



# EAST JASPER

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## **East Jasper School District Return-to-School Plan for 2021-2022 School Year**

In effort to ensure a safe return to schools for both students and staff in the 2021-2022 school year, the East Jasper School District administrators and staff worked determinedly and diligently toward this effort in 2020-2021 and will continue such as we strive to keep our school environment safe and conducive for learning. The goal of the East Jasper School District's *Return-to-School Plan* is to improve upon/enhance the existing plan that was established in 2020-2021. For example, when we return to traditional school in the new school year, District sites will continue to implement the prior extensive safety measures and practices from 2020-2021.

**In the 2021-2022 school year, it is our plan to reopen school in a traditional manner for all students Pre-Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade while following the guidance of the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and any executive orders by the Governor of Mississippi. Athletics and activities will be governed additionally by the Mississippi High School Association (MHSAA).** The East Jasper School District collaborated with several entities, including medical and health partners, parents, and community organizations in the decision-making process. The following plan represents the culmination of these efforts and includes procedures and protocols for our students' re-entry to traditional learning at all campuses in a methodical and safe manner. Lastly, the document also outlines initiatives that the school system has recently implemented and that will last long past the COVID-19 crisis, including a One-to-One technology initiative and an online learning option for students in **Grades 2-12.**

### **The Plan**

The East Jasper School District's plan for a traditional reopening of school is as follows:

- Classes will begin August 9, 2021, for all students on all campuses as indicated in the district calendar.
- Virtual-only classes as an instructional mode will be an option for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade students with extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical issues, etc.).
- Virtual-only classes as an instructional mode will be an unrestricted option for Grade 12 (seniors).
- Students who are participating in extracurricular activities such as athletics or band must be enrolled as a Traditional, in-person student.
- Campuses will continue to limit class period transitions throughout the school day.
- Campuses will continue to follow MSDH and/or CDC social distancing guidelines.



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- Buildings and buses will be routinely sanitized according to a district plan and schedule, which includes some form of daily cleaning and disinfecting.
- Students will have daily access to sanitizer dispensed from touchless devices.
- Students will have daily access to touchless water fountains.
- Parent/Teacher meetings will be held via video conference or phone. (Exceptions will be made for parents to meet in a safe and socially-distanced face-to-face setting as deemed necessary by administrators.)
- The school-day schedule will be as follows for each site:
  - **The New William J. Berry Elementary School**      **7:50 – 3:10**
  - **Heidelberg Jr. High School**                              **7:45 – 2:56**
  - **Heidelberg High School**                                      **7:45 – 2:56**

## Sanitation Guidelines

### Temperature Checks

- Temperature checks will be required at the beginning of first period and at the beginning of activity periods.
- Administrator or school nurse discretion may determine that temperature checks are necessary at other designated times.
- Staff/students who may feel ill must inform their administrator/supervisor/teacher immediately.
- Staff/students with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be sent home. (Must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to work/school)
- All temperatures of 100 degrees or higher will be checked a second time for confirmation.

### Masks/Face Coverings

- Masks/face coverings will be required district-wide in all buildings and on all buses for all staff and students for the 2021-2022 term. Mask breaks will be given.
- All parents, visitors, and/or vendors must wear masks in all buildings.
- Masks/face coverings can be monogrammed with student's name or initials, school/college mascot name, school name or a brand name such as Nike, Adidas, etc.
- Masks should not contain inappropriate designs, pictures, slogans, symbols, political statements, offensive language, or anything that may be distracting to the learning environment.
- Masks cannot be orange, red, navy, or bandana print.
- Administrator discretion will apply in decisions regarding the appropriateness of masks/face coverings.

### Personal Hygiene

- Staff/students are expected to wash/sanitize hands multiple times during the day.
- Sanitizer/soap will be provided for staff/students in all district buildings.



### **Sanitizing**

- Custodial staff will provide routine sanitizing/disinfecting of surfaces and physical spaces throughout the day.
- In addition, building-level staff will help sanitize surfaces in designated areas throughout the day.
- High-frequency and high-traffic areas/surfaces will be sanitized more frequently.
- Buses will be sanitized at the end of each route (morning, afternoon, and during multiple routes).
- Sanitizer will be available in various locations throughout all campus buildings and on buses.

### **Classroom/Office Distancing**

- Classrooms will be arranged to allow for a minimum of 3 feet for social distancing.
- Teachers are encouraged to social distance students as much as their classroom space will allow.
- Sanitizing stations will be available in every classroom.
- Each classroom will be equipped with disinfectant supplies such as wipes, disinfectant spray, etc., to clean surfaces frequently.
- All student materials will be individualized. Sharing of school materials by students is not permitted. However, if such occurs, materials will be immediately disinfected/sanitized.
- A staff needs assessment will be conducted to determine Professional Learning needs regarding improving in-person and remote instructional delivery.

### **Check In/Out**

- Each school will establish a procedure for student Check-in/Check-out.

### **Hallway Procedures**

- School personnel will monitor hallways during class changes/transitions to promote both safety and social distancing.
- Hallways will be marked with one-way directional flow markers to help maintain adequate social distancing for students/staff.

### **Nutrition**

- Staff will follow cafeteria guidelines during breakfast and lunch.
- Breakfast/Lunch protocols may differ at each school site due to school population, cafeteria size, or other factors.
- Hand-sanitizing stations will be available at the entrances and exits of the cafeteria.

### **Water Bottles (No Glass Containers Allowed)**

- Staff/students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to use during the day.
- Elementary teachers will assist students with refilling water bottles as needed.

### **Technology**



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- Computer labs and classroom computers will be sanitized routinely per each school site's maintenance/cleaning schedule.
- Staff must wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before using community devices or equipment.
- Our One-to-One technology initiative will continue to be implemented.
- A staff needs assessment will be conducted to determine Professional Learning needs regarding the use of technology to enhance and support both in-person and remote teaching and learning.

## **Playgrounds**

- Hand sanitizer will be distributed before, during, and after outside activities.
- Group sizes will be limited in playground areas.
- MSDH and CDC guidelines and Governor's executive orders will be followed regarding the number of people allowed to gather in any facilities—including playgrounds.

## **Student/Parent Communication**

- The EJSD will continue to make deliberate and concerted efforts to engage parents using various methods and platforms for parent/ student and teacher/parent communication. (e.g., *SchoolStatus*, Phone Calls, District website, Social Media)
- Parent-teacher conferences will be conducted through multiple online platforms to minimize the need for in-person contact. Some face-to-face meetings may be required and will occur when deemed necessary by the campus administrator.

## **Attendance Policy: Traditional Learning Environment**

- Current attendance policies as mandated by the district and MDE will be followed, including daily and period attendance checks.
- Any student who is required to be isolated at home will be given an opportunity to participate through virtual/distance learning during the isolation period.

## **Attendance Policy: Virtual Schedule**

- Students who are allowed to participate in Virtual Learning as their primary mode of instruction will have an established instructional schedule.
- Current attendance policies as mandated by the district and MDE will be followed, including daily and period attendance checks.

## **Transportation**

- Masks/face coverings are mandatory for all during bus routes, field trips, etc.
- When environmental conditions and student comfort permit, windows will be opened to the safest extent possible during bus routes to allow for additional ventilation and air circulation.
- Students will be separated on school buses where feasible.
- Siblings or children living in the same household will be seated together whenever possible.



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- Buses will be routinely sanitized at the conclusion of each route.
- Parents are encouraged to bring children to school and pick them up when possible and if feasible.
- Bus Notes for change of transportation will NOT be allowed unless an extreme emergency exists. This is for health and safety reasons. Administrator discretion applies.
- Sanitizer will be available on each bus for students to use immediately after boarding.

## **General Information**

- Visitors will continue to be limited on each campus and should contact the school's Main Office before arrival.
- Field Trips will be permitted during 2021-2022 in accordance with district policies and protocols, any Governor's executive orders, and MSDH and CDC guidelines.
- Assemblies and activities will be permitted in accordance with district policies and protocols, any Governor's executive orders, and CDC and MSDH guidelines.
- All athletic and activity events will follow district policies and protocols and the policies of the MHSAA.
- The EJSD dress code will remain the same as in previous years.
- Refusal by staff, students, parents, or visitors to comply with any of the safety procedures will result in removal from campus.

This guidance may be revisited and amended throughout the year as circumstances evolve. We will communicate any changes as quickly as possible. The district will continue to focus on providing a safe environment while simultaneously promoting a rigorous academic program.