



Dear JAG Family:

Welcome home! I am not sure if I have ever been so excited to share this message with you. While COVID remains on our radar, we are more prepared than ever to navigate its challenges. Last year, together, we learned so much about what it takes to stay safe, and we will continue many of those practices as we open this school year.

As we begin the year you will continue to hear the following:

**Back up...**social distance to give people space whenever possible.

**Mask up...**we strongly recommend everyone wear a mask.

**Wash up...**wash and sanitize your hands and space frequently.

These three things will be asked of all staff, students and visitors to help keep our campus functioning safely throughout the year as we emerge on the other side of the pandemic.

Last year this opening letter stated, *"Normal convocation activities such as our band playing and large group gatherings will simply be put on pause, not gone forever."* What you will experience is we are no longer on pause. You should have received your convocation invitation. We will celebrate "JAGGIE" style on Tuesday, August 24th at 9am with the band playing and some fun awards.

Lunch provided for ALL district employees on Tuesday at the event entrance and will be served for everyone in two shifts to alleviate a large rush and long lines. Transportation staff and our 7-12 staff will eat at 11am. Elementary Staff can begin getting their food at 11:30. A huge thank you to GEA and OAPSE for sharing the cost of bringing Aaron King and his food truck back again this year!

As we begin the year I would like everyone to reflect on this picture. There is a good reason a



windshield is so much larger than a rearview mirror. What's ahead of us this year is much more exciting than what's behind us. If we navigate our year through the rearview mirror we are destined to run into obstacles.

While we will never forget 2020, it has passed and we are now focused on all that is in front of us. This school year we will do what we have always done.

Our kids will return. We will connect with them and make them feel happy to be back at JAG surrounded by people who care deeply about them. We will find out what each of them needs and be responsive to meeting those needs. If you are a member of the JAG family all of this work excites you.



It is what drives us, and has us all looking forward to seeing one another and our kids this school year.

Our theme this year is RECONNECT and will offer many opportunities to do just that. Our monthly themes will be as follows:

<b>September</b> <i>Students</i>	<b>December</b> <i>Businesses</i>	<b>March</b> <i>Alumni</i>
<b>October</b> <i>Core Values</i>	<b>January</b> <i>Support Organizations</i>	<b>April</b> <i>Safety Forces</i>
<b>November</b> <i>Families</i>	<b>February</b> <i>Board of Education</i>	<b>May</b> <i>Each Other</i>

Each month there will be a district activity everyone will be encouraged to engage in to reconnect to each of these groups. We will provide two shirts to every employee that can be worn to celebrate our theme as well as the 70th anniversary of the James A. Garfield Local School District!

Finally, there will be much to celebrate and learn as we begin the school year. I will continue to update you weekly of important information and celebrations through a weekly Loom presentation. You can expect the first update this Sunday.

I Look forward to seeing each of you as you begin filtering back 'home' to our campus! Thank you for all that you do to make JAG the very best place to live, work and learn!

See you soon!  
Go G-Men!  
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