

John Greer - Return to Learning Plan: Parent Notes

Introduction:

The John Greer Return to Learning Plan was created through collaboration of the Building Leadership Team. This team attempted to balance the academic needs of students as well as the health of students and staff, including academic, social, and emotional health.

The JG Return to Learning Plan adheres to the spirit of the current Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health Guidelines. These include:

- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment, including face coverings.
- Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space.
- Require social distancing be observed, as much as possible.
- Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings.
- Require an increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection.

The purpose of sharing the John Greer Return to Learning Plan is to give our families factual information to assist them in choosing the educational option that works best for their child(ren). School registration will be conducted online from August 10 - 12. Information about registration has been mailed.

Educational Options:

1 Homeschooling

- The family is responsible for providing curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- "If you decide to re-enroll the student in public school after a period of homeschooling, the public school enrolling the student will make a determination of grade placement. The school may administer a test to the student or ask for proof of the material covered during the period of home schooling. ISBE highly recommends that parents keep in close communication with the public district in which they intend to enroll or re-enroll the student. By doing so, you can ensure that your child will be ready for whatever assessment will be used and therefore placed in the grade level that matches the student's academic ability. Moreover, for high school students entering a public school it is critical that parents can demonstrate proof that a student has earned credits during the homeschool process for classes required for graduation." Illinois State Board of Education

2 Remote Learning

- John Greer is responsible for providing curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- The Remote Learning process will be governed by the *Hoopeston Area Remote Learning Plan and Contract*. This document is on the John Greer website.
- If a family chooses Remote Learning, a guardian will be asked to attend a Remote Learning Parent Meeting with your child's teacher on August 20, sometime between 1:30 - 4:30 pm. More information about this meeting will be shared at a later date.

3 In-Person Attendance

- According to the plan adopted by the Hoopeston Area Board of Education, John Greer will be in session for all students, Monday - Friday, until 1:05 pm each day. To meet the state's 5 hour clock day requirement, students will complete their daily homework after 1:05.
- The rest of this document will explain how in-person learning will be structured.

SCHEDULING

A Day / B Day:

John Greer will function with an alternating A Day / B Day Schedule. Each John Greer grade level is content specialized. This means each student has 2 teachers. One teacher specializes in English/Language Arts/Social Studies. The other teacher specializes in Math/Science.

- A Day - Students are with their first teacher.
- B Day - Students are with their second teacher.

A and B Days will alternate every other day without exception. This schedule eliminates passing periods and allows sanitization of classrooms to occur after students are gone each day.

Specials:

To give students a holistic education, John Greer is maintaining a weekly Specials Schedule that includes Physical Education, Music, Art, Technology/Library, DARE (5th grade only). Due to the 1:05 dismissal schedule, students will not receive as many minutes in these subjects as they would with a 3:05 dismissal schedule. Specials will be held in the following locations:

Music - General Music Classroom

Art - Art Room

Technology - General Classrooms

DARE - Held in 5th Grade Classrooms

PE - Outside when possible; Gym otherwise

The Specials Schedule allows for sanitization between groups of students using the art and music rooms.

Lunch Schedules:

Students will have a 30 minute lunch period which begins with a restroom break. These periods are spaced apart, allowing for sanitization of surfaces between lunch groups. Lunch will be held in the cafeteria since John Greer has 3 cafeteria rooms while one class per grade level will eat outside or on the stage. This will allow for social distancing between all students while eating.

Restroom Break Schedule:

Students are encouraged to use the restroom when they arrive at school. Each teacher will schedule a midmorning restroom break. There will also be a restroom break right before lunch. For social distancing purposes, no more than 4 students will be allowed in a restroom at a time.

Beginning of Day Routine:

All walkers and those who are dropped off will enter through the Penn Street door.

- Symptom checks will occur outside the Penn Street door.
- Screened students will enter the building and go directly to their lockers.
- Then, if a student needs breakfast, he/she may proceed to the cafeteria to pick up a 'to go' breakfast.
- Students then report directly to their classrooms.

Bus students will already be screened and will enter John Greer through the west door. This beginning of the day routine will create a socially distanced entry into John Greer.

End of Day Routine:

A staggered schedule will allow students to retrieve belongings from their lockers at the end of the day.

3rd Grade - Students will exit through the Penn Street door and can be picked up there.

4th Grade - Students will exit through the Main Street door and can be picked up there.

5th Grade - Students will exit through the east playground door. These parents should prearrange with their child whether he/she will be picked up on Penn or Main Street. Students can walk to either location.

The District is considering establishing an after school program to support students who need to stay at school later than 1:05. Details about this program may be sent out at a later date.

Bussing

A shuttle bus will continue to run between John Greer and Maple. Country bus students will be unloaded at John Greer directly from their route bus in the morning. After school, country bus students will be loaded directly onto their route bus at John Greer.

FACE MASKS

Guidelines:

All persons in the school building are required to wear a mask unless they have a medical exemption. (If a medical exemption is given, those students are required to wear a face shield instead)

- Students **MUST** wear a face covering that covers the mouth and nose at all times.
 - Exceptions:
 - At breakfast or lunch when eating
 - Outdoors when able to maintain proper social distancing
 - While playing a musical instrument that requires breath
 - Face coverings include:
 - Face Masks
 - Neck Gaiters (worn around the mouth and nose)

Parents are encouraged to provide face coverings for their students. The district will have face coverings available should a student need one.

District Policy:

Refusal to wear a mask will result in the student being sent home for non-compliance with health requirements. Students who are sent home are still accountable for their work for the day and need to continue their day remotely. The student may return at any time they comply with the mask requirement. The second time a student refuses to wear a mask, that student will be switched to remote learning for the remainder of the semester.

Others Entering John Greer:

As required by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education, all individuals present at or seeking entrance to any school building shall be required to wear a face covering. All individuals in the building shall wear face coverings at all times within the buildings, and no person shall be permitted entry without a face covering. Persons desiring entry at the school building or school bus who do not possess or refuse a face covering will be denied entry.

Outside Instruction:

Teachers will have complete discretion in determining how much instruction they offer outside. We understand that students will need mask breaks.

SYMPTOM CHECKS & MEDICAL CONCERNS**Student, Staff, Visitor - Symptom Check Process:**

All who enter John Greer will go through a symptom check process that consists of 3 items:

- 1 Temperature check (IDPH defines fever as 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit or above)
- 2 Question 1 - Covid-19 symptoms
- 3 Question 2 - Direct contact with someone who has been diagnosed with Covid-19

All screening information is confidential and will only be known to the screeners and office staff.

Protocol for Sick Students/Staff:

Guidelines developed by the Illinois Department of Public Health will be followed in these situations. John Greer has developed 2 quarantine areas for students who become ill at school and are awaiting pickup. Before school begins, additional information will be shared on protocols for student illness.

School Visitors:

All visitors entering John Greer must go through a symptom check and wear a face mask. Visitors to school buildings are discouraged. We would like to suggest the following accommodations:

- To drop off an item at school, call the office from the Penn Street door and you will be met at the door.
- To pick up a child from school, call the office from the Penn Street door and the child will be brought to the door.
- Classroom volunteers will not be used until normal learning resumes.
- Any parent who wishes to meet with a school staff member should arrange to come after 1:30.

SOCIAL DISTANCING**IDPH Guideline and Building Reality:**

The ISBE and IDPH recommend a minimum six feet of social distancing to the greatest extent possible within schools. Within many of our district classrooms, six feet of social distancing will not be a practical consideration; therefore, many students will not be able to social distance throughout their day.

Planning

Much thought has been placed into developing movement patterns within the John Greer building to avoid cross traffic and to promote social distancing to the greatest extent possible. This applies to walking lines, restroom use, cafeteria lines, stairwells, building exits, bus lines, etc...

ACADEMIC CONCERNS**Grading:**

The John Greer Grading Policy will be in effect for remote learners as well as in-person learners. As in a normal year, to advance to the next grade at the end of school year 20-21, students will need to demonstrate proficiency in grade level standards.

Student Supplies vs. Community Supplies:

Students should bring their own school supplies. Students will be assigned their own reading textbook and Chromebook. If there are any necessary shared supplies, they will be sanitized between uses.

Physical Education:

Since playground use is very restricted and we won't have a general recess time, PE will be important for giving students activity time. While activities will change slightly and students will remain reasonably social distanced, it is still feasible for students to be active during PE.

Instrumental Music (4th & 5th) and Chorus (5th):

While accommodations will have to be made, we fully intend to maintain our Fine Arts Programs. More information will be shared by Mrs. Mandel and Ms. Morgeson.

Library:

While accommodations will be in place, the John Greer Library will be open and students will be bringing books home.

SANITIZATION

Cleaning Protocols:

Cleaning protocols are being established at the District level and should include daily sanitization of student desks/tables, student seats, stair railings, door handles, work surfaces, etc... John Greer will have quantities of masks, wipes, and gloves, among other items. Adults will perform most sanitization.

Water Fountains:

Per district policy, water fountains will be shut off. The District is providing water for all students. Students are also encouraged to bring several full bottles from home. Extra water can be kept in the student's locker.

Conclusion:

The John Greer Return to Learning Plan was developed through hours of collaborative discussion. Shared in this document is the summary of those plans. It should be noted that discussions continue and adaptations to the plan will be made as we prepare for school. While it is impossible to answer every question or cover every circumstance in a summary document, we would be happy to answer additional questions you might have. Feel free to email Mr. Walder at the following address:

dwalder@hoopeton.k12.il.us

We look forward to working with you and your children during the 2020-2021 school year.

