



Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools

160 South Hamilton Road Gahanna, OH 43230 (614) 471-7065 www.GahannaSchools.org

Sunday, July 5, 2020

Hello Gahanna-Jefferson Families, Teachers and Staff,

I want to take a moment to update you on our plans for returning to school in August.

On Thursday, Governor DeWine hosted a press conference where he went over his guidelines for reopening schools in the fall. He emphasized that it is crucial to find safe ways for students to return to school, and he expressed the importance of schools working with their county health departments to do this. Also, on Thursday the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education released guidance documents for creating a safe restart to school. We are looking at these documents carefully.

We have used data from the teacher and parent survey as well as the work of our GJPS Task Force to develop strategies for safely reopening our classrooms. Our aim is to create a plan that allows for as much in-person instruction as possible with an option, for those who choose, to keep students entirely at home with distance learning. We will consult with the Franklin County Health Department on the major tenets of our plan, and we will send out a selection survey to ask families to select from two learning models for the 2020-21 school year.

We know this is a stressful time for all of you. There is so much that is uncertain, and any plan short of returning to school in the traditional fashion will be hard to accept. However, COVID-19 cases are on the rise in Franklin County, and the safety of our students, teachers and staff is extremely important.

We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Steve Barrett
Superintendent
Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools