



JAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Students, Parents, Staff, Board Members and Community Members,

I want to take this opportunity today to say “Thank you” for giving me the opportunity to be your Superintendent of Jay Public Schools. I am honored to be in this position, even though it is a time of which none of us have ever experienced and will be more challenging than ever before. I will work hard and be very committed to continue to improve Jay Public Schools. During this time of uncertainty, our staff and students’ safety will be our top priority. We will do everything in our power to take the precautions needed and follow state and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to the best of our ability.

I became official on July 1st, so that is why I am just now posting this letter. Our administration team, counselors, and nurses have been meeting at various times, as well as visiting with doctors and nurses, to address our **Return to Learn Plan** to ensure we do everything possible to keep our students and staff as safe as we can. We have also been in contact with our state organization, Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration, and other schools so that they can help guide us during this unprecedented time. We have already sent out a survey to staff to take into consideration their thoughts, suggestions and recommendations. For parents, I am providing a link to share concerns.([Parent Concerns Addressing School w/Covid](#)) I assure you that we are taking every concern seriously and examining it closely. Gathering all of this information takes time and decisions have to be thought through and looked at from all angles. Our State Department of Education is going to give us more guidance sometime within the next two weeks. Once we receive more guidance from them, we will have a final plan in place that we will share with everyone. However, as you know, things are changing daily and so we have to adjust accordingly and in the best interest of our students and staff.

At this time, we are planning to start school on August 10th for staff and August 13th for students. We will have three options for students to choose from: **Traditional School, Blended Learning and Jay Virtual** (please see the link with more information [JPS Enrollment](#)). This will give parents the option to choose what fits their child and family the best. These options will all be done through Jay Schools and will have access to all facets of Jay Schools, with no cost to anyone.

We are in the process of having our school be a **“one to one”** school. This will mean every student will have a technology device to assist them in learning, whether it be traditional, blended, or virtual. We are providing training to assist our teachers with Google Classroom which will be our Learning Management System. We are currently working on the connectivity issue. We have ordered many hotspots and are working on other things that may assist our students with connectivity issues. We are working hard to resolve as many of these issues as possible.

Our safety plan is still developing with daily changes and input from the state. These are some of the things we have done and are addressing:

- Highly recommend the wearing of masks by all who can wear them. (This may change to mandatory, depending on guidelines from the state.)
- Will have extra masks on hand at each site.
- We have ordered face shields if teachers prefer them over masks.
- We have ordered many touchless hand sanitizers and touchless towel dispensers.
- We have purchased more disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer and wipes.
- Teachers will be given disinfectant spray, wipes and hand sanitizer for their classroom.
- We have backpack sprayers to disinfect buses/classrooms and other facilities.
- We are looking into hiring a company to come and disinfect all buildings daily.
- Staff and Students' temperature will be checked daily upon arrival to school or on the bus.
- We are looking at staggering lunches and times between classes to minimize the number of students eating and exchanging classes.
- Staggering classes will allow fewer students in the restroom at one time.
- We will have an isolation room for students or staff that have temperature, until they can go home.

As safety is our number one priority, these are just some things that are being put in place or discussed. This is not final, as I stated earlier, due to daily changes and guidelines given to us by the Health Department and the State Department. We are limited with the facilities we have, but will do the best we can to provide safety for our students and staff. As always, safety should be our number one concern.

I know there are many unanswered questions still out there, some related to District actions regarding positive cases in a school. We expect guidance from the State Department of Health and our State Department of Education soon. We will communicate that to you as soon as possible.

I hope that you will be positive and encouraging during this unprecedented time as we work through this together. Please know that our administration team, school board, and I will work diligently to provide the safest learning environment possible for our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Leann Barnwell
Superintendent
Jay Public Schools