





JARRELL ISD


Ready, Set, Learn!

JARRELL ISD'S PLAN TO ENSURE THAT EVERY STUDENT RECEIVES AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION DURING THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR.

## Frequently Asked Questions About the 2020-2021 School Year Updated as of July 22, 2020

### School Day and Calendar Questions

#### **What is the first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year?**

School will begin on Thursday, August 19, 2020. A copy of the 2020-2021 school calendar can be found on the JISD [2020-21 CALENDAR](#)

#### **What time will school start and end at the campus for the 2020-2021 school year?**

The JMS school day will begin at 8:10AM and run through 3:29 (Virtual Only) or 3:50 (On Campus Instruction).

On Campus Instruction			Virtual-only Schedule		
1st	8:10	9:01	1st	8:10	8:40
2nd	9:05	9:56	2nd	9:05	9:35
3rd (HR)	10:00	10:35	3rd (HR)	10:00	10:30
4th	10:39	11:30	4th	10:39	11:09
<b>A Lunch</b>	11:30	12:00	5th	11:34	12:04
5th	12:03	1:06	<b>Lunch</b>	12:04	1:04
<i>or</i>					
5th	11:34	12:03	6th	1:10	1:40
<b>B Lunch</b>	12:03	12:33	7th	2:04	2:34
5th	12:36	1:06	8th	2:59	3:29
<i>or</i>					
5th	11:34	12:36			
<b>C Lunch</b>	12:36	1:06			
6th	1:10	2:00			
7th	2:04	2:55			
8th	2:59	3:50			



## **What will school look like in August 2020?**

For the 2020-2021 school year, Jarrell ISD will offer both remote and in-person instruction. Please refer to the JISD Return to School Plan:

[Jarrell ISD Return to School Plan 2020-2021](#)

## **Are food deliveries allowed on school campuses for students during the 2020-2021 school year?**

NO. Outside food of any kind may not be delivered and distributed to students on campus.

## **Will the minimum student attendance for class credit rule be in effect for the 2020– 2021 school year?**

Yes. The Texas Education Agency will not be issuing waivers for the rule. Students are required to attend at least 90% of their classes (with some exceptions) to receive credit and be promoted. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as on-campus attendance in satisfying this requirement. More information regarding attendance requirements can be found from the Texas Education Agency at [TEA 20-21 Attendance FAQ](#).

## **What measures will the Campus take to lessen the spread of infectious disease for those who attend school in person?**

Please review the District plan for a comprehensive list of mitigating actions the District is taking to stop the spread of COVID-19 beginning on page 11 at the following link: [Jarrell ISD Return to School Plan 2020-2021](#)

## **How will transportation work?**

Students will arrive and leave the JMS campus at their normal arrival and dismissal times per the JMS bell schedule. The transportation department is redesigning bus routes to reduce the number of students on a bus at one time. Bus routes will be finalized once families make their selection of instructional settings. Weather permitting, windows on buses will be opened to allow outside air to circulate in the bus. Buses will be disinfected after each trip, focusing on high touch surfaces. Updated JISD transportation information will be posted at [JISD Transportation](#).

The parents of students participating in extracurricular activities that require transportation but are enrolled in Virtual Learning will have the option to transport their students to and from games, however, this should be coordinated with the head coach of that sport.

## **If my student is attending the in-person option but then becomes ill, or if our family is placed under quarantine orders, will my student be counted absent?**

Your student will NOT be counted absent if the student is well enough to participate in remote instruction daily for the period of time that he/she is home. Per State guidelines, attendance must still be counted daily, but **full participation in remote instruction will allow students to be counted as present.**

## **Remote Instruction Questions**

## **Will parents be able to choose remote instruction or face-to-face instruction for their child(ren)?**

August 3-7, parents are asked to declare the instructional setting for their children for the 2020-2021 school year. Specifically, parents will be asked to select whether their children will return to campus for face-to-face instruction or participate in the District's remote instruction model. The District is requesting that parents make the selection by August 7. When making a choice, **parents agree to maintain that choice at a minimum until the next nine week grading period** ([TEA 2020-21 Public Health Guidance for School](#) page 3 paragraph 1). Having all parents declare their selection by this date will assist the District in finalizing important arrangements such as class rosters, bus routes, and remote teaching assignments. *If no selection is made, the student will automatically default to the on-campus option.* Due to the quickly changing landscape, parents will have the opportunity to amend their selection through August 6, but selections will be locked for the first grading period after August 7.

## **What will remote instruction look like?**

Remote instruction will look much different than it did in the spring. Families should expect a daily time commitment similar to on-campus instruction. Instruction will be more robust in and will include expectations, guidelines, and accountability for students, parents, and staff. The goal of remote instruction is to match the level of rigor used during in person instruction. In addition, remote instruction grading guidelines, time on tasks, attendance requirements, and other practices and expectations will match in-person instruction as closely as is reasonably possible. This will include a daily measure of engagement. Our remote instructional model will be asynchronous, which means that students will not have to live-stream the entire school day in order to be counted present. There will be a few times each week, perhaps daily, that we do ask students to log in and participate in a live-stream with a group of classmates or the teacher. Those times would be scheduled in advance and would be a developmentally-appropriate length of time. Students would then be able to log off, do their work independently, and turn it in or log back on for the next check-in to show their work. Students will work for approximately 3-5 hours each day, depending upon their grade level. However, this would not have to be all in one sitting. We will be releasing sample schedules closer to the beginning of school, but these are still in development.

## **Will remote instruction require technology devices?**

Yes. Students will access course materials primarily through Google Classroom. This will require both a device and daily access to the internet. For families who choose to commit to remote instruction full-time, this is an important consideration. Although JISD can loan devices to many of our students, families who live in areas with limited cell/internet provider coverage should consider their ability to visit WiFi hotspots to download and upload work on a regular basis.

## **Will JISD utilize paper packets again as an alternative to online delivery?**

Paper packets **WILL NOT** be a stand-alone instructional option for students in 2020-2021. Because students must engage daily with coursework and/or a teacher, and because the postal mail takes several days or weeks to be delivered, it is not feasible for daily learning that keeps pace with students attending class in person. If a student needs hard copies of instructional items, parents will need to make pick-up arrangements with the remote instructor and the campus.

## **If we choose remote learning as our full-time option, does that mean my student will never need to attend campus in-person?**

Choosing the Remote Learning option does NOT always mean your student will never need to attend campus in-person. If students are enrolled in certain courses that require assignments that cannot be reasonably completed remotely (Athletics, Band, & Theatre), then they may be required to come to campus periodically to demonstrate learning.



**If a remote learning student decides to complete the entire week's worth of work on Monday, can the student's attendance be coded to show "present" for the entire week? Or if a student is counted "absent" because he/she fails to complete Monday's assignment but completes it later in the week, can the student's attendance for that Monday be changed to "present?"**

**No.** *Student engagement is measured daily*, therefore, attendance is assigned based on the student's completion of that day's engagement measure. Students who do not complete the daily measure of engagement are to be counted "absent" for that day, and that absence cannot be changed to "present" if the student completes the engagement measure on a later date. In the example above, the student would be counted absent Tuesday-Friday. For any further information, please refer to the guidance from the Texas Education Agency on the [TEA Attendance and Enrollment FAQ](#).

**Will parents be able to change their decision for a student to receive remote or face-to-face instruction after the school year begins?**

Yes. At the end of a nine weeks grading period, campus staff will work with families to change learning models should parents request it. ***Parents must notify the campus of their desire to make a change prior to the end of the current grading period*** for the change to be effective at the start of the next grading period. ([TEA 2020-21 Public Health Guidance for School](#) - See the "Attendance and Enrollment" section)

**Can my student be moved from a number grading system to a pass/fail basis because they are participating in remote learning?**

No. The District's grading policies for remote instruction must be consistent with the grading policies for on-campus assignments.



**Will schools provide meals to students if they participate in remote instruction?**

For students participating in remote instruction, access to a weekly supply of lunch/breakfast combos will be available for pick-up at a District centralized location. Please check the JISD website for additional information at [JISD Website - COVID 19](#).

## **Other Instructional Questions**

**Will services for students with special needs continue?**

Yes. Special education, 504, and ESL services will be provided at each campus. As required by Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), special education services are based on the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Committee decision. Services through Section 504 are determined by the 504 Committee, and accommodations for English Learners are determined by the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC). The scope and delivery of services may be updated based on state and federal guidelines pertaining to the instructional setting due to COVID-19.



## **Will students still be able to participate in extra-curricular/co-curricular programs?**

Students who select Virtual Learning may participate in extracurricular activities that are not offered in virtual format if they meet applicable UIL requirements, are enrolled in the applicable extracurricular course, and are able to attend on-campus practice and competitions. Students must have their own transportation to and from campus for practices, rehearsals. On the JMS campus, these programs would be limited to Athletics, Band, and Theatre programs.

To play in competitions, students enrolled in Virtual Learning are required to participate

## **Will there be a STAAR test this year?**

TEA has communicated that all aspects of the State's Academic Accountability System, including administration of the STAAR exam, will be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year. Any STAAR testing related updates will be posted as we receive them on the [Jarrell ISD Website](#).

## **How will state testing, including STAAR, work for students in full-time remote instruction?**

Although *we are still waiting for full guidance*, current indications are that students would be required to come to campus and take state assessments in-person. The District will work to create a flexible schedule for this purpose so that the addition of remote students will not cause a campus to become too crowded to maintain safety protocols.

## **School Closures**

### **If a student tests positive for COVID-19 in a classroom, and students were not wearing a mask, will the entire class have to quarantine?**

Possibly, but not usually. Current public school guidance is that when the school is made aware of a lab-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, the school contacts local health authorities with the known details. The local health authority will determine what individuals qualify as having been in "close contact" and required to stay home for 14 days. During such a period of time, if students feel well enough to work while at home, they can utilize remote learning to still be counted present.

### **How will the school let me know if my child was around someone with COVID-19?**

Any time a school learns that a teacher, student, or staff member tested positive for the virus, parents will be notified by email via School Messenger. We are still seeking guidance on the level of information that we can share to provide parents with as much relevant information as is helpful, while still protecting each individual's privacy that is guaranteed by FERPA and HIPAA federal statutes. Please refer to the state guidance from TEA on the [TEA 2020-21 Public Health Guidance for School](#).

### **At what point would you consider closing an entire campus?**

Although closing an entire campus would be a last resort, it may be a possible action if the level of illness prevents safe operations of the campus. We are currently developing internal guidelines that would assist in this decision-making if other operational efforts were unsuccessful at being able to keep healthy students learning in-person. The TEA recommends that campuses may not close for longer than a few days, and even then only if a different level of cleaning

across the entire campus was necessary. Should a campus need to close for a longer period, students would engage in remote learning for the duration of the school closure.



## **Other Operational Questions**

### **How can I know that other families are truly keeping their child home when sick?**

By sending their child to school, families are agreeing that they have screened at home for symptoms of any infectious illness, including COVID-19. We acknowledge that this agreement is based upon a community of mutual trust. If a staff member notices that a student shows unusual symptoms, they will follow procedures to immediately have the student screened and possibly isolated in a designated location until the student is picked up from campus.

### **Why are you not taking the temperatures of every child at school?**

State health and safety guidance indicates that temperature checks are highly unreliable as a means of detecting COVID-19. Children have natural variations in forehead temperatures with activity levels, and thermometers have varying reliability depending upon brand and model. In addition, children frequently do not run a fever with COVID-19, so a normal temperature reading could create a false sense of security. Should a staff member notice that a student is not acting like him/herself, the student will have a temperature check and be screened for any other symptoms. JISD has secured multiple temporal thermometers for every campus to ensure that temperatures can be checked any time a staff member refers a student to the campus nurse and he or she deems it necessary to ensure the wellbeing of your child.

### **Why are you requiring masks for all Middle School students?**

Because students are grouped by grade level rather than numerical age, we will require face coverings for all JMS students on campus except when they are eating or drinking. This will ensure that our focus is on the safety of the class, not monitoring from week to week the list of students with new face covering requirements as they celebrate a birthday. In addition, because the physical layout of the building or certain instructional activities will create situations in which social distancing is difficult, we will require a face covering during all class times, passing periods, and any transition. This will help reduce a student's amount of time in close proximity to another student's uncovered face, and therefore the level of viral load a child could encounter. Our goal is to keep students as healthy as possible at all times. For more information concerning the Texas requirements or student masks, please visit [TEA 2020-21 Public Health Guidance for School](#) - Health and Hygiene.

Schools in the state of Texas are not required to provide a mask for each student, however, we are required to ensure that every student on the JMS campus complies with the state directive to wear a mask during all appropriate times while on campus.

### **I am concerned that my child will not be able to breathe freely wearing a mask. What options do I have?**

Students can wear face coverings that include masks (attaching at the ears), gaiters or "buffs," or face shields (clear plastic covering the entire face). A family is free to send students with a covering from home that best meets the student's needs. A stand alone, clear plastic face shield may provide a solution for students who cannot tolerate or do not want a covering that touches the face.

**Students who report to school without an approved mask MAY be sent home and not allowed to attend class for the day. This decision is at the discretion of the campus administration.**

## Athletic Game Requirements:

1. Entry fee WILL be charged for athletic competitions. **You MUST pre-purchase tickets through [Ticket Spicket](#) prior to arrival at the competition site. This is a “No Touch” system for game entry.**
2. Competition sites may be cleared at the conclusion of each game.
3. **All spectators must comply with the mask requirements from TEA** or will be required to leave the competition site. All spectators must wear a mask for ALL indoor sports venues.
4. Competition sites are required to remain under the estimated capacity by 50% . Examples of this at JMS would be Gym A limited to 125 and Gym B limited to 87 people in the gym for a competition.