



July 8, 2020

Good evening, Gahanna-Jefferson families,

Last night we shared information regarding our back to school learning models for the 2020-21 school year. We know this is an important decision and wanted to provide some additional details that might help as you process the options. We know this is very difficult for all of you, and wish we had more details to give you. However, there are many aspects of the plan we are still working on. One of our priorities is to give you as much information as we have at this time, so that you can begin to make plans for your family and we can make staffing decisions to accommodate both the hybrid and distance learning options.

We are hopeful our “15 Things to Know” will provide information to support your decision. You can access the Learning Model Selection Form at the bottom of this document. Please complete the form by the end of the day on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. Filling out this selection form so quickly will allow us to begin forming student groupings and making staffing adjustments.

Sincerely,
Steve Barrett
Superintendent

15 Things to Know About your GJPS Return to Learn Choice

- 1. The Hybrid and Distance Learning options are based on the current Franklin County alert level (Level 3 - Red).** Should the alert level change, the district will consider making adjustments based on guidance received from the Franklin County Health Department (FCHD) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).
- 2. Families are being asked to make their learning model choice for the entire 2020-21 school year.** Due to staffing and curriculum constraints, we will not be able to accommodate learning model changes. We understand extenuating circumstances may arise and we will work through those on an individual basis.
- 3. The district will do its best to continue offering its full array of extracurricular and athletic activities.** Students who choose the Distance Learning option will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities. We will follow FCHD and Ohio High School

Athletic Association (OHSAA) guidelines for practice, competitions, and safety requirements.

4. **For parents of students with significant disabilities, Sue Wieging, Director of Special Education, will provide communication regarding your student's programming.** We understand students in special populations require specialized support and additional communication will be forthcoming.

HYBRID LEARNING MODEL

5. **There are many factors we must consider when assigning students to the A and B hybrid groups.** It is a top priority of the district to keep siblings/households together on the same hybrid schedule. We will also be intentional about grouping for our students in special programming. However, we will not be able to accommodate specific requests.
6. **Masks will be required for all staff and students throughout the buildings and on buses with the exception of preschool students.** For preschool students, masks are highly recommended, but not required. We will also work with families on an individual basis to navigate situations where masks may not be appropriate. There are no specific requirements for mask type and shields are acceptable. Students are encouraged to bring their own; however, masks will be available for students and staff that do not have them.
7. **The district will offer meals to students each day, and we will work to maintain social distancing, while students are eating in school.** Students in need will also be provided with meals for their at-home learning days. We are still finalizing details about where students will eat lunch and what recess will look like and those details will be forthcoming.
8. **The district will develop cleaning protocols based on CDC guidelines.** The district will use CDC recommended disinfectants that are safe for schools. Buildings including classrooms will be disinfected each night. Additional cleaning will happen throughout the day.
9. **Transportation will be available, however, the number of students we can transport will reduce due to health department guidance.** All students and drivers will be required to wear a mask while riding the bus and we will seat a maximum of 2 students per seat, which is the recommendation of the FCHD. Cleaning protocols will be implemented after each route is completed.
10. **During in-building learning, students will receive face-to-face instruction and learning opportunities provided by Gahanna teachers.** During at-home learning, students will be expected to complete learning activities/assignments provided by GJPS teacher(s). Students will be expected to engage completely in the at-home learning activities/assignments.

11. **It is our goal to minimize unnecessary movement of students within buildings as much as possible.** Building principals will develop a plan for pickup/dropoff, building entry and transitions throughout the school day to ensure the least amount of potential contact in hallways and to allow for social distancing.
12. **District take-home devices will be available for all students (PK-12).** Students participating in Hybrid Learning will pick up their devices on the first day of in-building learning. Instructions for device pickup for students participating in Distance Learning will be available prior to the first day of school. To ensure all families have internet access, the district will do its best to support families with limited or no internet access. We intend to offer Tech Training videos to support families with at-home and distance learning.

DISTANCE LEARNING MODEL

13. **Distance learning in August will be quite different than it was last spring.** Online learning will be more structured and consistent between teachers and grade levels. Students will be required to follow the daily schedule outlined by their distance learning teachers and attendance/participation will be tracked.
14. **Grading and learning expectations will match those of the hybrid model.** Learning will be tracked using the traditional grading system. Satisfactory/unsatisfactory marks will not be used.
15. **GJPS has a diverse and rich range of course offerings for our students.** We will do our very best to maintain course offerings for students at all levels. Please be advised we may need to make adjustments based on staffing and student enrollment.

[Learning Model Selection Form](#)

Reminder: Survey closes Tuesday, July 14th at midnight

[Spanish - Back to School Learning Model Letter](#)

[Somali - Back to School Learning Model Letter](#)

[Nepali - Back to School Learning Model Letter](#)

[Spanish, Somali, Nepali Directions for Translating Google - Learning Model Selection Form](#)