

August 10, 2021

Dear Parents, Students, and Community:

There is nothing more important to the Jefferson County School System than the safety and health of our students, faculties, and staff. Secondary to safety is our commitment to providing quality learning opportunities for all of our students.

With these two objectives in the forefront of all we do, we have opened our schools with in-person instruction fully from Pre-K to 12th grade. Below is a list of the protocols and precautions we follow diligently to protect and be able to continue to offer in-person instruction.

- Masks are required of all staff in all schools.
- Masks are required on all school buses at all times.
- Masks are required of all students and staff in grades 6 through 12.
- We have installed ionization units in all of our air conditioning units throughout the school system.
- We continue to clean, spray, and disinfect all areas that have high amounts of human contact including, but not limited to, door knobs, railings, table top surfaces and school buses.
- Every student in grades 6 through 12 has been issued his/her own personal chrome book to be used throughout the day and to use at home. This allows students to not have to use a device right behind another student.
- We continue to take temperatures of everyone entering the building.
- There is a mounted temperature gauge on every school bus that takes the temperature of students as they board the bus.
- Social distancing is practiced in all areas when possible. Transitions of students in the hallways have been staggered to minimize the number of people in the hallways at any given time.
- Students (Pre-K-5) go to recess as a class cohort so as not to mingle with other groups of students from other classes.

I continue to communicate closely with our local health department to monitor the spread of this virus throughout our county and to make sure we are following the safety protocols that are recommended by the CDC, DPH, and any other reliable source. We have been very fortunate in that positive cases in the schools have been minimal for teachers and students so far. We want to keep it this way so we beg for your support and cooperation.

In the spirit of transparency we will continue to post weekly numbers of any students and staff members who have been determined to be positive to the COVID virus. New numbers will be posted each Friday at <https://www.jefferson.k12.ga.us>.

All of this is based on the facts that we have right now. We will continue to monitor our county transmission spread as well as changes that may develop within our schools. If the situation calls for us to take further action to protect everyone, we will act accordingly. We will also use all possible media outlets to communicate changes as they occur. Please understand we will be as timely as possible in communicating to our students, staff, parents, and community.

If you have any questions, we want to answer them. Please feel free to contact your children's principal or the district office at 478-625-7626.

Molly P. Howard, Superintendent