

Jackson's "A" Team!

Hello Parents and Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year at Jackson Elementary!

As this past year has been a challenging time for all of us, I wanted to assure you that our teachers and staff are ready to serve your children and we are all looking forward to being back into the classroom! While the world is returning to normalcy, we will continue to follow some of the guidelines we put in place in order to continue to keep our students and staff safe. You will receive your usual "Welcome Back" postcard in the mail, but I have also put together this letter to try and answer some of the questions you may have and to tell you how we will follow safety protocols throughout the year. This letter will give you all the information that you will need to know so that we have a great start of our school year.

- 1) **Homeroom Teacher**: The label on the front of the postcard indicates your child's homeroom assignment. On the website you will be brought to once you scan the QR code on the postcard, you will find all of the teacher assignments are listed by homeroom. To find your child's homeroom teacher just compare the number on your label to this list.
- 2) **Meet and Greet**: Teacher Meet and Greet will be on Thursday, August 5th from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.
- 3) **First day of school**: The first day of school will be Tuesday, August 10th
- 4) **Visitors**: Our office is open from 7:00-3:30 every day and you can call us at (813)757-9341 with any questions or concerns you have. To visit on campus, we prefer you make an appointment 24 hours in advance. Visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines and there will be no more than 2 guests per child permitted at a time. Thank you for your cooperation.
- 5) **Parent visitation**: Jackson Elementary will be a closed campus this year. Parents will not be able to walk students to class or visit in the cafeteria so that we may keep safety protocols in place. I assure you that our staff will take very good care of your children and we have planned to have extra adult supervision on campus to help on the first few days. If your child is a kindergarten student, we have included with this letter a form to be pinned to your child's shirt to wear on the first few days of school. Please fill out the form using a thick marker with the following information: Child's name, Homeroom Teacher, Student # and how the child will go home (Bus #, daycare, or car pick up). Please have your child wear this for the first three days of school.
- 6) **AM Student Drop off**: Student drop off time will be from 7:10-7:40 in the front of the school for all Pre-K through 5th grade students. **Reminder: Parents are not allowed to park and walk their child to class. Parents, you must remain in the car at all times. This will increase the amount of time in the car line, so please make note of this and plan your morning accordingly so that you will not be late.** Also, we ask that you work with your child to make sure they have their bookbag ready to go when the patrols open the car door. Teachers will be waiting at the front car rider line curve where they will help your child from the car to class.

- 7) **PM Student Pick up (K-5):** Afternoon pick up is in the front of the school just like arrival. K-5 car riders are to have a yellow car tag placed in their window with the student's first and last name so that we may call for your child to be waiting at a numbered cone. For the safety of our students, if you do not have a car tag you will be required to park and go to the office with ID to pick up your child. Car rider pickup line begins on Herring Street. You will see the line of cars waiting when you pull up. Our line is usually long the first week of school, and finishes by 2:30. After the first week, it usually drops back to 2:05-2:10. **As in the morning, parents must remain in their cars and go through the pick-up line to get their child. No one can walk up and pick up their child during active dismissal.** If you wish to pick up your child early, you must sign your student out through the office prior to 1:00 pm Tuesday through Friday and prior to 12:00 pm on Mondays. If you are picking your child up early, please walk up and buzz the main office.
- 8) **PM Student Pick up (Pre-K):** Afternoon pick up for Pre-K students will be on Michigan Ave. Pre-K teachers and students will be waiting just past the Jackson Marquee.
- 9) **Sign Outs and Change of Transportation:** If you are signing your child out early, please be sure to always have your ID on you as we will check it each and every time for the safety of your child. Also, if you are sending someone to pick your child up for you, be sure they are listed on the emergency card and have their ID on them as well. If they are not on the emergency card, your child will not be released to ensure the safety of all students. If you are changing how your student is going home, it must be in writing. This can be written to the teacher by note or in the agenda, or by completing a change of transportation form in the front office. If you have any questions, please contact the office.
- 10) **Breakfast & Lunch:** We will serve breakfast in the morning from 7:10-7:40 at no charge to students. The cost of lunch is \$2.25, and you may pay in advance online at www.mypaymentsplus.com. You will need your child's student number when you pay online. For the first three weeks of school we will not be offering a snack option with lunch. After that point we will introduce our snack cart for additional cost. The prices vary from .25 to \$1.00. **Continuing this year, parents and guests are not allowed to eat either breakfast or lunch with their children.** There will be no exceptions to this rule. Also, parents, if your child brings lunch from home please make sure they are able to open the packages and items you send.
- 11) **Volunteers:** We love our volunteers and still need your help but as of right now volunteering will continue to be different. While volunteers will be allowed on campus in a very limited capacity, all volunteers must have their application filled out and approved online at <https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/volunteer> . Your child's teacher will also have many things you can do to help from home. Please contact your child's teacher to determine how you can help.
- 12) **Masks:** As of June 7th, masks are now optional. All students, staff members and visitors on campus are no longer required to wear a mask. If your student still wishes to wear a mask, masks worn from home must meet the county's dress code rules.
- 13) **Cell phones:** The 2021-2022 Student Code of Conduct manual has stated that during school hours and while on the bus, cell phones and other electronic devices are to only be used under the supervision of district staff and personnel. Students must comply with the directives of their teacher's approval regarding usage and when and where devices

may be used. Cell phone conversations and video recording during the school day are prohibited. While we are aware that many students have phones in case of emergency, they are not to be used during school hours. This includes the cafeteria, classroom, and recess. We are not liable if something happens to your child's phone or electronic device while on school district property. Please discuss with your child the reasons why they should not have their devices out on campus or while using school transportation.

- 14) **Water Fountains and personal supplies:** Water fill stations have been installed throughout campus for students to be able fill their own bottles. Therefore, we are asking each student to bring a water bottle from home to drink during the day. (If your student forgets their water bottle, we have water available in the classrooms for them to drink.) Also, students should have a pouch or pencil box where they can keep all of their daily supplies as they will not be allowed to share supplies in the classroom.
- 15) **Safety Procedures:** There will be many safety procedures that we will use in the classroom and around school. This will include frequent handwashing, cleaning desks, walking in straight lines with hands to themselves, and social distancing whenever possible. Please spend a few minutes with your child to discuss why it is important that they follow the expectations.
- 16) **Movement:** All students and staff will follow established safety guidelines for movement which will include cleaning desks between student use. Students will be asked to help with this cleaning process and will carry all of their personal supplies with them from class to class so there will be no sharing.
- 17) **The Clinic:** We have established a separate clinic room which will be used for students with a fever or any flu like/COVID symptoms. Parents will be contacted immediately, and we ask that you pick up your child ASAP if they display these types of symptoms.
- 18) **Home Check:** Please check in with your child every morning before going to school and if they are running a fever or not feeling well, please keep them at home. Please call the attendance line to report your child's absence or if they have tested positive/come in direct with someone for COVID 19.
- 19) **Buses:** If your child rides a bus there will be very clearly stated safety procedures in place while riding the bus. It will be very important for all students to follow bus rules like staying in their seat and keeping hands to themselves. Please speak with your child about the importance these rules play in their safety during the ride on the bus and in keeping with district safety protocols.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this detailed explanation and please know we appreciate all your support as we open this year. I hope that I have answered some of your questions but of course, you may have more. Please feel free to call our main office at (813) 757-9341 if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,
Melody Murphy
Principal
Jackson Elementary School