



# DISCOVERY

## HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

### **2020-21 Calendar Letter**

Dear KDHSA and DJOD families:

We are now in May of the most unusual school year I have seen in 40 years of education. Planning is difficult for the year's end with social distancing and various stages of gradual reopenings.

I have chosen to end this academic year 5 days early and start the 2020-21 school year 5 days early. This means the last day of instruction is Tuesday, May 19th. Faculty will work 2 additional days to close out the school year. The first day of the 2020-21 school year for 1st-12th grade is August 5, 2020. Kindergarten will start one week later on August 12, 2020. We are including the link to the 2020-21 school calendar. Please note that we left annual community events and ceremonies on the calendar. We will change to virtual events if needed. This is the calendar we hope for - full of annual events.

Fall, 2020 - What does it look like? The White House & CDC have identified 3 phases of gradual reopening for the country. Elected officials determine the phase we are in according to data and criteria. In Phase 1 schools are closed and learning is online. In Phase 2 schools are open with many safeguards in place. In Phase 3 schools are open with fewer safeguards in place. Right now in Jefferson Parish, we are in "Stay At Home" and will enter Phase 1 on Friday, May 14th. There are no specific guidelines as to school safeguards during each phase. I along with some of our Admin Team have attended local, regional, state, and national webinars to determine how schools can successfully reopen. We know that schools need to be able to move from one plan to another fluidly while students continue to learn. Discovery now has the beginning of a "Discovery Strong Start 2020" plan that aligns with the CDC's 3 phases.

Discovery Schools will have set protocols for entry to each campus for teachers, students, and visitors. We are looking to protect our community as much as possible and to offer some health and wellness options for faculty and students. More details to follow.

This is the most complex school startup plan I have ever tackled, and remember I have started schools for a living since 1993! I promise it will be a plan with the best interest of our school community all while considering the possible resurgence of a worldwide pandemic.

I apologize for this letter being sent so late, and I take full responsibility for its lateness. I revise it every day as public health conditions change and our elected officials make decisions. We are working now on the close-out of the school year and planning for the week of June 1st Professional Development for new faculty. After we close this year out, we will start sharing our potential reentry plans and getting feedback for what you are comfortable with as we go through these uncharted waters together. We plan to send out a survey about transportation, food, and collecting your many other concerns.

As always, we have a strong community who will survive this and survive it with the best interest of students in mind. #OwlUp #SwampOwlPride

To view the KDHSA 2020-21 at-a-glance calendar ([click here](#))

To view the DJOD 2020-21 at-a-glance calendar ([click here](#))

These calendars can also be found under “documents” on the school’s websites & mobile apps.

With a Healthy HEART for you and me,  
Dr. Glaser