West Jasper District Guidance on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

It is important to understand that the plan set forth by the West Jasper School District for 2021-2022 could change if Pandemic numbers were to return to levels considered a concern as established by the Mississippi Department of Education, or Health Officials. The District will use guidance from the Mississippi Department of Health, the CDC, and local health officials to determine the safest protocol for students and staff.

The goal of this plan is to continue to build on the success of the reopening plan that was developed and approved on July 9, 2020. While we strive to return to normal operations, many successes implemented during the pandemic will remain in place. This plan will address how schools will operate for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

Please understand that decisions are made for the benefit of all students. While decisions and guidelines may not be perfect for all; we want to provide an engaging learning environment while creating a safe setting for robust instruction and student growth. Stakeholders at all levels were consulted in developing this school board approved plan.

The West Jasper School District Plan will be:

• Classes on all campuses will begin as scheduled on August 5, 2021.
• The schedule is as follows for all students:
  o Bay Springs High School – 7:45 – 3:00
  o Bay Springs Middle School – 7:45 – 3:00
  o Bay Springs Elementary – 7:45 – 3:00
  o Stringer Attendance Center – 7:45 - 3:00
• Schools will continue to focus on social distancing and limit transition periods throughout the day.
• Disinfecting will continue to be focus for the 2021-2022 school year. Schools and buses will be sprayed at the end of each day. Buses used in multiple routes will be disinfected at the end of each route.
• Students will have access to hand sanitizer all day.
• Parent/Teacher meetings may be held via video conference or telephone unless the campus administrator or the parent deems a face-to-face conference is needed.

Sanitation/Virus Guidelines

Temperature Checks:
• Temperature checks will no longer be required but, the administrator or nurse may determine a temperature check is necessary.
• Employees/Students who are not feeling well should contact their administrator/teacher immediately.
• Employees/Students who have a temperature of 100 or higher will be sent home.
• All temperatures 100 or higher will be checked a second time for confirmation.

Mask/Face Coverings
• For the 2021-2022 school year, we will seek guidance from the Mississippi Department of Health, the CDC, and local health officials to determine if mask will be required.
• If a student/employee is determined to have a temperature at school, they will be required to use a mask until they are off campus.
• If a student or employee decide to wear a mask, slogans or designs that will interfere with the educational environment will not be allowed on mask/face coverings. Administrators have the final decision on all mask/face coverings.

Personal Hygiene
• Employees are expected to wash/sanitize their hands multiple times a day.
• The school district will provide hand sanitizer throughout the facility for students and employees to use frequently.

Sanitizing
• Teachers and assistant teachers will help sanitize surfaces throughout the year.
• Surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected frequently.
• Buses will be sanitized at the conclusion of each route.
• Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building and on buses.
• Windows and doors will be opened slightly when possible to create an environment with as much ventilation as possible.
• Custodians will regularly sanitize the building throughout the day.

Classroom/Office Distancing
• Classrooms will be arranged to achieve the greatest level of distancing for students.
• Teachers are encouraged to create as much social distancing as possible.
• Students will have hand sanitizer available to frequently clean hands.
• Each classroom will have spray bottles available for cleaning surfaces.

Check In/Out
• Each school will set up a procedure for students to check in and out.

Hallway Procedures
• School personnel will be in the hallway during class change to monitor transition procedures and encourage social distancing.

Nutrition
• Employees will follow cafeteria guidelines during breakfast and lunch.
• Breakfast/Lunch protocols may differ from school to school based upon school population and cafeteria size.

Water Bottles (No Glass Bottles Allowed)
• Employees/students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to use during the day.
• Elementary teachers will assist students with refilling water bottles as needed.

Technology
• Computer labs and classroom computers will be sanitized frequently.
• Employees should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before using community devices or machines.

Playgrounds
• After outside activity, hand sanitizer will be available.

Student/Parent Communication
• The WJSD will continue to use various methods for parent/student communication. (SchoolStatus, Phone Calls, District website)
• Parent-teacher conferences will be conducted through multiple online platforms to minimize the need for in-person contact. Some face-to-face meetings may be required.
Attendance Policy: Traditional Schedule

- Current attendance policies will be in place.
- Any student who is required to be isolated at home will be given an opportunity to participate through distance learning during the isolation period.

Transportation

- When possible, windows will be open on buses to create an environment with as much ventilation as possible.
- Students will be separated on the bus where feasible. Siblings or children living in the same household will be seated together if possible.
- Buses will be sanitized at the conclusion of each route.
- Parents are encouraged to bring children to school and pick them up if possible.

General Information

- Visitors will continue to be limited on each campus. Please contact the office before arriving at the school.
- Field Trips will be allowed during 2021-2022 (if allowed by Health Guidance) with district established restrictions in place.
- Assemblies are permitted with social distancing in mind and in accordance with Health Guidelines.
- All Athletic and activity events will follow the policies of the MHSAA.

This guidance may be adjusted throughout the year. We will communicate any changes as quickly as possible.

The district will continue to focus on providing a safe environment, while placing an emphasis on providing a strenuous academic program.