



Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.jnpsd.org

Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day

August 19, 2020

3:24 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)

When asked about the UAMS projections issued yesterday and what the report said about having online instruction rather than onsite or blended instruction, the Governor said, "To me that's like saying if we sheltered in place, we would reduce the number of cases that we have, which is true; but we don't shelter in place because there are essential things that have to be done in our society. The same thing is true with education. Obviously, you reduce risk if we all stay at home, but we have to do education. The best way to do education is in-classroom instruction, but we are providing a virtual option. So you can't disagree with what was said but it just ignores the reality and the importance of trying to give the best opportunity for our young people to get the best education under these circumstances."

The Governor was asked about an instance reported by several parents who attended a school orientation and there were 25 students in a classroom, making it impossible to be 6 feet apart.

"It doesn't go against guidance, because that's why you wear a mask and that's why there would be a requirement to have students wear a mask because you cannot socially distance in every classroom. Now I haven't seen that, and I don't know if those 25 seats are filled or whether there is a space in between each one of those. So, you have to leave that to the local leadership. I've toured many schools and they are taking all the steps that they can, they are doing it in different ways in which to have an increased number [of opportunities] for social distancing during the day, but that's why students wear a mask. The requirement is you social distance, if you can't do that then you wear a mask because that protects others from getting the virus and the spread of it. Schools are working very hard. Some classrooms are easier to disperse than others

are, but that is why we have to wear our mask during the school day,” Governor Hutchinson said.

The Governor was asked if a teacher tests positive, do all of those kids have to quarantine?

“They should consult with the ADH to get their guidance on that. If you have a teacher that tests positive, what was the social distancing? Were masks being worn. They’re going to take an extra level of caution, and isolate and quarantine those that came in contact with that teacher,” Governor Hutchinson said.

ADH Secretary Dr. José Romero added, “The answer is not a simple one. It really is dependent on the degree of contact and exposure with the students and the other staff in the school. That is the job of the contact tracer and the investigators. We can’t issue a single recipe for who would be tested. It will be on an individual class basis that we make that decision.”

1. The Jacksonville Secondary School Virtual Academy (Grades 6-12) will offer a hotline for parents and scholars to contact for assistance. The details are as follows:

Monday – Thursday from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Email: JaxVa2020@gmail.com

Phone: 662-771-6169

2. The Jacksonville Elementary School Virtual Academy (Grades K-5) has provided contact information to parents who enrolled children in the academy. Ms. Lorri Stinnett is coordinating the program. Her email is lstinnett@jnpsd.org.

Teachers are available for additional calls from 4 pm – 6 pm each day. Teacher contact information is as follows:

Ms. Jacqueline Cook	Kindergarten	(501)237-5778	jcook@jnpsd.org
Ms. Chrissy Christian	1st Grade	(785)566-6732	cchristian@jnpsd.org
Ms. Raven Smith	2nd Grade	(682)990-6184	kismith@jnpsd.org
Ms. Beth Younge	3rd Grade	(682)990-4527	ryounge@jnpsd.org
Ms. Jennifer Simpson	4th Grade	(501)613-7216	jsimpson@jnpsd.org
Ms. Jessica Hilbert	5th Grade	(501)503-0860	jhilbert@jnpsd.org

3. Arkansas Center for Health Improvement Jacksonville Community COVID Data:
Total Cases = 441 Active Cases = 96

4. We have received many parent questions concerning the start of school with many parents thinking that the school district can decide not to start school on August 24 or can cancel on-site classes at this time. School districts cannot make the decision to delay the start of school or cancel on-site classes. The decisions on these items will be made by state-level agencies that provide recommendations to Governor Hutchinson.

5. JNPSD teachers, administrators, and support staff have been working since the closure period to plan for as many scenarios as possible for reopening school. All plans, community updates, ADH information, and other announcements have been posted since March 6 and throughout the closure period and the summer as follows:

- JNPSD Website
- JNPSD Social Media
- The Leader newspaper
- Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
- Broadcast Media
- Calls, emails, text messages using the JNP messaging system

Adjustments will be made as issues arise after school begins on August 24.

We appreciate your continuing support and understanding throughout the school reopening process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Duffie". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Bryan Duffie, Ed.D.
Superintendent