into the COVID virtual option must commit to the program by semester. There will be a drop/add period available till September 1. It is important to note that students opting for EdOptions WILL NOT be eligible to participate in school athletics or extracurricular activities.

Many health and safety protocols will be implemented to aid in mitigating all illnesses including COVID-19.

- School facilities will continue to undergo daily cleaning and disinfecting. Hand sanitizer and disinfecting supplies will be available in every classroom and in all high traffic areas for use throughout the day.
- All students and staff will be expected to daily self-monitor temperature and symptoms. If you are ill, please STAY HOME. Individuals who become ill at school will have a special isolation room with added protocols to ensure safety.
- The use of face coverings or masks is recommended. All students and staff will be provided with cloth face masks to be used at their discretion. The use of masks are recommended while riding the school bus, transitioning in hallways, standing in line or during small groups or labs.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles as fountain mouth pieces will be closed. Some bottle fill stations will be available for refills.
- Hand washing and respiratory hygiene will be taught and promoted by all students and staff.
- Students can expect assigned seating on school buses, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, and other locations. Social distancing is challenging, therefore we will do our best arrange classrooms and transitions throughout the buildings in a way that can promote this to the extent possible. However, proper hand washing, the use of face coverings, respiratory hygiene and staying home when sick can proactively aid our cause.
- Visitors will not be permitted in schools.

As stated earlier, we are working to mitigate exposure to COVID-19 but we are unable to eliminate the potential of contracting the illness. However, we do believe our students learn best when they are in an environment that promotes them being physically present for social, emotional and academic learning.

Please visit our website, www.gjcs.k12.in.us for further detail about our plans to return to school.

Our best laid plans are fluid and may change as a result of shifts in our state and local data. We will communicate openly about potential changes as they become available. Again, we look forward to the return of our students and staff on August 12, 2020.

Thank-you