

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! I am excited about the return to school and looking forward to seeing students interact and engage in instructional activities.

In partnership with you, we are committed to providing a challenging and stimulating environment in which students are encouraged to develop the skills that are essential to success in life. Several committees have been meeting this summer to develop school specific plans for the upcoming year. Jefferson Parish Schools released the Start Strong Plan that outlines the district's plans for the 20- 21 school year. Please visit the website to review the full plan at www.jpsschools.org/startstrong.

This upcoming year will look quite different from previous years due to the global pandemic, but we hope to make the experience as authentic as possible for students. Jefferson Parish Schools is committed to a *Strong Start* that puts student's safety and educational needs first. Under Phase 2 mandates, the district is committed to two instructional models for 6-12 grade students to begin this school year: **Hybrid Learning or Virtual Learning. Our sixth through twelfth grade students will return to school using a hybrid model. However, families have the choice to receive virtual at-home teaching and learning using [Virtual Jefferson](#).** Please see the chart below for examples.

Traditional Hybrid Virtual Instructional model implemented under normal or improved health and safety conditions-Phase I. Parents have the option to choose hybrid or virtual.

Effective 7/20/20 under Phase II students will report to campus for in-person learning 2 days each week and 3 days virtual/e- learning. OR 100% access to instruction virtually. The student remains enrolled at Fisher Middle High School and will participate in e-learning.

Subject to guidance from the state, *Parents had until 7/22 to register for this option. That window is now closed, but if you would like to change your decision, you will need to contact JP Schools Office of Compliance at (504)365-5312.*

As of today, all students will be scheduled for hybrid classes, unless a 100% virtual option was chosen for your child. Please go to <https://www.jpsschools.org/Page/4048> to view the latest information on the district's reopening plans.

Fisher Middle High School 20-21 (Specific to Fisher Only)

School Start Date and School Times: The first day for students is August 12, 2020. School begins at 8:15 and students will be dismissed at 3:35. Students can not arrive on campus before 7:45 and will be marked tardy after the 8:15 bell. Students who choose the virtual school option will be expected to fully participate in the school day. More information regarding arrival and dismissal procedures are forthcoming.

Scheduling for the 20-21 School Year: It is always our goal to provide an environment that best supports the academic achievement of our students. To help make preparations for FHS, we met with a cross section of district leaders to discuss scheduling specific to Fisher and it was decided that we will continue with a 5 Period Schedule in middle school and a 4X4 Block Schedule in high school for 20-21. Our goal and hope is to minimize the workload on students and provide more personalized interaction during this difficult time. Please see the chart below as an example of how credits are earned in high school and required courses for middle school.

High School 4X4 Block Schedule

FALL SEMESTER	SPRING SEMESTER	POSSIBLE CREDITS FOR YEAR
4 CLASSES	4 CLASSES (different from fall)	8

Middle School 5 Period Schedule

Fall and Spring *(classes remain the same entire year)*

GRADE	COURSES				
6/7/8	ELA	MATH	SCIENCE	SOCIAL ST.	PE <i>(non promotional)</i>

Google Classroom: Google classroom is a great tool to enhance instruction in the classroom. All FHS students are assigned a user name which is their firstname.lastname@jpschools.org. Returning student passwords are the same in grades 9-12. Student passwords for grades 6-8 will change to the Student's ID number. This is the same number as the lunch number and Clever ID.

All students will be expected to use google classroom this school year. Google Classroom will be set-up and will be vital in communication. We encourage students to check their Google Classroom daily for any school updates. If you would like to become familiar with this platform you can review the [2020 Parents' Guide to Google Classroom](#). Codes to access the Google Classrooms that are aligned to the student teacher schedule will be posted to the school website at a later date. Students will not have access to all Google Classrooms. They will only have access to the Classroom in which they are enrolled.

Transportation: Bus capacity will determine the student's bus arrival and departure times. In addition, bus capacity will be limited when necessary to ensure all students can arrive at schools safely, on time, and following CDC guidance. Students who elect the hybrid option will be assigned to group A or B for in-person instruction and the bus assignments will align with the student's schedule. Information on buses is forthcoming. Please continue to check the district and school's website for information.

Fee Information: JP Schools will no longer use MySchoolBucks on-line payment system. There will be a new on-line payment system, [School Cash Online](#). School Cash Online is an easy to use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees. Now, with a few clicks, you can pay for your child's yearbook, class trips and so much more from your own home. All you have to do is register an account, attach your children and in no time you will be able to make payments online. This new online payment system accepts many different payment forms and we highly encourage every family to register. [Student fees](#) are located on the school website. Click this link for more information.

Other courses may assess a fee to purchase items needed for class. Fees cannot exceed \$10.00, with the exception of specialty classes. We encourage you to use our on-line platform, but cash or checks are accepted. If you will be paying with a check, the check for student fees must be separate from class fees, etc.

School Supplies: JP schools has a universal school supply list. To view please [click here](#). Students are also encouraged to bring a clear water bottle, personal hand sanitizer, and wipes. The school will have these items available but we understand that some families prefer to provide personal items. Students will not be allowed to bring any additional items from home that are not for instructional use. Only clear or mesh book bags are allowed. Donations are always welcomed.

School Uniforms: Skobel's is providing 20,000 Jefferson Parish students with a polo shirt at a 50% discount to help get students into school with a uniform. Please go to www.Skobels.com and fill out a very simple application with the parent and students' information. Once the student application is completed and verified the parent will receive a voucher to receive the discount via email or text. To receive your discount you can go into either location, Metairie (3001 Clearview Pkwy), Marrero (6700 Westbank Expressway), or Gretna (1742 Stumpf Blvd) locations with the digital voucher to receive their discount. If you have any questions please email our school secretary at Tessa.Fournet@jpschools.org

Communication: The district website, school website, JP Schools APP, in addition to text and email, all play an important part in communicating vital and timely information to families, especially during this time. We will be mailing schedules and information regarding transportation and school specific changes within the two weeks. Please visit the school's website for additional updates regarding the upcoming school year.

Safety Guidelines

Our JP Schools Start Strong Plan is aligned to [JP Schools Coronavirus Updates](#) and with the [Louisiana's Department of Education Strong Start Guidelines](#). To keep students and employees safe, we will implement additional safety protocols. All employees and students must follow daily protocols. As guidelines are updated, we will adjust to closely follow all CDC, federal, state and local procedures to ensure that FHS campus is safe.

Any scenario that involves students attending school in-person, including hybrid will include the following safety precautions:

- Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings.
- Temperature checks will occur daily for all students, employees, and guests on campus.
- Students, employees, or guests with a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (99.4 degrees Fahrenheit when using a temporal thermometer like the one that Fisher will have) will not be allowed at school. If the student is already on campus, we will have a designated isolation area.
- A nurse or designated trained personnel will conduct and document the screening before deciding a child or employee cannot be on campus. If it is determined that a student can not remain on campus, the student must be picked-up by a parent/legal guardian immediately and will not be allowed to return to school until all requirements to return are met.
- A nurse or designated trained employee will explain to individuals and parents/guardians who cannot be at school what the readmission criteria are as outlined by the district.

- Students and employees will not be allowed on campus if they have been in close contact with someone who has covid-19. Close contact is less than 6 ft for 15 minutes or more.
- Social distancing protocols established and communicated with all stakeholders must be followed. Desk will be positioned 6 feet apart to allow for social distancing and will all face the same direction in the classroom.
- Frequent hand washing and disinfecting at a minimum of every 2 hours, in addition to before and after lunch.
- Teachers and staff members will ensure that students follow all COVID-19 safety measures.
- Students will follow altered routines for lunch, restroom breaks, bus un/loading, and other school travel patterns.

Face Coverings: All face coverings worn on campus can not include inappropriate images and/or wording. Face shields are allowed, but must be worn in addition to a face covering/masks. We appreciate individuality, however as a school community with many different passions and insights, we are committed to a focus on academic pursuits. We will have Fisher masks for sale on the website if you would like to purchase one. We encourage the purchase of more than one mask to maintain appropriate hygiene. Again, masks do not have to be purchased through the school, but wearing a mask on campus is now a part of the school uniform policy until further notice.

For those with health conditions that make wearing a face covering difficult, exceptions to this mask policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Parents must submit to the school principal a written request along with physician's orders expressly stating that the student is unable to wear a face covering and the reason that an exemption should be granted. The principal will then consult with the Director of Health Services, Daphne Walker, regarding an exemption to the mask requirement.

Water Fountains: Water fountains will be closed to students. Students are allowed to bring a filled water bottle each day. Be sure the bottle is LABELED with your child's name, has a leak proof lid, and is insulated well resulting in minimal condensation. Like the face coverings, bottles should have graphics appropriate for school. Students will NOT be allowed to use the water fountain to refill bottles.

Guest Policy: Guests, including student family members, will only be allowed on campus when conducting pertinent school business that cannot be done electronically or by phone.

- When a guest rings the bell, the office staff will ask the needs of the guest. It is possible that the office staff will decide *not* to admit the guest into the office if staff determines that the business can be conducted in another manner or is not urgent.
- Guests may be asked to stand outside to wait for assistance or may be asked to return home to conduct the business virtually or by phone.
- **To avoid any inconvenience to families, it is strongly recommended that a parent call or email the school office for assistance with school-related business BEFORE coming to the school unannounced.**
- All meetings with school staff must be scheduled in advance and will be conducted by phone or virtually whenever possible. A guest requesting an unannounced meeting will not be allowed in the building, but the office staff will schedule a phone conference for the next available appointment time.

- The office staff will allow a parent or designated person to check-out a child in the front office. The guest will have to enter the office wearing a mask and must complete a COVID19 Risk Assessment Survey in addition to having their temperature checked.
- Parents are not allowed to drop-off any forgotten items including lunch in the front office. All students receive lunch from the cafeteria, so no child will ever go without lunch.
- In the case that guests are allowed on campus for pertinent business, guests must complete a COVID19 Risk Assessment Survey in addition to having their temperature checked. They must wear a face covering while on campus.

I look forward to seeing you soon!