



Johannesburg-Lewiston Area Schools

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August 16, 2021

It's that time! Welcome Back to School JLAS Staff and Families!

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We are just over a week away from the start of the school year. It's been a great summer! I hope everyone has had an opportunity to rest, celebrate, and recharge for the year ahead.

We are continuing to plan for a more normal start to the school year, but as you are likely aware, updated guidance from the CDC, as well as state and local health officials, is trending in a challenging direction. We have confirmed that per federal requirements **masks will be required for all passengers on buses**. This includes both a.m./p.m. routes and all extra-curricular activities. The CDC is also recommending that individuals continue to wear masks when indoors at school regardless of vaccination status. As we begin the year, **masks will not be required** for students and staff. However, consistent with the CDC recommendation, **we support and encourage those who wish to wear a mask to do so when indoors, particularly those who are not vaccinated**. Masking may be required if school case rates or other local metrics support this requirement.

Within our own counties, we are still seeing moderate to high case rates. Our COVID mitigation plans have changed slightly since our last update. **Please review these carefully, along with all other information included in this mailing**. Where appropriate, please review this information with your student as well. This is where we will start, but we are prepared to increase mitigation protocols if/when local data supports this, including universal mask requirements, enhanced cleaning and visitor screening, along with other mitigation measures.

Updated building drop off and pick up times are included in this update. As we have been able to redesign the K-8 parking lot, there are updated directions for drop off in that location and at the High School. Middle School students will be expected to pick up their breakfast from the multipurpose room on their way to their 1st hour class and High School students will be expected to pick up their breakfast in the cafeteria on their way to their first hour class. Breakfast and lunch are free to all this year, please take advantage of the opportunity, but continue to fill out the forms sent home from the Food Service Department as they are **CRITICAL** to the district receiving federal funds and grants.

As many of you know, Jason Swartz and his team have done an amazing job working with the construction teams to get the buildings back together. We had all of the boilers replaced in both buildings for better efficiency. This resulted in water lines being run through the buildings to support the heating system. Additionally, we had the work done on the K-8 parking lot and are still planning for some outdoor work on the septic system in Johannesburg. We appreciate the community's support in continuing to maintain and improve our facilities for our students.

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year!

Your Partner in Education,

Katy Xenakis-Makowski
Superintendent

Kathleen Xenakis-Makowski, *Superintendent*
Curtis Chrencik, *High School Principal* • Nancy Odren, *Johannesburg Principal* • Cyndie Klevit, *Lewiston Principal*
Michael Vogt • Scott Mathewson • Ursula Owens • Wendy Huston
Linc Campbell • Frank Claeys • Nancy Kussrow

JLAS COVID19 Mitigation - August 16, 2021

Updates will continue as needed as we move into the new school year. JLAS will continue to monitor all relevant COVID metrics in our region/district to support the mitigation practices noted below.

JLAS will take a layered approach to our mitigation efforts, increasing mitigation requirements when the metrics support this or when required to do so by state or federal law. Please review the information below carefully.

- **Vaccines:** JLAS encourages everyone who is eligible to **get a vaccine** to do so. Vaccination is the **leading prevention strategy** to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact District Health Department #4 (<https://www.dhd4.org/>) or the Health Department of NW Michigan (<http://www.nwhealth.org/>) for more information or to schedule an appointment. Vaccines are **not required** for students or staff.
- **Mitigation** requirements will continue, including encouraging proper handwashing/use of hand sanitizer, limiting non-essential visitors into the building during normal operations, etc. Contracted providers clean JLAS daily. Frequently touched surfaces are sanitized multiple times per day. JLAS Staff are responsible for daily cleaning of their individual workstations-additional hand sanitizer and cleaning material available upon request to supervisor. JLAS Staff are responsible for wiping down desks between classes. All are encouraged to sanitize in and sanitize out.
- **Masks:**
 - The CDC is recommending that individuals continue to wear masks when indoors at school regardless of vaccination status. At this time, masks are not required for students and staff. However, **consistent with the CDC recommendation, we support and encourage those who wish to wear a mask to do so when indoors, particularly those who are not vaccinated.**
 - It is also important to note that our protocols relative to mask use may change, and staff/families should be prepared for universal masking requirements if case rates increase significantly in our area.
 - Masks are required on school buses for all passengers and drivers. This includes all a.m./p.m. routes and extracurricular activities.
- **Quarantine/Contact Tracing** - Again this year we will be required to conduct contact tracing and **recommend and/or require** quarantine or isolation. We expect to provide the health department with names and phone numbers for their use. **Fully vaccinated** individuals and those who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months do not need to quarantine (provided the individual remains symptom-free).
- **Social Distancing:** Regardless of setting (indoors or outdoors), efforts shall be made to **maintain 6 feet of distance** from each individual to the extent practical.

- **Enhanced Staff/Visitor Screenings** are not currently required. At this time, normal check-in procedures will be used. We will continue to limit non-essential visitors into the interior of our buildings during the regular school day. Please check with the building principal if you have any questions.
 - **Home Screenings:** Families should continue to screen students before sending them to school for any events. Everyday please check for any symptom of illness, and if your child has been exposed to someone with COVID 19, keep them home. **This remains a critical step in our mitigation efforts.** Please do not dismiss symptoms as “just a cold” or allergies, and all families should continue to err on the side of caution. If your child has a fever, do not send them to school until they are fever free for 24 hours WITHOUT medication. Testing is still available by contacting Mrs. Fox, School Nurse, at 732-1773, ext. 2148. When in doubt, **get tested.**
 - **School Associated Cases** - We will continue to post these on our website, along with email/test alerts to staff/families.
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JLAS Updated Start/End Times - 2021-2022 School Year

	Start/Instruction Begins	End/Classes Dismiss
JLHS	8:20 a.m.	3:07 p.m.
Building Opens: 8:05 a.m.	Half Day Dismissal: 12:00 p.m.	
JEMS	8:20 a.m.	3:07 p.m.
Building Opens: 8:05am	Half Day Dismissal: 12:00 p.m.	
Lewiston	8:00 a.m.	2:47 p.m.
Building Opens: 7:45 a.m.	Half Day Dismissal: 11:30 p.m.	

JLAS DROP OFF/PICK UP

Johannesburg

Parents dropping students off at the Johannesburg building may do so beginning at 8:05a.m. Students in grades K-5 may be dropped off at the Elementary side. Students in grades 6-12 may be dropped off at the High School main entrance. Parents with students in both areas may choose one area to drop their children off at. Please assist us with traffic flow by keeping the lines moving. If you have a young child that you need to help with a car seat or bag, please park in a parking spot and assist them in getting out of the vehicle and crossing to the sidewalk.

Lewiston

There is no change to the drop off areas at Lewiston school. Students may be dropped off beginning at 7:45a.m.

What happens if there is a School Associated Case (SAC)?

Families will be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed case of COVID-19 at school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home. A “School Associated Case” means a case of probable or confirmed COVID-19 amongst students, teachers, staff members, coaches, volunteers, or any other person who was present on school property or at a school function under circumstances that may result in the transmission or contraction of COVID-19 during their infectious period.

If we have a SAC:

1. The “index case” shall be isolated per CDC/DHD guidelines. (10 days after symptom onset and after resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and with improvement of other symptoms.) During the isolation period, the individual is not allowed at school or at any activities.
2. Any siblings/family members of the SAC also attending/working at JLAS buildings must quarantine unless they meet one of the exceptions below.
3. The Health Department will contact those individuals determined to be a close contact. Those individuals determined to be a close contact will be advised of the CDC recommendations as follows:
 - Unless the staff member meets one of the exceptions noted below, a staff member **MUST** quarantine per PA 339. (10 days/monitor for full 14).
 - Students who have been determined to be a close contact with will be advised of the CDC **recommendation (not requirement)** to quarantine (10 days/monitor for full 14).
 - All close contacts will be advised to monitor for symptoms for the next 14 days. Any close contact who later develops one of the primary symptoms of COVID should be considered a **presumed positive** and will be **required** to quarantine/isolate.
 - The following people **do NOT need to quarantine** provided they are symptom free (**Exceptions**):
 - People who have been fully vaccinated
 - People who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months
 - We recommend students/staff/families retain copies of vaccination records if they are requested by JLAS staff.
4. Individuals required or choosing to quarantine/isolate are not permitted on JLAS campuses or at JLAS activities until the recommended quarantine/isolation period has expired.
5. JLAS staff will send an Alert email/text message to all families/staff.
6. JLAS staff will send a list of all close contacts to the Health Department staff as required.
7. JLAS will post information regarding School Associated Cases on our COVID-19 page that can be accessed through our district website.