



# Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools

160 South Hamilton Road Gahanna, OH 43230 (614) 471-7065 [www.GahannaSchools.org](http://www.GahannaSchools.org)

September 30, 2020

Dear Gahanna-Jefferson Families,

The past few weeks have been deeply challenging for all of us, as our district has worked to build a strong learning model for our hybrid and distance learners. We understand the Gahanna-Jefferson Education Association (GJEA) leadership team believes our original model would be difficult to implement in their classrooms, and we have a compromise prepared for our next mediation session on October 7, 2020. We are bargaining in good faith with GJEA and want to find a solution that meets the needs of our students and teachers alike.

Our firm commitment has always been to do what is best for our students and teachers and to offer a learning model that achieves equity for all and maximizes our curriculum offerings. We believe our students in both the hybrid and distance learning models deserve to learn from a Gahanna-Jefferson teacher with a Gahanna-Jefferson designed curriculum. To meet that goal, we chose not to use the services of a third-party education provider for our distance learners.

Our approach also gives students the best of what our schools and teachers have to offer - while protecting existing schedules, courses and electives chosen by our students through the use of live streaming technology. Although there was a great deal of misinformation circulating about it, we firmly believe live streaming is a critical tool in providing equal learning for all students by allowing students who are not in our buildings to have full access to our rich array of courses. Leveraging live streaming will prevent the need to make teacher changes and student schedule changes. Many courses such as DECA, Intro to Theatre, Band, Orchestra, Choir, Personal Finance, Robotics and many AP and Honors classes may not be available to distance learning students if live streaming is not offered.

We are eager to work swiftly to reach a mutual compromise with GJEA so that we can continue doing what we collectively do best - caring for and teaching our students.

Sincerely,

Steve Barrett  
Superintendent  
Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools