



Justus-Tiawah Public School

Return to Learn 2.4

2021-2022

Updated Feb 8, 2022

After successfully navigating the 2020-2021 school year in a traditional in-person format, we appreciate our JT family's support and understanding with our unprecedented situation. We are extremely grateful to have the opportunity to serve you and your children.

We are continuing to experience the unknowns of the COVID epidemic. At this time we are going to be as cautious as we possibly can as we begin the new year. The safety of students, staff and our families continues to be of utmost importance.

The following updated guidelines are shared with our school family, including students, families, and staff in an effort to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19, provide for a safe return to school, and continuity of educational services. Over the past year or so there has been constantly evolving literature from the education, medical, and public sectors. Our goal is to create carefully layered, flexible, and developmentally appropriate practices that will ensure the safest school environment possible.

Disclosure: This plan contains practices and procedures recommended/ or required to assist our school's reopening in the safest manner possible. Dealing with COVID-19 is a complicated and ever-changing challenge. Please understand that within these pages, we have designed what we feel is the best plan for our students, staff, and community given our current situation. Although, please keep in mind that our written plan may change as new information is known or as community spread changes.

We will be offering the following delivery choices for the 2021-2022 School Year. These options were created to provide choice and flexibility for JT families.

OPTION #1 – ALL IN-PERSON/AT-SCHOOL LEARNING (Option Available Pre-K – 8)

In this option students will:

- Remain enrolled in Justus-Tiawah Public Schools
- Attend school daily in a traditional, face-to-face classroom environment
- Engage in a variety of learning experiences with teachers and peers
- Continue to access educational technology supports
- Continue to access all courses and activities offered at Justus-Tiawah Public Schools
- Continue to access guidance, media centers and other student programs as needed

When necessitated by COVID-19 conditions, At-School Learning will move to Distance Learning facilitated virtually via the Google Classroom Management Platform (4th-8th) and Class Dojo (PK-3rd). Teachers will continue to introduce new content and assess/grade student progress.

Note: All students will be enrolled in Option #1 unless notified otherwise.

OPTION #2 – ALL VIRTUAL LEARNING THROUGH Wildcat Virtual PROGRAM (Option Available 2 –8)

Available to grades 2-4, in this option students will:

- Remain enrolled in Justus-Tiawah Public Schools
- Access learning activities via an online platform (Edmentum Calvert Learning grades 2-5, Edgenuity grades 6-8)
- Have progress monitored by a certified Justus-Tiawah Public Schools teacher
- Receive supplemental instructional support for coursework from a certified school teacher
- Require at-home parental guidance and support during learning activities in grades K-6
- Have access to guidance services, media centers, and other student programs as needed
- Receive technology device and internet access support as needed

*****All students will initially be enrolled in-person. Students must opt-in to the Wildcat Virtual Program by contacting your child's office at the beginning of the semester. Once a student**

has signed up for this option, the student will be locked into the Wildcat Virtual Program for the entire semester.***

OPTION #3 – BLENDED LEARNING (Option Available Grades 5th-8th ONLY)

In this option students will:

- Remain enrolled in Justus-Tiawah Public Schools
- Attend school daily for a portion of the school day while completing remaining courses via an online platform (Edmentum Calvert Learning grades 2-5, Edgenuity grades 6-8).
- Interact directly with teachers and peers
- Engage in a variety of learning experiences
- Be eligible to participate in school-sponsored activities and athletics
- Access guidance services, media centers, and other student programs as needed
- Receive technology device and internet access support as needed

*****All students will initially be enrolled in person; students must opt-in to the Wildcat Virtual Program by contacting your child's respective office. We ask that you opt-in at the beginning of the semester. Once a student has signed up for this option, the student will be locked into the Wildcat Virtual Program for the entire semester.*****

Return to Learn at JT – General Guidelines for Staff, Parents and Students

At this time we are happy to announce that at this time we will start the school year on a more traditional date (August 12), attend school for in-person learning five day a week, and have four built-in snow days next year. [2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

The information presented in this document is shared so that we can begin school with a shared understanding of our responsibility in keeping our students and staff safe from COVID-19. Although it is impossible to eliminate all risk, the goal is to maintain a layered approach to reducing the risk of spread in our schools. These practices are flexible and can be adapted or changed quickly depending on the current nature of the pandemic and the latest information from state and local health agencies.

Guidance published by the American Academy of Pediatrics states, “all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.” The AAP also provides a variety of reasons why schools are fundamental to the overall health and development of children and adolescents. From the instructional aspect to social and emotional

wellness, as well as providing meals, school services, and physical activity, schools play a critical role in the lives of students and in the overall health of a community.

The following information is shared to help everyone in our community understand how Justus-Tiawah Public Schools is mitigating the risks associated with COVID-19 and how staff members and families can help play a role.

Criteria for Influencing Whether School Continues to be In-Person or Shift to Distance Learning

Justus-Tiawah School will use the status of COVID-19 cases identified in our district, the Oklahoma Risk Level published weekly by the Oklahoma State Health department as well as the recommendations by the Oklahoma Department of Education in determining whether in-person or distance learning will occur.

Monitor Symptoms

Using the same guidelines below, staff members will be expected to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day.

We will rely on parents/guardians to be the first help in monitoring possible problem areas.

Families are expected to screen children every day for fever and/or other symptoms associated with COVID-19 prior to students' arrival at school each day. Parents should review the following checklist for each child in their household. By sending your child to school, you are telling Justus-Tiawah School that the answer to each of these questions is "No."

1. Has your child experienced any ONE of the following symptoms (Group A from the [OSDH COVID-19 Symptomatic Illness Assessment](#))
 - a. Fever of 100 degrees fahrenheit for more at any point in the last 24 hours,
 - b. Sore throat (*That you believe is not typically allergy related*),
 - c. Cough,
 - d. Difficulty breathing,
 - e. Diarrhea or Vomiting,
 - f. New loss of taste or smell
2. Has your child experienced any THREE of the following symptoms (Group B from the [OSDH COVID-19 Symptomatic Illness Assessment](#)).
 - a. Stuffy OR Runny Nose,
 - b. Muscle/Body Aches
 - c. Fatigue,
 - d. Chills,
 - e. Nausea,

- f. Elevated Temperature but less than 100 degrees fahrenheit, or
- g. New Onset of Severe Headache
- 3. Has your child tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days?
- 4. Has your child been directed to be under quarantine by the health department in the last 10 days?
- 5. Have you taken a COVID-19 test and are awaiting the results?
- 6. Has your child been in close contact, as defined by 6 feet or less for more than 15 minutes, with a positive case of COVID-19?

If your child exhibits any of these, they need to stay home. The success of our school year depends on everyone doing their part. Please make sure your student is fever free without the use of a fever-reducing medication for 24 hours before sending them back to school.

If a student begins displaying COVID-19 symptoms at school, he/she should report to the office immediately. Parents will be contacted to pick up his/her child as soon as possible.

Exposure and Return to School After COVID

Parents of students or staff who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual at school will be notified, and it will be *recommended* to wear a well-fitted mask in public for 10 days.

Students or staff who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual at home will be:

- *Required* to quarantine 5 days and they are symptom free **AND**
- *Strongly recommended* to wear a well-fitted mask in public for an additional 5 days.

What counts as “Close Contact?”

- You spent at least 15 minutes or more at a distance of six feet or closer.
- You had direct physical contact with the person (e.g., handshake, hugging).
- You shared eating or drinking utensils with them.
- You came into contact with their respiratory droplets (e.g., they coughed or sneezed on you).

Any student or staff member who tests positive will be required to isolate for:

- 5 days after they test positive if asymptomatic **OR** 5 days from the first sign of symptoms (without fever for 24 hours) **AND**
- *Strongly recommended* to wear a well-fitted mask in public for an additional 5 days.

[Source: cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Masks/Face Coverings

The CDC recommends “universal mask” wearing as the first strategy to help stop the spread of coronavirus. Due to the increase of cases in our county, we encourage face coverings for all students and staff while inside (including those fully vaccinated). Students and staff may decide to

wear face masks outside but it is believed the spread of the virus is not as prevalent when people can properly social distance.

This will be reevaluated periodically, in consultation with the local health department and may be amended if COVID-19 case numbers increase in our *school/area* or the governor declares a state of emergency based on Senate Bill 658. Should cases increase the superintendent has the discretion to mandate masks with parents having the option of opting out. *If this mandate occurs, it will be re-evaluated at the next scheduled board meeting.*

Addressing Learning Loss

Students will be assessed to determine individual strength and weaknesses using programs purchased for this purpose. These assessments may determine if students need additional support. Learning platforms will be utilized to supplement this as well. Tutoring and other aids will be provided as the year gets started. We will continue to keep class sizes as low as possible.

Bus Transportation

Bus Drivers will follow the following guidelines regarding transportation:

1. We do encourage masks on the bus for safety because of the restricted space and airflow,
2. All bus drivers and riders will have masks available,
3. Bus riders will assigned seats,
4. Bus riders will likely be assigned seats by family groups,
5. Bus windows will be left open for airflow when at all possible,
6. All field trips must be approved by the Superintendent of schools,
7. Daily cleaning of buses will be mandatory for each bus route,
8. If a student riding your child's bus tests positive for COVID-19 the district will notify ONLY those riders who potentially came in close contact as defined by the OSDH.

Students riding the bus will be socially distanced to the extent possible. Students will be assigned a seat on the bus should contact tracing become an issue. Windows will be opened on the bus when possible to maximize fresh air/ventilation. Based on current ODH guidelines, students are encouraged to wear face coverings when riding the bus. Masks will be available to students if requested. Buses are cleaned and sanitized daily.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Section 504 Accommodation Plans will be reviewed for any specific needs that will need to be addressed by the team should there be a need to move into different learning formats and environments. Accommodations that work for students in the classroom may not be effective at home especially for students with disabilities. Many services can

be provided virtually, including speech-language therapy, certain instructional interventions, and mental health counseling. There are also many options for providing services that must be done in person. In the event our school experiences a closure due to COVID-19, offering 1:1 or small group instruction and services to students in need may be an option while remaining in compliance with local health department directives.

Access to School Buildings for Parents and Visitors

All individuals entering a school building or JT facility will be required to report to the office to have temperature checked. Parents will not be permitted to escort children into the building. Parents must remain in their cars and drive through the drop-off line. Staff members will be stationed outside of the school building to help direct students to their classrooms. Parents who wish to check their student out of school must only enter the main office. Especially due to our current spike in COVID, parents and visitors will be prohibited from entering hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, gymnasiums, and other common areas unless approved by the building principal.

For the first day of school, pre-kindergarten parents may, *if absolutely necessary*, walk their student to class. Parents will still be asked to enter through the north road and park in the parking lot. However, after the first day, adults will not be allowed to go to classrooms or be in hallways unless there are extraordinary circumstances.

Activities and Athletics

Extra-curricular activities, clubs, and athletics play an important role in a student's educational experience. All school-sponsored activities and athletic teams will continue to adhere to guidelines put in place by Districts, as well as recommendations from state and local health agencies. Please reach out to your child's coach or club sponsor with any questions or concerns.

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

Justus-Tiawah will continue to work with local agencies to provide counseling services when identified. We are in the process of exploring social and emotional development programs to implement as we realize the even greater importance during this difficult time.

Recess

Due to the rise in COVID in our area, to begin school, classes will be separated and the number of students in any one area will be limited during recess. Should the outlook improve, this will be revisited.

Attendance

A flexible attendance policy will again be in place this year as students, teachers, and staff are expected to stay home if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, have been diagnosed, quarantined, or are awaiting test results. Because of our online capabilities, it may be possible for a student to be at home due to those circumstances and not miss any instruction or assignments. Office staff and principals will work with families to ensure appropriate attendance codes are used for absences related to COVID-19. We will do everything we can to ensure our students' education.

Field Trips

Principals/Superintendent will assess requests for field trips and will approve/deny based upon curriculum needs and the health environment.

School Assemblies

Principals/Superintendent will make up-to-date decisions for the possibility of assembly activities.

Changes to Start of School Meetings and Activities

Open House will take place on a rotating basis based upon last name. Please visit the school social media to see where and when you are scheduled on this night. Please continue to check your email, the school webpage, social media pages, and other communication methods for the very latest school-specific information on events such as this.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Community

Justus-Tiawah School worked with local health officials in the spring to provide the opportunity for every staff member who wanted to receive the vaccination, and every staff member that wanted the vaccine is fully vaccinated.

We will be working with local health officials and will provide information when options become available for our school aged children

Additional Measures for Disease Mitigation

Hand Washing/Sanitizing

Washing and/or sanitizing hands frequently is one of the easiest ways to protect against infection. The procedures will be practiced and emphasized throughout the year. Throughout the school day, students will be reminded to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Students and staff members will also have access to alcohol-based hand sanitizer in classrooms and other common areas. Paper towel dispensers will be added to many restrooms and other areas. Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize hands throughout the day.

Social Distancing

When feasible, school sites will implement and encourage social distancing in common areas such as hallways, gyms, and cafeterias.

Cleaning Protocols

During the school day, staff will clean commonly touched surfaces inside classrooms, while maintenance personnel will clean commonly touched surfaces in common areas. At the end of each scheduled event or school day, district staff will clean frequently touched surfaces and objects. A CDC approved disinfectant agent is also sprayed through rooms and coats commonly touched surfaces after cleaning.

Classroom Seating

Classroom seating may be arranged to allow for as much distance between individual students as possible. However, like last year, available classroom space and class sizes will not allow for a 6-foot distance between students.

Meals at School

Students must wash hands or sanitize hands before going through a food line or sitting down to eat in the cafeteria. Students should socially distance while waiting in a food line. No guests will be allowed to have lunch on-site as long as there is still a threat of COVID-19 exposure. Hand sanitizer and hand-sanitizing stations will be added to cafeterias at all school sites.

Please note, at this time parents/visitors will not be allowed to eat meals with students in the school facilities but students can be checked out for meals. Parents are encouraged to limit the times they check their students out for lunch and/or drop-off lunch.

Supplies

Students will be discouraged to share supplies such as pens, pencils, markers, scissors, or crayons. Any supplies or tools needed to be used by multiple students will be sanitized between uses.

Water Fountains

Common drinking fountains will be closed. Each school site will be equipped with water bottle filling stations. We are in the process of working to install additional stations. Students and staff members are asked to bring non-breakable water containers to school every day.

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