Introduction

On Friday, March 13, 2020 Governor DeWine ordered all schools closed to help stop the spread of COVID-19. This closure lasted the remainder of the 2020 school year and tested the best of our creativity, compassion and teamwork.

Today we are faced with a new challenge amidst COVID-19 as we plan for how to reopen schools and keep students and staff safe. This too has tested the best of us, but as G-Men always do, we have rolled up our sleeves and done the necessary work to do what is best.

Teams of staff members have worked together to create a reopening plan that will get our students back in school with extensive safety measures.

This plan will address the following areas:

- Assessing for Symptoms
- Washing and Sanitizing Hands
- Cleaning and Sanitizing School Environment
- Social Distancing
- Face Covering Policy
- Teaching and Learning

JAG’s Reopening Plan will implement best practices recommended by the following experts:


**Portage County Health District** - [https://www.co.portage.oh.us/portage-county-health-district/pages/portage-county-health-district](https://www.co.portage.oh.us/portage-county-health-district/pages/portage-county-health-district)

**Ohio Department of Health** - [https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf)


The goal of this reopening plan is to implement procedures to adopt best practices and procedures to deal with the ongoing pandemic and provide the best possible environment for our JAG family.

This plan was approved on August 3, 2020 in compliance with all existing state health orders and will be revised if new orders that impact our schools are enacted.

New information is also being released each day by the many organizations we consult with to determine the safest steps forward. This will require our plan to be extremely fluid. Whenever health officials suggest necessary adjustments, we will be transparent and keep you apprised of any changes or additions to this plan.
Assessing for Symptoms

As our schools reopen, the health and safety of students, staff, and volunteers is paramount. Assessing for symptoms is the first level of protection we will implement. This includes the following procedures:

### Home Self Checks

Daily self checks will be required of all students and staff prior to leaving for the school day. The following symptoms must be checked on a daily basis:

- Fever of 100°F or higher.
- Chills.
- Cough.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Fatigue.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Headache.
- Loss of taste or smell.
- Sore throat.
- Congestion or runny nose.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Diarrhea.

Anyone with symptoms (described above) or a temperature of 100°F or higher MUST stay home.

### Bus Screenings

Bus drivers will be provided with no-touch thermometers and will screen every student. Students with a temperature of 100°F or higher will not be permitted to ride on the bus. Bus drivers will initiate communications with the District so the impacted family can be contacted immediately. Children in grades PK-5 will not be sent to an empty home. Bus drivers will wait at the bus stop until administration arrives. Parents are strongly encouraged to be present at home for bus pickups in the morning for students in grades PK-5.

### Entry Screenings

Students and staff entering the buildings will have their temperature taken. Anyone with a temperature of 100°F or higher or exhibiting any of the above symptoms will not be permitted to enter the building. While visitors will be extremely limited this year, anyone
entering the office areas will be required to complete a symptom screening and temperature check. Anyone with a temperature of 100˚F or higher will not be permitted to enter the building.

**In-School Assessment**

We have established separate locations, hereinafter referred to as COVID-19 Clinic, isolated from other students and staff, for anyone who may become symptomatic during the school day. Individuals demonstrating symptoms or a temperature of 100˚F or higher will immediately be provided a mask, separated from others and monitored by a staff member wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) while maintaining physical distance. **Students and staff will be sent home.** Separate exits will be designated for families to pick up their children. Our staff will escort students to these exits so family members do not need to enter the building.

JAG staff will refer those displaying symptoms of COVID-19 to the Portage County Health Department. Portage County Health Department will also be contacted in the case of positive or suspected COVID-19 cases in a school building. The District will not make health decisions and will rely on guidance from the Portage County Health Department.

**Attendance Rewards & Monitoring**

JAG will monitor daily absences of students and staff for trends. Sick leave and absence policies will not penalize students for staying home when symptomatic or in quarantine or isolation. Reward programs for student attendance will be placed on hold as we want children to stay home when they are feeling sick.

**Positive Cases and Return to School**

We are not health professionals and rely on the Portage County Health Commissioner to make health determinations. In our schools, to maintain a safe environment for our students and staff, we will presume anyone demonstrating symptoms is COVID-19 positive unless proven otherwise.

Students feeling ill will be taken to the COVID-19 Clinic, provided appropriate PPE and assessed by our school nurse. Students demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms as described above will be immediately removed from school. The school district will depend on Primary Care Physician for diagnosis and clearance to return. All positive cases will be reported to the Portage County Health Department. The Portage County Health Department will inform the
District of any positive cases, conduct contact tracing and inform the District of any individuals required to quarantine.

Any student with an elevated temperature (100°F or higher) must be fever-free without the use of fever reducing medication for three (3) days or 72 hours before the Health Department will allow us to return the student to school. Acceptable documentation for a return to school will include a physician’s note confirming a child has been fever free for three (3) days or 72 hours or documentation of negative COVID-19 test results.
Washing and Sanitizing Hands

Hand washing and sanitizing are important tools in preventing the spread of COVID-19 by killing the virus. Students, staff and volunteers will practice frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds when hands are dirty, before and after eating, and after using the restroom. JAG will provide opportunities throughout the day for hand washing.

To supplement hand washing, we will provide hand sanitizer in high traffic areas including entrances to buildings, offices and classrooms. Further, hand sanitizing stations are installed on every school bus and van and we will instruct students and staff to use the sanitizer frequently.

Additionally, staff, students, and volunteers should avoid touching their mouths, noses, and eyes since the virus easily enters the body through these membranes.

We have incorporated signs, posters and training to reinforce the important practice of frequent hand washing and sanitizing for students and staff.
Cleaning and Sanitizing School Environment

We will clean surfaces frequently, paying close attention to high touch areas such as door handles and shared materials. We will also make sanitation wipes or disinfectants available in each room and common space. The sharing of supplies and materials will be minimized and if items must be shared, sanitized between each user.

We have purchased sanitizing machines that allow us to sanitize classrooms, restrooms and buses. These tools will be used in conjunction with CDC best practices for cleaning and sanitizing.

**Buses**

Buses will be cleaned and sanitized between the middle/high school and elementary routes and again at the end of the morning and afternoon routes. Windows will be open to provide clean air circulation at all times. Students should dress accordingly.

**Restrooms**

Restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized every two hours when in use (School hours) as well as nightly after students and staff have left the building.

**Classrooms**

Classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized nightly. Further, once each day classrooms will be sanitized when empty. Sanitation wipes or disinfectants will be available in each room.

**High Touch Areas**

Drinking fountains will be replaced with water-bottle fillers and the fountain component has been disabled. Students are encouraged to bring their own personal water bottles as drinking fountains will not be available. High touch areas such as drinking fountains, door handles and railings will be sanitized frequently.

**Visitors & Field Trips**

To minimize the exposure of COVID-19 entering our buildings, all outside use of our facilities and any field trips have been put on hold for the first semester. We will provide any group associated with the school access to Zoom to conduct their meetings.
Social Distancing

Keeping a distance of three to six feet or more adds another layer of prevention against the spread of COVID-19 by minimizing the chance of coming into contact with the virus through respiratory droplets. JAG has taken the following measures to ensure social distancing:

Busing

Students will load buses from the back to front and exit the bus from front to back. Family members are permitted to sit two individuals per seat. Non-family members will sit one person per seat. We encourage families to transport your child to school whenever possible to create more social distancing on our buses.

Athletics

Distancing at athletic practices and events are determined by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). We will meet or exceeded OHSAA safety recommendations.

Arrival/Dismissal

Entry and exit points will have doors propped open during arrival and dismissal to avoid any contact with door handles. Multiple points of entry have been designated to eliminate large crowds entering or exiting through a single set of doors. Adults will be assigned to all open doors as a safety precautions. Doors will be locked during all other times. Large staging areas have been identified for students to wait for school to begin so social distancing can be achieved.

Hallways & Stairwells

One-way traffic patterns have been created at the middle school and high school to assist in social distancing. Stairwells in all buildings will be marked as “Up-only” or “Down only” unless in cases of emergencies (i.e. fire/tornado). When possible, students will remain in classrooms and teachers will move to the students to reduce traffic in hallways.

Classrooms

Maximum social distancing has been designated in each classroom. Classrooms unable to guarantee a minimum of three feet of distance between students have been moved to larger spaces. Plexiglass dividers may also be utilized.
Cafeteria & Lunch

Multiple large-space areas (cafeteria, PD Center, Gymnasiums, outdoor space, etc.) will be utilized to maintain six feet of social distancing while students are eating. Lunch options that meet federal nutrition requirements as well as student safety are currently being explored.

Recess

At the elementary school students will have outdoor recess whenever weather allows. Playground equipment will be closed and shareable items such as balls will not be available. Areas will be marked and supervised where students will be permitted to remove their masks while playing. In these areas it is our intention to exceed distancing beyond six feet.
Mask Policy

Face coverings are critical to preventing the spread of the virus from person-to-person. Wearing face coverings is especially important during times of elevated community spread, particularly when social distancing is not possible. School settings are especially high risk for community spread.

Although children are less likely to become severely ill, they often are carriers of the virus and can spread it to school staff or family members at home, some of whom may be high-risk. Additionally, those family members can then carry the virus to others in workplace and community settings.

All students, staff and visitors will be required to wear masks at all times. Acceptable masks include disposable masks, cloth masks or gaiters. Bandanas will not be permitted.

Shields

Face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the chin can be considered as an alternative where cloth face coverings would hinder the learning process. Some situations where face shields would be useful include:
- When interacting with students, such as those with disabilities, where communication could be impacted
- When teaching a foreign language.
- Settings where cloth masks might present a safety hazard (i.e. science labs)
- For individuals who have difficulty wearing a cloth face covering.

Heat

When the Heat Index (calculated by NOAA using relative humidity and temperature) reaches 87°F JAG will move to an “Online Learning Day”. Instruction will continue in these situations but will be conducted online or remotely.

Mask Breaks

Students may have opportunities to take supervised “Mask Breaks” where appropriate. Outdoor spaces or larger areas may be used to create a maximum social distancing (exceeding six feet) so students may safely remove their masks temporarily.
Masks

Infectious aerosol particles can be released during breathing and speaking by asymptomatic infected individuals. No masking maximizes exposure, whereas comprehensive masking results in the least exposure.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NWS Heat Index</th>
<th>Temperature (°F)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>80 81 83 85 88 91 94 97 101 105 109 114 119 124 130 136</td>
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<td>86 93 100 108 117 127</td>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>87 95 103 112 121 132</td>
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</tbody>
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Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity
- Caution
- Extreme Caution
- Danger
- Extreme Danger
Teaching and Learning

The benefits of in person learning are numerous and supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Ohio Department of Education (ODE). While Federal, State and Local Government desire for our children to be back in school our plans must be flexible in order to adapt quickly.

This year, JAG will have three pathways available for learning. While in person learning is desired we have created other formats we can move to if Recommended by the Portage County Health Department. The Ohio Public Health Advisory System will be used as baseline guidance for which format is utilized. We will also consult with the Portage County Health Director and may move to a more restrictive learning format prior to any order by the Governor to keep our students and staff safe.

In Person

Families will have the option to return in a face to face format for students on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 for grades 1-12 and for Preschool and Kindergarten students on Monday, September 14, 2020. All safety precautions mentioned previously in this plan will be implemented.

In person format will be available to all students beginning September 8, 2020 and will generally remain in effect if the Ohio Public Health Advisory System designates Portage County as Level 1 or 2 Public Emergency (Yellow or Orange).

Hybrid

Hybrid model will only be available if the Ohio Public Health Advisory System designates Portage County as Level 2 or 3 Public Emergency (Orange or Red) and if Recommended by the Portage County Health Department.

In a hybrid model, students will be divided into two groups, A and B. Students will attend school face to face every other day. On days when students are at home they are working independently on work assigned by their teacher. Students will be grouped with family members for your convenience.

Parents will be notified of their child’s group placement in the coming weeks. We will group students by last name and family.

View Group A Calendar
View Group B Calendar
Online

Families will also have the option attending the first semester online. Online learning this year will look extremely different than it did when we ended last year. This fall online learning will be curriculum recommended and selected by Garfield teachers. Technology will be provided to families by Garfield Schools and families can expect contact and support from a JAG teacher at least weekly.

Revised School Calendar

To accommodate for the changes to this school year we have adopted a new 2020-21 calendar. The delayed start will allow our staff the appropriate training needed to safely reopen schools and prepare for a successful online experience for those choosing that format.

We will conduct a “Soft Open” the first two days for students in grades 1-12. On Tuesday, September 8th only students assigned to Group A will attend school. On Wednesday, September 9th only students assigned to Group B will attend school. These days will be used as an orientation and acclimation for students to be introduced to all new procedures.

See revised 2020-21 School Calendar.

Ohio Public Health Advisory System

The Ohio Public Health System provides a county-wide system that gauges the degree of spread of COVID-19. We will generally utilize the Ohio Public Health Advisory System to determine which learning format will be used. However, the Ohio Public Health Advisory System is updated only once each week, so we will always have the ability to move to a hybrid or online delivery model if we see a rise in cases within our District and if the Portage County Health Department recommends a change. We will work with the Portage County Health Director and monitor symptoms and cases in our District to determine if a more restrictive format is required to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Information and guidance is fluid and will cause our plan to change frequently. We will communicate any updates to this plan through our mass notification systems, social media and at jagschools.org.
Decisions to move from In Person to Hybrid to Online will be made in consultation with the Portage County Health Department.

Any decision to change formats will be communicated on a Thursday and take effect for the following week. Any change in format will be made for a two week period.

Advisory System can be found by visiting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OHIO PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM LEVEL</th>
<th>JAG LEARNING FORMAT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (Yellow)</td>
<td>In Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (Orange)</td>
<td>In Person/Hybrid*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (Red)</td>
<td>Hybrid/Online*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (Purple)</td>
<td>Online</td>
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</table>

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