RETURN TO LEARN PLANS

St. Johns Public Schools
August 3, 2020

1st Day of School for All Students:
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
All headings in the Table of Contents are hyperlinked so you can click on them to jump to that section of the document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE OF CONTENTS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Message from the Superintendent</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return to School Planning</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview of SJPS Learning Models</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young 5s/K-5 In-Person Learning</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young 5s/K-5 Online Learning</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-12 In-Person Learning</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-12 Online Learning</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young 5s/K-12 Online Learning Days</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Management System</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Populations</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with Disabilities</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with Section 504 &amp; Medical/Health Plans</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Learners</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Reading and Math Intervention</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening for COVID-19 Symptoms</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Protocols</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Safety</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom PPE Tool Kit</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face Coverings</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning &amp; Disinfecting</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Supplies</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking Fountains and Plumbing Systems</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Emotional Health &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology &amp; Connectivity</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics &amp; Extracurricular Activities</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Service</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2
Transportation 18
Adventure Club/Childcare 18
FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions 18
Message from the Superintendent

Our schools are committed to providing the best quality education for students. Our staff truly cares about each student and their family. As we embark on a new school year, considerable planning and preparation has gone into our “Return to Learn Plan” consulting all stakeholders. At the forefront of our plan is the safety of our students and staff.

In June, we formed a core committee of teachers and administrators to help guide our planning for the reopening of our schools. On June 30, the Governor’s council released “Michigan’s 2020-2021 Return to School Roadmap.” Over the next several weeks numerous meetings were held, surveys were administered and consulted, and countless options were considered and debated.

Overwhelmingly, our families stated that they wanted their child(ren) to return to school in-person full-time (approx 65%). Approximately 35% of our families stated that they are interested in a 100% online option. All options have been considered, including hybrid options, as well as all students being 100% online to start the school year.

We understand that there is not a decision regarding a “Return to Learn” plan that will meet every family's needs. Every effort has been made to provide choice to our families to provide the safest learning environment possible given the challenging circumstances of the “Roadmap” and the COVID-19 virus. Ultimately, the decision to send your child back to school or stay home and learn online lies with each family.

Once our Board of Education has approved our “Return to Learn” plan we will ask that every family make a selection for each individual child within their family. The choice may be different for each child.

Our committees have decided to offer an in-person or an online learning option with both options offering the same curriculum and both being taught by our highly qualified teachers. This model will allow maximum flexibility for our families, especially when an in-person student needs to self-quarantine. If our area moves back to Phases 1-3 in the MI Safe Start Plan, then we will move all students to the online learning option. We recognize that our “remote learning” from this Spring was not without flaws. Our teachers and administrators have been working hard over the summer months to prepare to provide a more robust learning experience for our students.

To help our staff prepare for this challenging school year, we need to move the 1st day of school to Tuesday, September 8. Our staff will be utilizing the days before Labor Day to prepare ourselves to provide the best possible education for our students.

We will continue to monitor our plans, making adjustments as needed, for the betterment of our students and staff. We appreciate your patience and support in the days and months ahead!

Committed to Excellence,

Mark Palmer, Superintendent
Return to School Planning

Any online instruction during the 2020-21 school year will look and feel fundamentally different than the emergency learning that took place in the spring of 2020. Students will have access to rigorous instruction and real-time access to teachers and peers. All staff have learned valuable lessons from the spring and will benefit from robust professional learning in August. We are confident our online instruction will stack up with any school or provider in the state of Michigan.

SJPS will provide a chromebook to all students for any required online learning. Students in grades 6-12 will be issued a personal chromebook device to take with them from class-to-class and to take home on a daily basis. Students in grades K-5 will have their own personal chromebook to use while at school and will be able to take them home when it is required to learn from home. All K-12 students who choose to receive their instruction online will be issued a chromebook device at home.

SJPS will provide assistance with obtaining free or low-cost Internet for students of families with demonstrated need, if we are 100% online. This may include access to existing network resources using an outdoor hotspot located on the SJPS campus.

Overview of SJPS Learning Models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades K-5 In-Person Learning</th>
<th>Grades K-5 Online Learning</th>
<th>Grades 6-12 In-Person Learning</th>
<th>Grades 6-12 Online Learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All K-5 students attend school in-person all day, every day, at the same time with health and safety protocols in place.</td>
<td>All K-5 students attend school virtually every day.</td>
<td>All 6-12 students attend school in-person all day, every day, at the same time with health and safety protocols in place.</td>
<td>All 6-12 students attend school virtually every day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Features:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Features:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Features:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Features:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All students co-horted by class</td>
<td>• A mix of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities</td>
<td>• Students and staff wear face coverings at all times, except when eating.</td>
<td>• A mix of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students and staff wear face coverings at all times, except when eating.</td>
<td>• Learning opportunities will mirror in-person learning, as much as possible.</td>
<td>• Students eat lunch in the cafeteria using safety precautions and physical distancing measures.</td>
<td>• Learning opportunities will mirror in-person learning, as much as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mask breaks provided with social distancing</td>
<td>• Led by SJPS teachers and staff.</td>
<td>• Class</td>
<td>• Led by SJPS teachers and staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students eat lunch in the cafeteria using safety</td>
<td>• Class</td>
<td>• Class</td>
<td>• Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
precautions

- Class organization and communication through the grade level Learning Management System. K-2: Seesaw; 3-5 Google Classroom

organization and communication through the grade level Learning Management System. K-2: Seesaw; 3-5 Google Classroom

organization and communication through the Google Classroom Learning Management System.

- Students maintain eligibility for participation in athletics and extracurricular activities.

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### Phase 1-3 Online Learning Days

Online Learning days are the result of a shutdown due to the spread of COVID-19. SJPS is prepared to move all students to online only instruction based on a State and/or local decision to close schools as a result of an increase in COVID-19 spread.

**Features:**

- Follows a set schedule of synchronous and asynchronous learning.
- Delivered by the student’s assigned SJPS teacher(s) through their grade level Learning Management System, K-2: Seesaw; 3-12 Google Classroom.

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### Young 5s/K-5 In-Person Learning

**Overview**

All students attend school in-person, every day. Students are cohorted by their class and do not mix with students from other classes while indoors. This learning model most closely mirrors the traditional K-5 school experience. School start and end times remain unchanged. Students participate in recess, lunch, and specials classes - art, music, physical education, and library. Students will receive pull-out or push-in support services as needed.

**Grade Level Departmentalization**

Instead of switching to different classrooms for English language arts, math, science, and social studies the subject area teacher will push into each classroom of students for instruction.

**Specials**

Art, music, physical education, and library continue to be part of each child’s school experience. As in the past, students will have a special for 50 minutes each day per week. Physical Education will take place outdoors as much as possible.
Lunch and Food Service
Breakfast will be served in the classroom. For lunch, students will eat in the lunchroom using enhanced safety measures. All students will be seated together with their cohorted classroom. All students will face the same direction. All tables will be separated as much as possible within the space, including using the stage area, where applicable. Lunch choices may be limited and options will be provided in the safest manner possible. Meals will be prepackaged for both lunch and breakfast.

Recess
Students play outside during a lunch recess and an afternoon recess. While outside, students are assigned, on a rotating basis, to a specific area of the playground with their grade level peers.

Face Coverings
All staff and students wear face coverings, except when eating and drinking. This includes wearing face coverings in hallways and common areas and at arrival, departure, and recess. Elementary students will be provided mask breaks throughout the day as determined by the teacher and when appropriate social distancing can be maintained. All face coverings should be appropriate for school.

Self-Quarantine
If a student is identified as testing positive, or has been in “close contact” with someone who has tested positive, or is symptomatic for COVID-19, then that student will move to the virtual cohort learning environment until that period of time is over. Our schools will work closely with our local health department to determine when an individual is deemed safe to return to in-person instruction at school.

Young 5s/K-5 Online Learning

Overview
Students will follow a daily schedule of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities that are provided by SJPS teachers. Students will have opportunities to participate in the live classroom with their teacher and other students from their class, both online and in-person. As much as possible it is encouraged that students connect into their classrooms for the live instruction. When that is not possible, the classroom instruction will be recorded and posted in the LMS for students to view and learn.

Definitions of Asynchronous and Synchronous Learning
Asynchronous learning is distance learning (student and teacher in separate locations) in which the student and teacher are not connected in real time (not live). Asynchronous learning requires students to independently complete tasks and activities. Methods of asynchronous online learning include self-guided lesson modules, streaming video content, virtual libraries, posted lecture notes, and exchanges across discussion boards or platforms monitored by the teacher.

Synchronous learning is distance learning (student and teacher in separate locations) in which the student and teacher remain in separate locations, but are electronically connected in real time/live. This involves the student and their teacher interacting in a specific virtual space, through an online medium, at a designated time.
6-12 In-Person Learning

Overview
All students attend school in-person, every day. Students will follow their normal daily schedule of classes. This learning model most closely mirrors the traditional 6-12 school experience. School start and end times remain unchanged.

Lunch and Food Service
Breakfast will be “grab and go” prepackaged options where the student can pick up breakfast to eat in the classroom. For lunch, students will eat in the lunchroom using special safety measures. All tables will be separated as much as possible. The middle school will also use the small gym for additional seating to provide additional spacing of students. The high school will spread out tables into the athletic entrance area to provide additional spacing of students. The high school will also add an additional lunch period to reduce the number of students in each lunch period. Lunch choices may be limited and options will be provided in the safest manner possible. Meals will be prepackaged in most cases.

Physical Education and Music
Physical education and music classes will be outside, as much as possible.

Face Coverings
All staff and students wear face coverings, except when eating and drinking. This includes wearing face coverings in hallways and common areas and at arrival, departure, and recess. Students will be provided mask breaks throughout the day as determined by the teacher and when appropriate social distancing can be maintained. All face coverings should be appropriate for school.

Self-Quarantine
If a student is identified as testing positive, or has been in “close contact” with someone who has tested positive, or is symptomatic for COVID-19, then that student will move to the virtual cohort learning environment until that period of time is over. Our schools will work closely with our local health department to determine when an individual is deemed safe to return to in-person instruction at school.

6-12 Online Learning

Overview
Students will follow a daily schedule of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities that are provided by SJPS teachers. Teachers will work to provide whole group instruction through a variety of opportunities. Teachers may offer live connections into their classroom during the regular scheduled class period. They may provide recorded instructional videos and/or opportunities for online students to connect with their teacher for support.

Students may have opportunities to participate in the live classroom with their teacher and other students from their class, both online and in-person. Students may have the opportunity to connect into their teachers’ live classroom at the beginning of each class period, following their daily schedule. There may be opportunities
that the classroom instruction will be recorded and posted in the LMS for students to view and learn. Teachers may provide time for whole group instruction as well as time when students can work offline during their scheduled class. Homework will be assigned the same as the students that attend in-person and will be assigned through Google Classroom. Students will follow their normal daily schedule of classes the same as if they were attending class in person.

Students must have weekly 2-way communication with each individual teacher via email, telephone, or teleconferencing. Teachers must maintain a weekly log of student contact for each individual student.

Definitions of Asynchronous and Synchronous Learning

Asynchronous learning is distance learning (student and teacher in separate locations) in which the student and teacher are not connected in real time (not live). Asynchronous learning requires students to independently complete tasks and activities. Methods of asynchronous online learning include self-guided lesson modules, streaming video content, virtual libraries, posted lecture notes, and exchanges across discussion boards or platforms monitored by the teacher.

Synchronous learning is distance learning (student and teacher in separate locations) in which the student and teacher remain in separate locations, but are electronically connected in real time/live. This involves the student and their teacher interacting in a specific virtual pace, through an online medium, at a designated time.

Young 5s/K-12 Online Learning Days

Based on a State and/or local decision about closures as a result of an increase in COVID-19 spread, SJPS is prepared to move a group of students or all students to virtual only instruction, called E-Learning. E-Learning days follow a set schedule of asynchronous and synchronous learning which is delivered by each student’s assigned SJPS teacher(s) through the student’s Learning Management System.

Learning Management System

A Learning Management System (LMS) is a way to simplify teaching and learning by connecting the digital tools teachers, students, and parents use into one place. SJPS chose Seesaw for grades K-2 and Google Classroom for grades 3-12. The one exception is that Eureka K-2 will continue to use Class Dojo. Information and support for parents, students, and teachers for using Seesaw and Google Classroom is forthcoming.

Students can use their LMS to:

- Access class materials (calendar, assignments, quizzes, etc.) online using any device or any browser
- Track their progress through ongoing teacher feedback tools
- Receive course announcements, grade notifications, etc. instantaneously on their preferred device(s)
- Easily collaborate with peers and teachers
- Turn in and complete assignments and assessments.
Special Populations

St. Johns Public Schools continues to recognize that supporting the whole child is imperative to student growth and learning. Through the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), SJPS will continue to implement programs and interventions to address the academic, behavioral, and wellness needs of our students. Whether a student is receiving synchronous and/or asynchronous instruction, in-school or online, academic support through whole-group and small-group instruction (Tier 1) will be provided. If needed, students will receive more intensive small group or individual student intervention (Tiers 2 and 3). Schools will leverage resources and tools for systematic data collection, ongoing progress monitoring, and timely intervention. Special education teachers and support staff, including school counselors, psychologists, and social workers, will work flexibly across the district to address student needs.

Students with disabilities, students with Section 504 plans, and English Language Learners will be given special consideration to ensure appropriate instruction while complying with federal and state requirements.

Students with Disabilities

In addition to instruction through the general education formats, special education services for students with disabilities will include time for synchronous instruction and explicit expectations for student engagement and consistency. Instructional delivery will be designed to ensure the least restrictive environment (LRE) as required by the individualized education program (IEP). Based on the student’s IEP, specialized instruction will be provided in-person, when possible. Students will continue to receive access to instructional materials for use at home, as needed, including assistive technology tools. Virtual meetings will be used to convene special education procedural meetings, such as reevaluation, eligibility, IEP teams, etc. Students opting into Online Learning will continue to receive their special education services from SJPS.

Students with Section 504 & Medical/Health Plans

In synchronous and asynchronous learning settings, students eligible for Section 504 plans will continue receiving appropriate accommodations and supports needed including additional time for synchronous, small group or individual instruction. Students will continue to receive access to instructional materials for use at home, as needed. Virtual meetings will be utilized to convene Section 504 procedural meetings such as reevaluation, eligibility, review, etc. The school will continue to support students with specific medical/health plans when applicable.

English Language Learners

Children who speak a language other than English in their home, or have a different native language, are given the opportunity to enrich their learning with a highly qualified teacher of English Language Learners (ELL). Individual and group support is provided to help our students become acclimated both socially and academically. English Language Learner support and services will continue during all learning models.
Elementary Reading and Math Intervention

Based on literacy and math assessment data, intervention services for students reading below grade level expectations will be provided during in-person and online structures. This will include additional time for synchronous, small group or individual instruction. Students will continue to receive access to instructional materials for use at home, as needed, including appropriately leveled text.

Screening for COVID-19 Symptoms

Parents/guardians will be provided information on how to screen their child(ren) at home for COVID-19 each day before arriving at school. Screening for COVID-19 symptoms includes temperature taking and checking for specific COVID-19 symptoms as defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). In its July 23, 2020, guidance for schools, the CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screening (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by and at school. As a result, parents or caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day.

Students who are sick should not attend school in-person. Symptom screening will identify only that a person may have an illness, not that the illness is COVID-19. Many of the symptoms of COVID-19 are also common in other childhood illnesses like the common cold, the flu, or seasonal allergies. Of utmost importance, is that students stay home when sick until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever (temperature of 100.4 or higher) or signs of a fever (chills, feeling very warm, flushed appearance, or sweating) without the use of fever-reducing medicine (e.g., Tylenol) . SJPS employees will also screen for symptoms before arriving to work in the district.

Employees and parents/guardians of children exhibiting unexplained COVID-19 symptoms, testing positive for COVID-19, or in close contact with a COVID-19 infected person should immediately contact the building administrator/building secretary.

COVID-19 Protocols

The protocols articulated in the SJPS Return to Learn Plan are based on guidance from the Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Data and science about COVID-19 changes daily, thus, the information conveyed in the plan is subject to change based on recommendations from the MMDHD and/or the CDC.

Every COVID-19 related situation is unique and will require individualized analysis in regard to the precise steps and communications for implementation. SJPS will work closely with the Mid-Michigan District Health Department to notify individuals who have had a “close contact” with a positive individual. The CDC defines “close contact” as any individual within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes with or without a mask, indoors or outdoors.
Due to privacy laws in the health industry (HIPAA) and in the school setting (FERPA) the school will not publicly disclose the names of individuals who have tested positive. However, we will work to notify those individuals who potentially have been exposed.

**Employees and parents/guardians of children exhibiting unexplained COVID-19 symptoms, testing positive for COVID-19, or in close contact with a COVID-19 infected person should immediately contact the building administrator/building secretary.**

### Health & Safety

The safety of our students and staff is extremely important and is central to our plan.

#### Overview of Protocols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Phases 1-3 Online Learning</th>
<th>Phases 4 and 5 In-Person and Online Learning</th>
<th>Phase 6 Traditional</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Instruction</strong></td>
<td>• All SJPS buildings are closed for students and all learning is done from home online.</td>
<td>• In-person learning at all levels with health and safety protocols.</td>
<td>• Normal in-person learning</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Online learning available led by SJPS teachers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Environment</strong></td>
<td>• Not Applicable</td>
<td>• Spacing to extent possible</td>
<td>• Traditional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Cohorting</strong></td>
<td>• Not Applicable</td>
<td>• By classroom K-5</td>
<td>• Traditional</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• May not bring together students from more than one class (indoors)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• No assemblies or field trips</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PPE, Handwashing, &amp; Ventilation</strong></td>
<td>• Not Applicable</td>
<td>• Masks required for all students and staff everywhere, except when eating</td>
<td>• Traditional</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• K-5 Mask breaks provided outside with social distancing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Handwashing every 2 to 3 hours</td>
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<td>• Increased Air</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleaning &amp; Disinfecting</td>
<td>Routine Cleaning</td>
<td>Every 4 hours frequently touched surfaces</td>
<td>Routine Cleaning</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Desks after every class period</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Normal routine cleaning for playgrounds</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Individualized student supplies/materials with cleaning of high use and shared materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symptom Screening</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>At-home screening for staff and students prior to attending school each day</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Report to school/supervisor symptoms and/or positive test results for a student, staff member, or an individual with whom the individual lives.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Service &amp; Distribution</td>
<td>Available to families in need</td>
<td>K-5 will eat as a cohort classroom in the cafeteria with staggered eating times, all students facing the same direction, and socially distanced as much as possible.</td>
<td>Traditional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6-12 will have tables spread out. Middle school will also utilize the auxiliary gym for seating. High School will move tables into the athletic entrance and utilize the</td>
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### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All students and staff will be required to wear face masks during their time in the classrooms and hallways. The requirement to wear face masks in Michigan has resulted in the near universal supply of masks among students and faculty. The fit, feel, and style of a family provided mask will likely lead to greater comfort over the course of a school day. Therefore, all families are encouraged to secure the preferred style of mask best suited to the needs of their children. Ideally, students will have both a primary and secondary mask on them each school day. Reusable masks must be washed at home each day and disposable masks but must be discarded daily.

It is understood that there will be situations in which a mask is forgotten, lost, or damaged. The district will have ample supply of masks readily available to meet the needs that arise throughout the school day. **Every student and staff member will be provided 2 cloth reusable masks.**

Students are encouraged to carry a personal size hand sanitizer with them between school and home. As hand washing with soap and water is most effective, this will be taught as a best practice and scheduled by elementary classroom teachers prior to lunch. A 60% or higher alcohol based hand sanitizer will be provided in every classroom, office, and common space.

### Classroom PPE Tool Kit

All staff interacting with students will be provided an initial supply of PPE, cleaning supplies, and other resources for themselves and students. These items will be replenished as needed. The identified cleaning supplies, soaps, and hand sanitizers have been selected to ensure they comply with CDC and other standards and to prevent unintended consequences such as undesirable fragrances to the greatest extent feasible. These items include masks, face shield for the teacher, disinfectant wipes for student and staff use. Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athletics &amp; Extra-curriculars</th>
<th>outdoor courtyard area, weather permitting.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Not Applicable</td>
<td>● Masks required on buses</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>● Large scale outdoor spectator events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>limited to 100-people and 6-feet apart.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Large scale indoor events suspended</td>
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<td>● Weight room is closed until public gyms</td>
</tr>
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<td>are allowed to reopen.</td>
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and staff will be encouraged to clean their own work space. Staff will also clean high touch point areas at the end of each class period.

**Face Coverings**

The MI Safe Return to School Roadmap requires all staff and students in grades 6-12 to wear face coverings at all times, except when eating or drinking or when not medically viable. The Roadmap requires K-5 students to wear face coverings outside of the classroom and strongly recommends K-5 students wear them in the classroom. SJPS will require K-5 students to wear masks both in and outside of the classroom as an additional precaution. SJPS may make adjustments to this requirement as conditions warrant. Teachers will provide mask breaks to students with necessary social distancing. The CDC recommends cloth face coverings as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. The district will make face masks available to both staff and students; however, families are encouraged to supply their own masks so students can wear their preferred fit/style. Face coverings must comply with school dress code and appropriateness.

Any student who is medically unable to wear a face covering must have a signed note from a medical doctor stating that they are unable to wear a face covering. Due to the severity of their health concern it is encouraged that any student who cannot wear a face covering utilize the online learning option.

**Cleaning & Disinfecting**

The district is committed to ensuring that intensified cleaning occurs in compliance with the Return to School Roadmap, industry standards, and best practices. To accomplish this mission, every employee will play an important role in ensuring the spaces they work in are maintained and cleaned throughout the day. The district is also adjusting custodial staff work times which will help increase day-time cleaning.

The following summary of cleaning protocols will occur each school day:

**Supplies:**
- The district will use an EPA-approved disinfectant specifically listed for use against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
- Every classroom will be equipped with a towelette bucket system with the selected disinfectant.

**Starting Clean:**
- Each building will be thoroughly cleaned each evening and students and staff will arrive to clean classrooms.

**General Cleaning Standards:**
- Teachers will clean frequently touched surfaces in the classroom including light switches, doors, tables, and desks at least every four hours at the elementary level. Students will be encouraged to wipe down their own work spaces with a disinfectant wipe.
Custodial staff will clean each bathroom at least one time during the school day. Such schedules will involve the cleaning of classroom bathrooms during instruction. Custodial staff will clean and disinfect common spaces at least every four hours at all levels.

Classroom Supplies

All personal student materials brought in by students should not be shared and used exclusively by that student. Families are asked to label all student supplies with each child’s first name and last initial to further support this goal. Frequently used items within the classroom will be assigned to individual students and used exclusively by that student only throughout the school day whenever possible (e.g. some textbooks, devices, etc.). Other items within the classroom will be cleaned, disinfected, and/or sanitized as required per the Return to School Roadmap.

Drinking Fountains and Plumbing Systems

- All water lines and plumbing systems will be properly flushed.
- All drinking fountains will be turned off EXCEPT for the bottle filling stations.
- Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle properly labeled with their name on it. Disposable cups will be available to fill up in the bottle filling station.

Social Emotional Health & Wellness

The direct and indirect impact of the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to have a lasting and immeasurable effect on students. Social emotional health and wellbeing often are hidden under the surface and not discussed. Our children carry emotions they often are unable to verbalize. Due to the difficulty in being able to “see” and know how each child is doing, we are building intentional opportunities to keep a watchful eye and have a proactive approach to supporting all of our learners. SJPS will reinforce and enhance curriculum and supports focused on social-emotional learning, relationship-building, and successful transitions, whether in-person or through intermittent remote learning. It is critical that parents continue to communicate with staff when/if their child is experiencing stress, anxiety, trauma, depression, etc. so that we may work together as a team to support their child. We continue to collaborate with our local/state resources on all facets of our reopening plan and building resources and supports for our students in the area of mental and behavioral health. Through this local and county work, we are building mental and behavioral health resources and partnerships that will offer another critical layer of support for students, families, and staff.

Technology & Connectivity

All students will have access to an individually assigned chromebook. Students in grades 6-12 will be issued a chromebook device to carry with them from classroom to classroom and to take home on a daily basis. Students in grades K-5 that choose in-person instruction will have an individually assigned chromebook device that will remain in the classroom and only that student will be able to use that device. When needed at K-5, the device can be sent home with the student.
All K-12 students who choose the virtual setting will be provided a chromebook device to use at home. Distribution dates and times will be established for the week of August 31, 2020.

Reliable internet is a critical component to ensuring that online learning days are successful for all students. The district surveyed families extensively during the spring of 2020 to ensure every family had internet access. These surveys and follow-up phone calls confirmed a response for every student enrolled in the district. The registration process for the 2020-21 school year will again assess family internet access and the district will further support all families in need. This support may include consultation about internet options, district device troubleshooting, and an internet connection scholarship, if needed. Families may email homehelp@sjredwings.org throughout the year to make inquiries regarding these supports or to communicate changes in status. If email is unavailable, please call your building administrator and they will facilitate the start of the process.

Athletics & Extracurricular Activities

All SJPS students remain eligible for athletics and extracurricular activities with both in-person and virtual learning settings. All athletic and extracurricular activities will be continually monitored for safe participation and will take guidance from the Michigan High School Athletic Association, the State of Michigan, and our local health department.

Food Service

Many safety precautions and measures will be taken to provide breakfast and lunch options for our students. Seating will be arranged to provide maximum social distancing with students facing the same direction, when possible. At the elementary level breakfast will be served in the classrooms. Lunch times will be staggered to help minimize the number of students. Lunch choices may be limited and options will be provided that minimize risk to students as much as possible.

For students who choose the Online Learning option and their family qualifies for “free” lunch through the Federal Lunch Program, there will be a separate pickup system for these students.

Visitors

For the safety of our students and staff, our buildings will be limited to only essential visitors. Parents are encouraged to communicate with our office staff using the doorbell communication system and remain outside. If parents are dropping off items, our office staff will retrieve the items from outside after the parent leaves.

Essential visitors will be required to wear masks and will be restricted in their access to the building as a whole. Essential visitors will be required to complete the SJPS COVID-19 Self-Screening Questionnaire and be required to sign in the main office should contact tracing be necessary.
Transportation

- Hand sanitizer will be supplied for students to use as they enter the bus.
- Masks are required by all staff and students. Students entering a bus without a mask will be provided a disposable mask.
- All buses will be disinfected in the morning, mid-day, and end of the day.

Adventure Club/Childcare

Before and after school childcare options will be available at Gateway and Oakview elementary buildings. These options are open to SJPS and St. Joseph School families whose children have chosen the “In-Person” option. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to provide childcare for those families who choose the “Online Learning” option.

FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will face coverings be required?
A: Yes. Following Michigan’s 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap Staff and students must wear facial coverings except for meals. Mask breaks will happen throughout the day or in settings where social distancing is possible. All students and staff must wear during school transportation.

Q: Will the St. Johns Public School (SJPS) District provide facial coverings?
A: SJPS has purchased two reusable masks for every student and staff member. Daily-use (disposable) masks will be available as needed.

Q: What is the definition of a facial covering?
A: A facial covering is cloth material that covers the nose and mouth. Facial coverings may be secured to the head or simply wrapped around the lower face. They can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton or linen, and may be factory-made or made by hand. All face coverings must follow school dress code guidelines and appropriateness.

Q: Are face shields acceptable alternatives to mask?
A: No. The CDC does not recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for cloth face coverings. However, a face shield that covers the eyes, nose and mouth can be worn in addition to the cloth mask if desired. Moreover, a face shield may be worn by children who are medically unable to wear a cloth face mask.

Q: Who determines whether or not a student/staff member can medically tolerate a facial covering?
A: People who should not wear facial coverings include the following:
- Children younger than 2 years old
- Anyone who has trouble breathing
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.
Documentation from a medical professional is required for those needing accommodations of not wearing a mask.

**Q: Can parents “opt-out” their child from the facial covering requirement, but still send them to school in-person?**

A: No. The child may opt-out of the requirement only if they choose to enroll in a fully remote learning environment.

**Q: Will temperature checks be completed daily for every student and staff?**

A: Staff are to conduct daily self-examinations, including temperature check, prior to coming to work. Families are expected to check their child’s temperature at home every morning. Students and staff with a temperature of 100.4 or greater should stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms of COVID-19 are present.

**Q: Will I be quarantined if someone in the building tests positive for COVID 19?**

A: SJPS will work closely with the health department regarding who and when to quarantine.

**Q: What is the plan if a student/staff member has direct contact with a positive COVID 19 person?**

A: SJPS will take guidance from the health department on appropriate steps to take when someone is in direct contact with a positive COVID-19 individual.

**Q: Will parents be contacted whenever there is exposure to COVID 19 in the building?**

A: SJPS will notify local health officials, staff, and students of any possible case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws. The health department will initiate contact tracing, following regular public health practice. Anyone who was within close contact of the case (less than six feet apart for 15+ minutes) will be asked to self-quarantine for up to 14 days after exposure.

**Q: Will every student absence due to an illness be required to have a cleared COVID 19 test before returning?**

A: Only if the students exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 or if ordered by a medical professional.

**Q: Will aerosol sprayers/foggers be used for disinfecting?**

A: Yes. The district has some of these available and will use these in accordance with their directions and when students and other staff are not present, as much as possible.

**Q: What will lunches look like?**

A: School lunch options will be limited and will be prepackaged in most cases. At the elementary buildings efforts will be made to distance students throughout the cafeteria and into the gym areas for lunch. Students will face the same direction when possible and will have assigned seating. The middle school will use the auditoria and small gym to distance students during lunch. The high school will move to three lunch periods and spread tables further into the activities entrance and make use of seating outside subject to weather conditions.

**Q: Will students have normal passing time at the secondary level?**

A: Probably. Options are still being explored, but it is likely to be similar to what has been experienced in the past.
Q: What is the cleaning protocol for classrooms?
A: At the secondary level, all students will wipe down their desk at the end of each class period. The elementary classrooms will have desks wiped down every three to four hours. High touch areas such as light switches and door knobs will be wiped down periodically throughout the school day.

Q: What is the cleaning protocol for restrooms?
A: Restrooms will undergo cleaning with an EPA-approved disinfectant at least every four hours.

Q: How will recess look at the elementary level?
A: This may vary depending on the elementary building. Every effort is going to be made to keep students with the same cohort throughout the day. However, this will not always be possible so masks will likely be required during most recess times.

Q: Will visitors be permitted in the buildings?
A: Visitors to any SJPS building will be limited while in phase 4 or 5. Family members or other guests will not be allowed in school buildings except under extenuating circumstances determined by the district and school officials. Guests will be screened for symptoms, wear facial coverings, and wash/sanitize hands prior to entering. Records including the name date and time will be kept of non-school employees or other visitors entering the building.

Q: Will there be scheduled hand cleaning breaks?
A: Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students will be placed in every classroom, school buses, and in common areas. Hand washing will be expected every 2 - 3 hours.

Q: Will proper hand washing be taught?
A: Teaching and/or reinforcing handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds will be done at all levels. In addition, hand washing instructions signs from the CDC will be posted in hand washing sink areas.

Q: Will social distancing be required in all classrooms/buildings at all times?
A: Social distancing in the building will be practiced where feasible. Signage and/or floor tape will be used to indicate proper social distancing. In classrooms all desks will be arranged to face the same direction where feasible.

Q: Will I be able to change my student’s education option once school begins?
A: There will be a short “grace” period of a few days to switch the mode of instruction once the school year has begun. It is expected that students will remain in the chosen mode of instruction for at least one trimester. Extenuating circumstances may necessitate a change in placement of instruction.

Q: How will social distancing be practiced in common areas/hallways?
A: Signage will be displayed to remind students to practice social distancing while in common areas and hallways. All seating will be removed from common areas to not invite congregating closely together. Facial coverings will be required in common areas and hallways.

Q: Will there be doors designated for entry/exit of the building?
A: Doors within the building will be propped open as much as possible to discourage touching of door knobs/handles. Entry/exit doors will be designated where possible. It is more likely that the same door will be used for both entry and exit. Because of the nature of school, the doors have to serve a dual purpose; entry in
the morning, exit in the PM. The doors will be wiped down periodically throughout the day and most definitely after the morning entry and exit in the afternoon.

**Q: Will there be a staggered start/ending times within school?**
**A:** Maybe. Options are being explored at all levels. At all buildings students will go directly to their classroom upon entering the building for the day. Gathering in the gym/auditeria to start the day will not take place.

**Q: Will I be able to participate in extracurricular activities if I am an online student?**
**A:** Yes, as long as you are enrolled in SJPS and meet the academic eligibility requirements of the Athletic Handbook.

**Q: If I am an online student will there be virtual sessions for clubs (i.e. National Honor Society)?**
**A:** Yes.

**Q: If I am online will I be given a chromebook to use?**
**A:** Yes. All online students will be given a chromebook to use for instruction while they are a student of SJPS. All In-Person Students in grades 6-12 will be assigned a chromebook much like assigning a textbook. It is expected that the student brings the chromebook to class each day fully charged. In-Person K-5 students will be assigned the same chromebook to use while in their classroom. Should we switch to full online learning, the chromebooks will go home with the students.