

September 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I apologize in advance for the lengthy message but there is a lot of detailed information that I would like to share regarding our transition to the Hybrid Synchronous model next week. In order to make the information easier to reference, I have broken up the various aspects of our new model into topics below.

Cohorts

Students have been grouped into one of two cohorts based on their primary address within Janitell’s borders and they will attend school on their cohort’s designated day. These cohorts were designed to keep households together within the same cohort for all students 6-12 and the district will send out communication regarding how to identify your student’s assigned cohort. We have worked diligently to prepare each individual classroom to host students safely within Health Department guidelines. Due to the impact of moving even a single student from one cohort to another, we will not move students from their assigned cohort. Student cohorts will attend school in-person based on the schedule below. **This schedule will not be in effect until the week of October 5th due to the waterfall start (see below).**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<i>Purple Day</i>	<i>White Day</i>	<i>Purple Day</i>	<i>White Day</i>
Cohort A (West)	Online	In-Person	In-Person	Online	Online
Cohort B (East)	Online	Online	Online	In-Person	In-Person

Waterfall Start

In order to assist the transition to the schedule above, all secondary schools will employ a Waterfall Start to this new learning format. This means that students will receive in-person instruction at Janitell **one day per week** for the first two weeks. Students will follow the following schedules for the weeks of September 21st and September 28th:

Week of September 21st:

	Monday 9/21	Tuesday 9/22	Wednesday 9/23	Thursday 9/24	Friday 9/25
		<i>Purple Day</i>	<i>White Day</i>	<i>Purple Day</i>	<i>White Day</i>
Cohort A (West)	Online	In-Person	Online	Online	Online
Cohort B (East)	Online	Online	Online	In-Person	Online

Week of September 28th:

	Monday 9/28	Tuesday 9/29	Wednesday 9/30	Thursday 10/1	Friday 10/2
		<i>Purple Day</i>	<i>White Day</i>	<i>Purple Day</i>	<i>White Day</i>
Cohort A (West)	Online	Online	In-Person	Online	Online
Cohort B (East)	Online	Online	Online	Online	In-Person

Students will return to school on October 6th, using the standard Hybrid Synchronous model that includes two in-person learning days per week.

Monday Classes

We will continue to utilize Mondays as an abbreviated, online-only school day but we have modified our Monday schedule so that students can check in with each of their teachers in preparation for the week. Students will spend more time in class with our new model, and that will include an increased workload as we move towards a typical school schedule. Students will continue to utilize their teacher's online platform to access their classes on the following schedule:

Monday Schedule		
Block	Time	Minutes
Block 1 Purple	7:26-7:50	24
Block 2 Purple	8:00-8:20	20
Block 3 Purple	8:30-8:50	20
Block 4 Purple/White	9:00-9:20	20
Block 1 White	9:30-9:50	20
Block 2 White	10:00-10:20	20
Block 3 White	10:30-10:50	20

Bell Schedule

The Hybrid Synchronous schedule will hopefully serve as a transition back to a standard school day for students so we are increasing the amount of time students spend in each class, while still being aware of their overall screen time during the day. However, this new schedule will be a significant increase in daily class time from our current Distance Learning format. If you choose to keep your student in Distance Learning beginning next week, they will still follow this new daily schedule. As a reminder, if you choose to keep your student in the Distance Learning format, they will remain in that format through the rest of the first semester or until we move into an in-person modified schedule. In order to follow a synchronous model wherein all students are moving quicker through the curriculum, **in-person and online students will both follow the bell schedule below:**

Tuesday - Friday Schedule		
Purple Day	Time/Minutes	White Day
Entry Bell	7:19-7:26 (7)	Entry Bell
Block 1	7:26-8:41 (75)	Block 1
Passing	8:41-8:47 (6)	Passing
Block 2	8:47-10:02 (75)	Block 2
Lunch (6th Grade)	10:02-10:32 (30)	Lunch (6th Grade)
Passing (7/8)	10:02-10:08 (6)	Passing (7/8)
Block 3 (7/8)	10:08-11:23 (75)	Block 3 (7/8)
Passing (6th Grade)	10:32-10:38 (6)	Passing (6th Grade)
Block 3 (6th Grade)	10:38-11:53 (75)	Block 3 (6th Grade)
Lunch (7/8)	11:23-11:53 (30)	Lunch (7/8)
Passing	11:53-11:59 (6)	Passing
Block 4	11:59-1:14 (75)	Block 4

In-Person vs. Online Learning

With this new format, we are entering into yet another unique learning environment, especially at the junior high level. In order to manage students in class and online, teachers will focus their attention on the students in class, while live streaming their instruction to students at home. Each teacher will communicate protocols and expectations for students attending class virtually, including how students can ask questions, submit assignments, and prepare for their next in-person meeting.

Staggered Entry, Passing Periods, and Lunch

In order to minimize the amount of contact between students in the building, we will allow each grade level to enter the building and transition between classes in a staggered schedule. Students will also have additional locations to choose from to eat their lunch both inside and outside of the building so that we can maintain appropriate distancing. We will communicate our new building entry expectations later in the week, but none of these new measures will affect the normal drop off or bus arrival time in the morning.

This year has been one long stretch of planning, revising plans, pivoting to new models, and making adjustments on the fly. I appreciate the patience and hard work from students, parents, and Janitell staff throughout this process. We are all working diligently to make the best of this situation and we will continue to learn and make adjustments during the first few weeks of Hybrid Synchronous Learning. If you have any questions, please call the front office at 391-3295.

Sincerely,
Sean McCune
Principal