August 6, 2020

Dear SJPS Families,

Thank you for your patience as we worked through many issues to develop our plan for returning to school this fall. I am excited to present to you the recommendation for school. In short, SJPS will be offering two options for the start of school. Students will have the opportunity to attend full time in-person or will have the choice of 100% online. Below is a link to the full plan being presented to our Board of Education. These plans may be modified based on changes in local health numbers, state laws and regulations, and other unforeseen issues. Following is a snapshot of what to expect with each option.

**In-person:**
This will look much like the school we are accustomed to with enhanced safety protocols in accordance with the requirements spelled out in Michigan’s 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap. Important aspects you need to know about in-person instruction include:

- All students K-5 will be assigned a designated chromebook to use while at school and will be able to take it home whenever necessary to accommodate online learning opportunities. In grades 6 through 12, all students will be given a chromebook to carry from class to class and take home on a daily basis.
- Facial coverings are required for all students and staff including on buses going to and from school. Students and staff who are unable to wear a mask because of medical reasons must provide documentation from a medical professional. **If wearing a mask isn’t going to work for your student it is strongly recommended that you choose the online option.** Facial coverings may be removed during eating and outdoor “mask breaks” which will be provided at all levels when social distancing can be achieved. The district has purchased two reusable masks for all students and staff and will have disposable masks on hand. Let’s all work together on this to help everyone feel safe and comfortable as we live through the pandemic.
- Hand washing will be reinforced throughout the day as well as scheduled for every 2-3 hours. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed on every bus and in each classroom as well as in common areas throughout the buildings.
- Frequently touched surfaces such as light switches, door handles, and bathrooms will undergo cleaning at least every four hours. Students will be expected to wipe down their desks with school provided wipes as they leave each class.
- Social distancing will be practiced to the extent feasible.
- Adult guests/visitors to any building will be restricted, including family members of students.
- Sharing of resources and materials will be limited.
- Staff and students will be expected to conduct daily self-examinations for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school. Anyone who is ill should not report to school.

**Online learning option:**
- Online learning will be led by SJPS teachers delivering SJPS curriculum.
- A mixture of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities.
- Learning opportunities will mirror in-person learning, as much as possible.
- Class organization and communication will be through the grade level Learning Management System. Grades K-2: Seesaw; grades 3-12: Google Classroom.
- All students will be issued a district chromebook for online learning.
- An Internet connection will be required for online learning.

Together, we succeed.
In order to prepare for the changes necessary for success this fall we have moved the start date of the school by one week. **The first day of school will now be Tuesday, September 8th.** Once the plan is approved by the Board of Education, an online form will be sent so that families can indicate the option selected for each student in the household.

I understand that you may have questions regarding school this fall. Therefore, below is a link to the recommended plan. We will also be hosting a virtual town hall meeting for families on Sunday, August 9th @ 6:30 PM. In order to help this meeting go smoothly, please review the details of the plan and submit any questions you may have on the form linked below.

**Return To Learn Plans**

**Reopening Community Town Hall Meeting Link**
**Sunday, August 9 @ 6:30 PM**
Zoom.us/join
Webinar ID: 816 3719 2125
Passcode: 050266
[Link to submit questions](#) for the town hall meeting.

There is no question that there will be challenges this school year. Undoubtedly, there will be issues that arise that take some time to work through. However, I have confidence in our staff and students to rise to the challenges before us as we navigate our new normal. I also appreciate your confidence in us to provide an education to your children in uncertain times. Even with all of the challenges before us, I am excited to have our students back and learning in a few weeks!

Sincerely,

![Signature]

Mark Palmer
Superintendent

*Together, we succeed.*