



Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.jnpsd.org

Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day

August 13, 2020

3:25 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)

ADE Deputy Secretary Dr. Ivy Pfeffer said, "This year is going to be very different than it has been in the past and we know in some cases fear and anxiety are overshadowing the thoughts of the new beginnings and new goals and the new experiences that have always been part of our going back to school in the past. Therefore, it's really important that we're able to provide consistent and comprehensive supports to teachers and parents as they are making decisions for their students. These resources being made available and the other that will be coming that will provide more information about social and emotional supports bring together the guidance, the health information and the awareness of the social and emotional stressors. These resources that have been developed in partnership are critical to help us provide our schools with supports they need to help turn this school year's challenges into opportunities."

Dr. Pfeffer reminded Arkansans the Ready for School Resource Call Center is available at 1-833-353-6050 Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. The call center is currently fielding between 30 to 50 calls per day, and DESE is constantly adjusting their approach and their information to make sure they are meeting the needs of those who are calling.

Sarah Turner, a reading intervention teacher at Oaklawn Stem Magnet Elementary School in Hot Springs was invited to provide comments about returning to onsite instruction.

"I have fears and concerns about going to school this year, just like everyone else. I have fears about what happens when our kids come back into the classrooms, but I have greater fears about what happens if they don't return to onsite instruction. I choose to be a teacher to make a difference and to inspire. We have no better opportunity as educators than right now to influence the lives of scared, uncertain and worried students and families. I don't have all the answers and neither do my administrators or our leaders. I do know though that we are taking every precaution to plan and protect. I am proud to have the opportunity to return to instruction as an educator, and to offer traditional, blended and virtual learning opportunities for all of the students in Hot Springs. I wish the very best for every single school district, student and

teachers out there as we all face unique hurdles and unprecedented challenges to learning. This school year will be unlike any other and I am ready to face the challenge and proud to be among educators across Arkansas who care so deeply about our students and families and about equipping and educating our kids for success in the future,” Turner said.

1. Arkansas Center for Health Improvement COVID Cases for Jacksonville:

Total = 441

Active = 96

2. Please stay tuned for messages for your child’s school regarding virtual open house events and other information.

We appreciate your support of our scholars and families as we approach the start of the new school year.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Duffie', is centered below the text 'Respectfully,'.

Bryan Duffie, Ed.D.
Superintendent