



**District Office**  
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[www.sjredwings.org](http://www.sjredwings.org)

## Back to School Information

August 6, 2021

Dear SJPS Families,

On behalf of the St. Johns Board of Education and our district staff, we hope your family is enjoying some well-deserved time together this summer. We all look forward to the **students returning on Monday, August 30, 2021.**

There have been many questions about what COVID-19 protocols will be in place at the start of the year. Over the past year and a half, SJPS has followed all federal, state, and/or local agencies requirements when it comes to COVID-19 mitigation strategies. We plan to continue to do so this school year. Our board of education will be confirming these plans at the August 9, 2021 board meeting. Following is what you can expect when school begins:

### Student Instruction Days

All student days will be in-person days. We will not have asynchronous days this school year unless high transmission rates force the district to move to online instruction.

### Masks

Face coverings will be optional/encouraged for students and staff regardless of their vaccination status. It is strongly encouraged that masks be worn by all, especially when indoors but we believe this is a parent choice to make. **Masks will be required on all transportation until such time that this restriction is lifted by the federal government.** Please note that our goal is to maintain masks as being optional, however, high transmission rates of COVID-19 within our schools or community or if mandated may compel the district to make mask wearing a requirement.

### COVID-19 Vaccination

There will be no requirement for students to be vaccinated for COVID-19 unless required by federal or state agencies. There will be no separation between students who are vaccinated or not vaccinated. SJPS believes this is a parent choice.

### COVID-19 Testing

At this time, there is no requirement for schools to test for COVID-19. SJPS will only do this if mandated by local, state agency, or sanctioning bodies such as the MHSAA for student athletes.

### Cohorts

Elementary students will eat lunch together as a classroom cohort. Students will not be separated by classroom while outdoors for recess. High transmission rates may force us to make adjustments to this plan.

**Student Illness**

It is an expectation that if your child is ill, he/she stays home from school at least until the contagious period has passed. This includes all forms of illness. If your child is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, it is recommended that he/she is tested at a testing facility. Anyone that is positive for COVID-19 is expected to remain isolated from the public for a period of at least 10 days or as otherwise directed by the health department.

**Contact Tracing**

Schools are required to report communicable diseases to their local health department within 24 hours. Positive or probable COVID-19 cases will be reported to the Mid-Michigan District Health Department following our Immunizations and Communicable Disease Board Policy 5713 and Michigan Law Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978. For a complete list of reportable diseases, please see the following document: [2021 Reportable Diseases](#). When there is a positive or probable case within a classroom, an exposure notice will be sent home to parent(s) just as we do with other communicable diseases, such as chicken pox.

**Quarantines**

SJPS will continue to quarantine individuals when directed to by the Mid-Michigan District Health Department.

**Virtual Options**

We believe that the best form of instruction is in-person. A virtual option may be available for those who require it due to extenuating circumstances. Please contact your student's building principal if something other than in-person learning is needed for your family.

**Visitors/Parents**

To help minimize the risk of transmission of all illnesses within our school population, we will again be limiting the number of guests within our buildings when possible. You can expect that protocols for any visitors to the district's buildings to be very similar to last year.

**Calendar**

The 2021-2022 school year calendar is currently being finalized. Key calendar dates are available on the calendar page of our school website under the 2021-2022 Holiday Break Schedule: [www.sjredwings.org/calendar](http://www.sjredwings.org/calendar).

Please keep in mind that conditions may dictate that changes be made to our plan. You will be receiving more information regarding the start of school from your student's building. We are looking forward to a successful 2021-22 school year, no matter what obstacles we may have to overcome!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Palmer".

Mark Palmer, Superintendent