



JAMESTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mrs. Contessa Pelfrey, Superintendent

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Dear Parents/Guardians

The Virtual Town Hall meeting regarding Public Health and the reopening of schools was held last week. Through that process, many questions and concerns were generated and I wanted to share our District response. First, I want to state that it is always our preference to have students return back to school to an in-person on-campus instructional model. That being said, we must prioritize the health and safety of our staff and students and will only reopen if it is safe to do so. As we continue to see growing numbers of COVID-19 cases in our county and state and hear statements from Governor Newsom on tightening state mandates, it is very much the possibility that we will need to begin our school year with all distance learning for all students.

Currently, the information for reopening is based on state legislation AB77/SB98 which states that school reopening plans must include in-person and distance learning options based upon the health conditions of the community with the primary option being a hybrid approach of both. Even if we need to make the decision to begin with all distance learning at the start of the school year, there will come a time when it is safe to begin the hybrid approach and then eventually provide an open campus for an all in-person education. The district will release our final reopening decision by the end of the month. Here are our options and are as follows:

- Full Distance Learning
 - We are developing a structured online distance learning plan with clear expectations and schedules.
 - Teaching and learning will have accountability with tracking and monitoring daily, record-keeping weekly, and regular communication with parents and guardians on academic progress
 - This option is available to anyone whose child is medically fragile, has vulnerable family members, or is uncomfortable in having an in person return to school at this time.
 - Devices will be made available to any family that needs one

- Hybrid plan (part in-person instruction/ part distance learning)
 - We are looking at an A/B schedule in order to keep classes socially distanced and together in a cohort for better implementation of safety measures
 - All five days would have specific scheduled instruction with two days a week in person and two days a week at home with distance learning and one day where all students would be at home on distance learning (*In order to align with the high schools, we have chosen Wednesdays as the all distance learning day*).
 - If a certain percentage of parents do choose to keep their child home for distance learning, and that reduces any class size to 14 or less, so that it can maintain social distancing guidelines, then those classes will be able to attend all four days of in person instruction and only one day of distance learning on Wednesdays.
 - For those students that attend Chinese Camp Science Academy, and those students in special day classes, they are already in small cohorts and can socially distance and will be able to attend in person four days a week.
 - We will work to schedule families with multiple children and siblings in various grade levels on the same days

As we look at possibility of reduced class sizes and keeping students in cohorts without mixing, we understand that outside time is important and necessary. We will work on utilizing designated outside spaces for classroom instruction weather permitting. We will stagger recess and PE times to keep gatherings small and socially distance, and we will work on our master scheduling and supervision schedules to do so safely.

For any reopening plan, we will make sure we are addressing learning loss, social emotional learning and we will continue to provide counseling and mental health support.

Another frequent question is about food and eating at school. We have been accepted to participate in a FREE breakfast and lunch program for ALL students. We will be serving breakfast to all students in their classrooms. Lunches will be eaten either in classrooms or designated outside spaces. For students who are on distance learning, both meals will be available for drive-through pickup for any family.

Jamestown School District does have a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan which addresses hygiene, cleaning, and health screening procedures for staff and students and emphasizes education and training. This plan is located on our website. I do need to be clear that as long as masking is required by state and local officials, we will be requiring all students and staff to wear masks. The District is providing masks for all staff and for any student who needs one.

As we are able to have students on campus safely, we will be operating an After-School Program. We have some flexibility in our grant funding to modify scheduling as well as opening up enrollment in a paid program to be able to support those students with two working parents. The scheduling logistics will need to be adjusted based on our school day schedule and that information will be communicated to our families.

We understand that our current schooling options create a burden on families. We are working through a Pandemic and all options right now are poor choices compared to our normal school schedule. Regardless of what our reopening plan looks like, it is our sincerest hope that it will be temporary and that our goal is to resume normal scheduling as soon as it is safely possible to do so.

Our last survey results in June showed that out of 154 responses, 66.6 % were ready for their child to return to school with health and safety precautions in place, 32.5% were unsure and 1.9% were not comfortable. A new survey will be coming out next week to seek your feedback on your type of learning model, transportation, childcare, health and safety measures, and technology needs, so please take a few moments to fill out the survey. The more responses we receive, the better our plan.

We want your feedback and value your input, so do not hesitate to get in contact with me for further details, questions or clarifications.

Thank you,


Contessa Pelfrey