



## Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

1414 West Main St - Jacksonville, AR 72076

Ph: 501-241-2080 Fax: 501-241-2092

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

*Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day*

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July 9, 2020

8:22 pm

JNPSD School Community:

Please continue to stay informed through all of our postings on JNP social media, JNP website, local media, and other communication outlets. All community updates and other information posted since March 6 is available for your reference.

The Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Education are providing the latest information available to advise schools on school reentry for August. As information is updated, guidance and procedures may change based on the latest health directives or other information.

### **Items from the Governor's Press Conference today:**

In referring to slowing the spread of the virus, the Governor stated "wear your protective masks."

Governor Hutchinson stated that "we are going to have school." **He also announced that the start date for school will be moved to the week of August 24 with school starting no later than August 26.** He said that the state is committed to on-site instruction.

Waivers that were granted for the original start date of school (August 13) will be recommended for rescission to the State Board of Education.

State health protocols are being released that will detail standard levels of response when dealing with COVID cases in schools. ADH officials will be consulted before any action is taken concerning positive cases in schools.

Secretary Key state that the change in school start date will help give school districts additional time for preparation and readiness for the school year.

### **Summary of Questions / Topics from the Media:**

COVID testing in schools – There is no plan for mandatory testing for schools. Testing can happen as needed.

State requirement for masks – ADH has mask guidelines. School districts have flexibility to determine policy. Spacing will determine how the protective measures will happen. The state is not requiring masks as state guidance is “strongly recommended”. We want children to have a safe environment, and masks will help as well as physical distancing. We want teachers safe as well. Adults are the primary spreaders of COVID. Children have not been the spreaders, but we still want the protections in place.

Teacher reporting dates and student days – State is not changing the number of teacher contract days or student contact days. School calendars may be adjusted to have the 178 student days.

Closing schools between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day like other states – No, the state is not considering this option.

Projected end date for the school year – School districts will have to adjust their calendars locally.

Why open schools when the cases are higher now than during the school closure – “We have our infrastructure in place. We have more experience, and we are better prepared for the online training and blended learning environment necessary. It’s a totally different environment compared to the end of the last school year,” Governor Hutchinson said.

When asked if there is a particular policy regarding disclosure to the public when a student or teacher has a positive case, Secretary Key responded, “There is no set policy or procedure at the moment because the balance between privacy laws, HIPPA and the right for the public to know is always a fine balance. When that has happened in the summer, local districts have made that known through a variety of communications. I don’t anticipate directing that from a state level.”

**JNPSD Statement: We are evaluating the implications of these announced changes. Parents and community members will be advised of any changes to the school calendar once these changes are approved. Other new information will be shared as soon as possible.**

## 1. **FREE ATHLETIC PHYSICALS JULY 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> - PRE-REGISTER ONLINE**

Due to COVID-19 and the closure of the JNPSD, we were unable to provide athletic physicals in April as originally planned for the 2020-2021 school year. We are excited to announce that the Jacksonville Athletic Department in conjunction with ARCare will offer FREE athletic physicals to student athletes on Monday, July 13th and Tuesday, July 14th.

Link to register: <https://form.jotform.com/201636303179149>

\* ALL STUDENT ATHLETES MUST PRE-REGISTER ONLINE BEFORE ATTENDING THE PHYSICAL DATES.

\* A face mask MUST be worn upon arrival and at ALL times.

\* Upon arriving, each athlete will be asked the COVID-19 screening questions and have their temperatures taken using a non-contact thermometer. Temperature must be under 100.4.

Who: Current JHS and JMS student athletes (7th-12th)

What: FREE student athlete physicals

When: Monday, July 13th and Tuesday, July 14th from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Where: JHS Auxiliary Gym (1301 West Main Street)

Parents: Please use the bus entry off West Main Street to enter the east side of the auxiliary gym.

2. We are getting questions concerning our virtual school option being referred to as homeschool. These distinctions are different. The JNP virtual school option keeps scholars enrolled in JNPSD, and activities are supervised by JNP teachers.

Homeschooling is an option where families take full responsibility for the education of their children, and the children are not enrolled in JNPSD. JNPSD no longer has the legal responsibility for educating any homeschooled child if parents make this choice.

JNPSD does offer the Titan Homeschool Academy for families who want their children to remain homeschooled with curriculum content provided by JNPSD using an online service provider. The child would be enrolled in JNPSD for the courses taken through the content provider, but the child would remain as a homeschooled scholar. Families interested in this option can contact Amy Arnone at [aarnone@jnpsd.org](mailto:aarnone@jnpsd.org) or 501-241-2080.

3. If families are interested in the JNP Virtual Academy and was not able to complete the past surveys, please contact Teresa Hicks at [thicks@jnpsd.org](mailto:thicks@jnpsd.org) or 501-241-2080.

4. Graduation information publicize previously:

**Saturday, August 1 at Titan Arena**

3 Ceremonies of 80 graduates each

7 guests per scholar

Tickets will be issued to scholars.

Additional information will be publicized soon.

All state health directives, **including facility capacity requirements, spacing requirements, and face coverings**, must be followed. The JNP graduation plan had to comply with specific requirements in order to host these ceremonies. State officials may monitor ceremonies for compliance. We need your cooperation in order to conduct our ceremonies as planned.

**Schedule as follows:**

9 am – All Honor Graduates and Graduates Last Name A - Dillard

Noon – Graduates Last Name Douglas - Otto

3 pm – Graduates Last Name Pace - Z

High school staff will contact senior scholars on the details regarding tickets, seating, state health requirements, etc.

Photographers will be onsite to take graduation photos. Photo packages will be offered by the photographer.

**NOTE: If there are major changes in the health conditions in the state and we are advised by the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Education to cancel our modified ceremonies, then JNPSD will give notice to parents and scholars as soon as possible.**

**Summary of State-Mandated Requirements for Approved Ceremonies**

1. Six-foot distancing requirements between household groups will be required.
2. Six-foot distancing requirements between graduates will be observed.
3. Graduates must be seated at least 12-feet from the audience. Graduates will be seated at least 6-feet apart on the gym floor.
4. Face coverings are required for age 10 and older. Graduates may remove face coverings for official photographs of the awarding of diplomas.
5. No congregating will be allowed in parking lots, lobbies, and other general areas of campus.
6. Hand sanitizer stations and masks will be available to the public.

7. The facility must be sanitized before and after each ceremony. Participants must exit the facility promptly at the conclusion of the ceremony. This will allow proper time for cleaning.

8. Administrative and security staff will monitor the ceremony and assist families as needed. **Staff will direct families to specific seating areas.**

These requirements could change based on any new directives from the Governor, Arkansas Department of Health, and Arkansas Department of Education.

Thank you for your support of JNPSD.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Duffie". The signature is stylized and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Bryan Duffie. Ed.D.  
Superintendent