

January

Newsletter



Important Dates

**Report Cards
Issued**

Wed, Jan 26

**Mardi Gras
Holiday**

Feb 28-March 2

From the Principal's Desk..

We are just at the halfway point of the school year with still a lot of learning left to do. All of our students have just completed taking the second set of benchmark tests this year. These tests provide valuable information for teachers to use in planning future lessons.

Many grade levels have been disrupted due to Covid quarantines and positive cases. Quarantined students will be given assignments, either paper or online, to complete. Teachers will communicate make-up tests and assignments when students return.

Our plant staff has been continually cleaning and sanitizing all areas around school to ensure our students have a safe environment to learn in. I am hopeful that we get through this uptick in cases quickly.

Sincerely,
Lisa Kendrick

School Hours

School Day - 8:00-2:50
Before Care - 7:00-7:30
After Care - 2:50-6:00
Office Hours - 7:30-3:15

Follow us on Social Media

**Facebook: JC Ellis
Elementary**

Contact Information

Phone: 504.833.7254
Fax: 504.833.9378
Email: Lisa.Kendrick@jpschools.org

Child Care: 504.484.4109
Child Care Director: Anna Dennis
Email: Anna.Dennis@jpschools.org

Reminders

Attendance - quarantined students are marked absent. You will receive the automated phone call informing you of an "unexcused absence". All quarantined students will have their attendance records updated to reflect "excused, medical isolation"

Masks-all students who ride a bus, must wear a mask. Please send extra masks if your child is a bus rider. Students returning from testing positive must wear a mask for 10 days from the positive test.

Tardiness - students should be seated in their classrooms by 8:00 am. Daily instruction begins immediately after morning announcements. We accept students on campus at 7:30. Students are engaged in meaningful activities between 7:30-8:00 am

Uniform Donations-we are running low on used uniforms for our students in need.. If you have any to donate, please send them to school or drop off in the bucket on the front porch. We are also in need of underwear and leggings.

Covid Info

Do not send your child to school if he or she is experiencing **any of the following symptoms**:

- Nasal Congestion/Runny Nose
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Muscle/Body Aches
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste or smell

Do not send your child to school if you are waiting for Covid 19 test results.

Covid Testing

We offer free Covid testing at school. Registering to be tested does not mean your child will be regularly tested without your notification. That is a separate program. Any child with the above symptoms will have to follow CDC guidelines for isolation and testing.

The attached FAQ sheet has the registration link. This process can take several hours to activate. Being pre-registered allows our nurse or CNA to test symptomatic students sooner and therefore make quarantine decisions more timely.

If you have any questions, please email our school nurse,
AshleyReynolds@jpschools.org.



Lounging to Literacy

Freezing weather did not stop our readers from earning AR (Accelerated Reader) Points during our school-wide Lounging to Literacy. Students snuggled up and read during our early release day. We are now one of the top 4 schools in earned AR points. Way to go, Eagles!

Ellis received over 90 new books to add to classroom libraries in grades K-2. Let's keep earning those AR points.

United Way

We were able to raise over \$1000 for United Way. Students enjoyed dressing down. The classes that met their goal got to "PIE" their teachers!



Students of the Year

We are pleased to introduce our 5th grade Student of the Year, Zainab Al Ali. Zainab works hard to earn good grades, is a great friend and loves to do arts and crafts. She is a shining example of an Ellis Eagle.



Mrs. Harmon's Class Lounging to Literacy



Teachers of the Year

Congratulations to Ms. Janet Miscavage, our Middle School Teacher of the Year. Ms. Miscavage teaches 7th grade ELA and Social Studies, and a 3rd grade reading intervention group.



Students of the Year

Keila Hernandez is the 8th grade Student of the Year. Keila has straight As, including Algebra I and English I courses. She is a friend to everyone and enjoys dancing with her church group. Congratulations Keila!



Support Staff of the Year

Mrs. Karla Rodriguez has been selected as our Support Staff Member of the year. There is nothing that Mrs. Karla can't do!

Mrs. Karla is the paraprofessional in our Pre-K class and helps out wherever she is needed.



New Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Melanie Harmon has been selected as the New Teacher of the Year for Ellis. This is Mrs. Harmon's first year teaching. Her 1st and 2nd grade students say she is very nice and is always smiling. We couldn't agree more!



Principal of the Year

This year I was honored to be selected as the Middle School Principal of the Year for the district. This award belongs to all the dedicated and hardworking teachers and staff at Ellis. Most importantly, it belongs to my middle school students. Watching them grow and mature into outstanding young ladies and gentlemen is the most rewarding thing of all.

I'd like to thank Ms. Nicole Morris, our Assistant Principal, for organizing this surprise. She was able to keep this a secret from me for several days. She even got my entire family to attend without me knowing it!

It is truly my privilege to serve as the principal of JC Ellis. The sense of community and family is what makes Ellis a consistently high performing school. Thank you for endless support.

Lisa Kendrick



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please see below for some commonly asked questions:

Q: Who is REQUIRED to wear a mask?

A: The following students are required to wear a mask:

- Any student riding a school bus is required to wear a mask.
- Any student that tested positive for Covid-19 is required to wear a mask on Day 6 through Day 10 after testing (must stay home Days 1-5).
- Any vaccinated student that was a close contact of someone who tested positive for Covid-19 is required to wear a mask from Day 1 through Day 10 after the last date of contact with that person.
- Any unvaccinated student that was a close contact of someone who tested positive for Covid-19 is required to wear a mask from Day 5 through Day 10 (must stay home on Days 1-5)

Q: My child just tested positive for Covid-19. What should I do?

A: Keep your child home. Email a copy of the test results to ashley.reynolds@jpschools.org. We accept ANY positive tests including at-home tests. Nurse Ashley will contact you with further instructions once she receives your email.

Q: My child woke up with Covid-19 symptoms. What should I do?

A: Keep your child home. Your child must receive a negative PCR/Molecular test in order to return to school. If the test is positive, please follow the guidance on the question above. If you want your child to be tested for free at school, please refer to the question, "How can I get my child with symptoms tested at school?" If you choose NOT to get your child tested for Covid-19, your child will have to sit out of school for 10 full days.

Q: My child woke up with cold/flu/allergy symptoms, but I'm sure it's not Covid-19.

A: Please keep your child home if he/she is sick. Even if you are sure your child does not have Covid-19, if he/she is showing any symptoms of Covid-19 at school, we have to follow district protocols for testing and isolating.

Q: How do I know if my child was a close contact?

A: Your child is a close contact if they were around someone who tested positive for Covid-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more anytime in the 48 hours prior to the person testing positive.

Q: My VACCINATED child was a close contact? What do I need to do?

A: Please email ashley.reynolds@jpschools.org. Your child must wear a mask for 10 days after their last contact with the positive person. He/she can come to school the entire time as long as he/she does not develop any symptoms. If he/she develops symptoms, please refer to the question, "My child woke up with symptoms. What do I do?". If no symptoms develop, he/she should test on Day 5 with a PCR/Molecular test. If you would like to test your child at school, please refer to the question, "How can I get my child without symptoms tested?". Even with a negative test, your child must continue to mask through Day 10.

Q: My UNVACCINATED child was a close contact. What do I need to do?

A: Please leave your child AT HOME for 5 days. Please email ashley.reynolds@jpschools.org. If your child develops symptoms, please refer to the question, "My child woke up with symptoms. What do I do?". If your child does not develop symptoms after 5 days, he/she MUST have a negative PCR/Molecular test to return to school. If you would like to test your child at school, please refer to the question, "How can I get my child without symptoms tested?". Even with a negative test, your child must continue to mask through Day 10.

Q: How can I get my child WITH SYMPTOMS tested at school?

A: You must register for the testing at: <https://home.color.com/covid/sign-up/start?partner=ldh-jce-587-students>

- Please call our office 504-833-7254 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins will not be accepted.
- You or another legal guardian must drive your child to school at the date and time of your appointment. We will NOT test any symptomatic student unless the parent/legal guardian is present.
- The adult must escort the child to the front door. When you ring the bell, tell the person that answers, you are here for Covid-19 testing.
- The adult and student should wait in their car after the student is swabbed until results are received.