

Communication Plan for Parents

Distance Learning Update, June 24

Dear JB Families,

As we transition into summer months, we hope that you and your family are healthy and enjoying a well-deserved break. No matter how restful summer can be, we know that COVID-19 isn't far off from parents' minds. Believe us when we say - we get it. Everyone wants to know what school will look like in the fall. Some schools are releasing new calendars, while others plan to start the year with distance learning. Our COVID-19 Response team meets almost daily to evaluate and plan for the fall. **Here's what we know so far:**

1. We are planning to fully reopen in the fall to serve our kids in person. With two classrooms for every grade and 8:1 student to teacher ratios, we feel confident that we can safely social distance. **We will move into distance learning ONLY if required by the state of Ohio. As of right now, we do not expect to hear this mandate.**
2. We are creating detailed, structured distance learning plans for each grade level in the event that we have to move into distance learning at any point. As a community, we were thrown into distance learning in the spring without much notice. With your support and the tireless work of JB faculty and staff, we were able to offer remote therapies, two to three virtual classes a week, and distanced social activities for our kids. That being said, **we know that we can do even better with preparation and planning.** We are improving our distance learning technology, processes, and format.
3. We appreciate every parent who took our end-of-year survey. From 127 responses across JB Akron and JB Lyndhurst, we learned that **87 percent of parents were satisfied** with our distance learning. We also heard that we can improve in the following areas.
 - a. JB can improve the educational rigorousness during distance learning.
 - b. JB can improve the distance learning format.
 - c. JB can improve peer and social interaction during distance learning.

We are 100 percent committed to making these improvements before the school year begins. **Please see the attached infographic for more information on your survey results.**

Pertaining to next school year, here are some of the thoughts and ideas we are working through as a team.

1. Working with our teachers on how we can implement more technology during the school day so that students feel comfortable with tools and platforms available.
2. Investing in technical training for our staff and building a dedicated team that handles distance curriculum and technology.
3. Creating consistent virtual schedules for all grades that will set clear guidance for students and families of what is expected during distance learning.

4. Thoroughly evaluating and streamlining the platforms we used for distance learning in the Spring.
5. Asking ourselves, our parents, and our teachers, “what can we do better?” and taking action on that feedback.
6. Exploring the idea of adding more instruction time each day to create a cushion in case we’re forced into distance learning. An extended calendar for the school day can accommodate for potential regression.
7. Building in more time for lunch-bunch, one-on-one virtual experiences with teachers and classmates.
8. Creating detailed plans and protocols for sanitizing and social distancing during the fall. Looking at how to stagger arrival, dismissal, lunch, recess, and other large group activities to keep our students and faculty safe.

This is not an exhaustive list, but it is an exhaustive process. We don’t want to leave a stone unturned, and our hope is that we never have to put these plans into effect. We commit to communicating with you regularly as we approach the fall. Prior to the start of the school year, you can expect to see an updated plan and details about our first day back. We know that Governor DeWine will be making an announcement about school reopening recommendations later this week. If there’s anything in that announcement that contradicts or challenges our current plan, we will be in communication with you. As always, if you have any concerns or pieces of feedback, we welcome them!

Gratefully yours in mission,

The Julie Billiart Schools Administration Team