



JIM THORPE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 Center Ave.
Jim Thorpe, PA 18229

JIM THORPE
DISTRICT OFFICE
570-325-3691

JIM THORPE AREA
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
570-325-3663

PENN/KIDDER
K-8 CAMPUS
570-722-1150

LAWRENCE B. MORRIS
K-8 CAMPUS
570-325-2703

August 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of the Olympian Community,

We hope that this message finds you safe and well. This summer, every staff member, from the custodial personnel to the administrative team, has been laser-focused on doing whatever it takes to get our schools ready for a safe reopening of school. The school board has adopted the Phased Reopening Health and Safety Plan which outlines all of the steps that the district is taking to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. Please read this message in its entirety for important information about reopening school.

Schedules: Based on current conditions, the district will be opening under the yellow phase of the plan, which calls for students to attend school as follows:

- Grades K-5: All students will attend school Monday - Thursday. Friday will be a remote learning from home day where students will connect remotely to their teachers with their iPads.
- Grades 6-12: Students will attend school at a 50% capacity. Students will attend school in person on their designated days based on their physical address on record in PowerSchool (not PO boxes or mailing address). If there is a question concerning your address, please contact the school office. Students will be split as follows:
 - Students with even-numbered house numbers for their physical address will report to school on Monday & Tuesday, and learn from home Wednesday - Friday.
 - Students with odd-numbered house numbers for their physical address will report to school on Wednesday & Thursday, and learn from home Monday, Tuesday and Friday.
 - Please note that there can be no exceptions made as to ensure an equitable and safe socially distanced learning environment.
- Special education students and other designated at-risk students will attend Monday - Thursday, with a remote learning from day Friday. Those students will be contacted to confirm their attendance schedule.
- Students who have opted in for the Olympian Learning Connection (OLC) will learn from home Monday - Friday. Information has already been sent out to those students and their families as far as details. Should any parents still want to opt in to the OLC option, please complete the online survey found on the main page of the JTASD website.
- **School Day Schedule**
 - **School starts on Tuesday September 8 for students.**
 - Students will attend school on a shortened time schedule as follows:
 - **Jim Thorpe Area High School: 7:50 AM-1:45 PM**
 - **L. B. Morris School: 8:35 AM-2:15 PM**
 - **Penn-Kidder Campus: 8:35 AM-2:15 PM**



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School counselors and administrators are working to make the necessary changes to students' schedules to reflect the above measures. As such, the PowerSchool Parent Portal will be opening the last week in August once all corrections are completed.

Transportation: Bus routes and schedules are being developed, reviewed and modified to best meet the social distancing guidelines outlined in the Health and Safety plan, with a bus capacity of 48 students. Details about student bus stops and times for pickup and drop off will be sent to parents in a communication next week and posted on the district website. Please note that students must wear a mask while riding on the school bus. Parents are encouraged to drive their student to school if they feel more comfortable doing so. For parent pick up of students from school at the K-8 schools, the district will be using a new program called PickUp Patrol to ensure a safe and efficient process. More information on how to use that program will follow next week from your child's school.

School Cafeteria: An email was sent last week in regards to SchoolCafe, the new school lunch payment system that is replacing MySchoolBucks. Parents are asked to sign up for an account, complete the free and reduced lunch eligibility application, and make deposits for their child's lunch payments at the following website: <https://www.schoolcafe.com/jtasd>. Also, please note that transactions for school lunches will be cashless, but checks, cash and money orders will be accepted in a sealed envelope clearly labeled with your child's name, and should be handed to a Food Service team member at the breakfast station, or school office. Please see the district website for meal distribution for OLC, hybrid and Friday meal programs.

Technology Distribution: Distribution of laptops and iPads is occurring over the next two weeks. Each school is sending out a schedule of times to pick up the devices. If you are unable to make one of the scheduled times, devices will be distributed on the first day of school. In consideration of the economic impact of the pandemic, insurance premiums are being waived for the use of the technology. Should there be an issue resulting in damage to the iPad or computer, the insurance deductible requirements will still apply.

Should you have any questions regarding your child's schedule, safety of the classroom or school, or how the district will mitigate the risks of COVID-19 exposure, please feel free to contact the school office. We are looking forward to getting back to the business of education and teaching your child, whether it be in-person or remotely. Please stay safe and healthy.