



**Jacksonville | North Pulaski**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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[www.jnpsd.org](http://www.jnpsd.org)

*Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day*

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March 22, 2020

8:21 pm

JNPSD School Community:

As I write tonight's update, I am thinking of a high school scholar who I encountered when picking up a to-go dinner order at a local Jacksonville restaurant where she worked (social distancing was practiced). She asked me a few questions about school and the future. She asked if prom, graduation, and other things were going to be canceled. She told me the following that I am paraphrasing:

*We teenagers are always looking for a break from school, but not like this. We miss school, we miss our friends, we miss our teachers, we miss stuff ... we just miss it. School is part of our lives that is important and sometimes we do not even know it. This is hard to understand.*

I told her that we have many unknowns right now, and we have many good people working on solutions to help our scholars. We would provide answers as soon as we can. Keep the faith, and we will overcome this.

For many of our scholars, this is a confusing time. We have teachers, staff, community members, and others assisting JNPSD to overcome obstacles to provide much needed services for our scholars and their families. Our partners are helping us every day, and we are thankful for their commitment to our community. Keep the faith, and we will overcome this.

The following is a quote from Arkansas Secretary of Education Johnny Key:

*"I trust that educators and parents will understand this is not perfect, but we can't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. While the suspension of onsite instruction is necessary to protect our students, the extension of AMI is a responsible way to continue education delivery. I have been encouraged and inspired this week by the creativity we have seen from teachers in posting engaging lessons and activities for their students across a variety of platforms. I appreciate the efforts of our educators, and I look for this dedication and creativity to continue as we work through this difficult time."*

Please refer to previous updates that are posted on our website ([www.jnpsd.org](http://www.jnpsd.org)) and our social media outlets. We have the link to our updates and other information posted on the main

banner of our website. Please view the March 20 video update that is posted on social media and our website.

*This week is spring break. I strongly encourage scholars and families to unplug from school work this week. There is no pressure to complete assignments and other activities right now. We need all scholars and families rested, healthy, and strong when we resume operations for AMI days on March 30.*

**IMPORTANT: If your contact information has changed, please send the correct phone number, address, and/or email to the principal of your school or to the district office. We will have the information updated in eSchool. Email or phone information is on the district website.**

1. JNPSD has partnered with the Clinton Foundation, World Central Kitchen, City of Little Rock, and City of Jacksonville to provide meals for our scholars during spring break and beyond if necessary. Lunch meals will be provided March 23-27 at sites in the City of Jacksonville. Please contact Kevin House if you need additional information ([khouse@cityofjacksonville.net](mailto:khouse@cityofjacksonville.net)).

**We will provide additional information in the coming days on meal availability for the extended closure. JNPSD will provide food service to our scholars in some capacity during the closure.**

2. A technology survey was posted on social media recently for parent feedback. Please complete the survey as soon as possible. We are assessing technology needs in the community.

3. JHS Senior Scholars and Families: As you may have already heard, the Arkansas Department of Education released information that stated the following: "Seniors who are on track to graduate and in good standing as of the third nine weeks reporting period will be considered as meeting graduation requirements for the state of Arkansas."

All senior scholars will receive a letter by email from Ms. Biggs. All scholars will be contacted individually by high school staff no later than April 3 concerning graduation status. Scholars who need additional support to meet requirements will be provided with this support. Scholars who need support in completing Advanced Placement or concurrent credit requirements will be provided the needed support to do so. Support for filing FASFA, scholarship applications, college admissions, career services, etc. will be available.

4. I have received inquiries about volunteering to help the effort. If a group or individual is interesting in volunteering to help, please contact Amy Arnone at 501-241-2080 or email [aarnone@jnpsd.org](mailto:aarnone@jnpsd.org). She will take your information and contact you in the future regarding volunteer opportunities.

5. Communication providers are offering free or low-cost internet access for families:

AT&T	<a href="https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html">https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html</a>
CenturyLink	<a href="https://news.centurylink.com/covid-19">https://news.centurylink.com/covid-19</a>
Comcast	<a href="https://www.xfinity.com/prepare?pc=1">https://www.xfinity.com/prepare?pc=1</a>

Cox	<a href="https://www.cox.com/residential/internet-sem.html">https://www.cox.com/residential/internet-sem.html</a>
Sprint	<a href="https://www.sprint.com/">https://www.sprint.com/</a>
Suddenlink	<a href="https://www.alticeusa.com/news/articles/feature/corporate/altice-usa-brings-free-broadband-k-12-and-college-students-during-coronavirus-pandemic">https://www.alticeusa.com/news/articles/feature/corporate/altice-usa-brings-free-broadband-k-12-and-college-students-during-coronavirus-pandemic</a>
T-Mobile	<a href="https://www.t-mobile.com/news/t-mobile-update-on-covid-19-response">https://www.t-mobile.com/news/t-mobile-update-on-covid-19-response</a>
Verizon	<a href="https://www.verizon.com/about/news/our-response-coronavirus">https://www.verizon.com/about/news/our-response-coronavirus</a>
Windstream	<a href="https://www.windstream.com/products">https://www.windstream.com/products</a>

More details on the offers are posted on the Coronavirus Update page of our website.

6. Stay tuned for additional information from each school concerning Alternative Methods of Instruction information. Current AMI packets and Google Classroom assignments should be valid to April 2. Plans are being finalized for new learning opportunities for our scholars.
7. Information will be publicized soon concerning arrangements for the April 6 board meeting. The Governor's Proclamation provided waivers for boards to meet in a different way during this school closure time period. The public will be advised once plans for the meeting are finalized.
8. The state has shared many online resources with teachers for their use in preparing online lessons as well as Google Hangout, Google Meet, Zoom, and other online venues for classes. Parents will have access to these resources as well. More information will be shared from the schools concerning these resources.
9. The Arkansas Department of Education has COVID-19 resources: <http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information>.
10. Please follow all safeguards as recommended by the Arkansas Department of Health. Please remember to follow the basic healthy habits that have been repeatedly shared: frequent hand-washing, limit physical greetings, practice social distancing, and call your doctor or use the Department of Health/UAMS websites if you need medical advice.

Medical Support:

- a. Healthy.Arkansas.gov: current information from the ADH
- b. 1-800-803-7847: 24-hour hotline for COVID-19 questions
- c. uamshealth.com: 24-hour digital connection to healthcare professionals – UAMS
- d. 1-800 -743-3616: 24-hour hotline for issues related to children's health – ACH

We will communicate with school community members as soon as updated information becomes available. We truly appreciate your support, patience, and understanding. Keep the faith, and we will overcome this.

Respectfully,



Bryan Duffie, Ed.D.  
Superintendent