

August 10, 2021

Dear John Glenn Families,

The JG Team has worked very hard in anticipation for the return of students tomorrow, August 11th, 2021! Thank you for the trust you have placed in our Board, our leadership, and in all of our teammates to do our very best for students each and every day. This is, and always will be, our most essential duty!

All of us are aware of the uniqueness that has encompassed our “village-wide” efforts to educate our children throughout the COVID Pandemic. Even more than our past year successes, we are excited about our efforts and plans to return to this school year in as normal of a way as possible, still sensitive to the ways COVID has impacted all of our families in individual ways.

As we begin this new school year, I think it is important to note that COVID issues are still present in our local area and beyond. We still need to be careful and cautious. Federal, state, and local officials, (Marshall and St. Joe County Health Departments specifically) are **strongly recommending** vaccinations for all eligible people, and are **strongly recommending** mask usage. Furthermore, state authorities will continue to require quarantining of positive cases and close contact tracing, very similar to last year.

At this time JGSC continues to plan the following protocols as we begin the school year:

- Vaccinations are **strongly encouraged** but not required.
- Mask usage in school buildings is **strongly encouraged**, but not required.
 - **Masks will be required on school buses per federal mandate.**
- Handwashing, daily sanitation, and air quality will continue to be emphasized.
- Social distancing and cohort efforts will remain, while we also work to return to more normalcy.
- COVID-positive/close-contacts will quarantine, **exception for fully vaccinated individuals.**

Please note, that at any time during the school year, if we see substantial positivity issues we will very likely need to pivot to more substantial mitigation steps. Of course these decisions will be made in conjunction with our stakeholders, as well as, local and state health officials. Nevertheless, we will begin the school year under the protocol plan shared above.

A few additional important additional items:

- Head Start will also be expanding in our area to offer even more students the opportunity to attend. Please reach out to Tim Davis, Director of Learning and Student Services at tdavis@jgsc.k12.in.us for more information on getting your student enrolled.
- Information has been shared regarding the expansion and transition of our B&A program to the Boys and Girls Club. This is an exciting opportunity for our students and community, Mr. Davis can answer any questions you may have.
- Once again, all students will be offered FREE breakfast and lunch through the USDA waiver.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you and your students very soon!

Yours in Education,
Christopher Winchell