



Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

1414 West Main St - Jacksonville, AR 72076

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

www.jnpsd.org

Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day

August 5, 2020

3:22 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.

Governor's Press Conference Today (APSRC Report)

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) has posted new directives and guidelines for school-sponsored music, band and choir. The document is titled: Directive for Community and School Sponsored Music Return to Play. This is posted at healthy.arkansas.gov.

"This gives them an opportunity to mitigate and work through this, and to also share the music they enjoy and love," Governor Hutchinson said.

Arkansas Department of Education Secretary Johnny Key announced the opening of the Ready for School Call Center on Monday. The purpose of this call center is to provide a readily accessible resource for parents and teachers to call if they have questions. Call center operators will either get callers the resources they need or direct them to the right place.

"This is something very important as we get closer to the start of school. We are going to have more questions. Obviously, many of those questions will be dependent upon the work that is happening in their local school districts, but we will work to make sure that we get those answers for them," Secretary Key said.

The Arkansas Department of Education is partnering with UAMS, ADH, Arkansas Children's Hospital, the Republic of the Marshall Islands Consulate, the Arkansas Bilingual Bicultural Education Support Network and the Office of Coordinated Support and Service. The call center will be open from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. **The number is 1-833-353-6050.**

Secretary Key was asked about the onsite instruction requirement that schools be available five days a week.

“This is not a change in our stance at all since March when the Governor made the announcement to close schools for onsite instruction. We have said since day one that the plan for the fall is to come back and have school onsite. So, we had been made aware that some districts were making plans that were fewer than five days, and we felt like that clarification was needed today to make sure that districts understood we do have a state responsibility. We have given flexibility for districts to provide virtual options, blended options and onsite options, and parents need that and students need that. We just clarified the stance that we believe has been our stance all along,” Secretary Key said.

1. Please stay tuned for announcements from each school regarding virtual open house events and virtual school orientation sessions. These will be publicized on our communication outlets.
2. **PreK Parents:** Virtual school is not an option for PreK. State decisions have been made that all PreK programs will operate with on-site classes. Please contact Ms. Megan Brown at mebrown@jnpsd.org to register in our PreK program.

We appreciate your support of our school community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Duffie', written in a cursive style.

Bryan Duffie, Ed.D.
Superintendent