

The Journey School



COVID-19 Planning
2020 - 2021

Overview

The Minnesota Department of Education asked schools to create three scenarios for the 2020 – 2021 school year that take into consideration the needs of our stakeholders - students, families, faculty and staff. Our goal is to provide a safe learning and working environment for all. The following plans seek to meet that goal while being sensitive to all stakeholders.

Guiding Principles

-  Safety is a priority for all.
-  Decision-making needs to be made in conjunction with experts- the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
-  Schools will safely reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.
-  Plans are subject to change as best practices evolve and protocols are determined to be ineffective or unsustainable.

Expectations for Fall 2020

TJS will start the 2020-21 school year in one of three scenarios determined by public health data - COVID-19 cases over 14 days - in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). The scenario could switch at any point in time for either the school or even a classroom, again, with MDE and MDH guidance. Likely this would occur if there are significant changes of COVID-19 in a community. The three scenarios are as follows:

1

In-person Learning: In this planning scenario, schools should create as much space between students and teachers as is feasible during the day, but will not be held strictly to enforcing six feet of social distancing during primary instructional time in the classroom.

2

Hybrid Learning: In this planning scenario, schools must limit the overall number of people in the school building and on transportation vehicles to 50% maximum occupancy. Sufficient social distancing with at least six feet between people must occur at all times.

3

Distance Learning: Students receive instruction off-school site, but schools may also be open to provide emergency child care or other functions. The format of distance learning will be modified with improvements from what was learned spring 2020.

If TJS is in scenarios one or two, families that prefer distance learning will still have the opportunity to choose that option.



Health and Safety

TJS will follow the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines regarding safety measures provided in school. The safest environments will be made possible through cooperation from all stakeholders - students, families, faculty and staff in alignment with the following measures:

1. **Limited Building Access to Visitors:** Access for parents/guardians and volunteers will be limited during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because visitors are limited, the addition of plastic barriers near front office area may not be pursued. Students, faculty and staff will use other safety measures such as social distancing instead.
2. **Temperature Check:** All who enter TJS will have a temperature check upon arrival at the building. Each visitor (including students, faculty and staff) is expected to monitor their health conditions and not enter TJS if they are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19.
3. **Face Masks/Coverings:** Face masks/coverings are required in TJS following a July 22 state order and in compliance with MDH and CDC guidelines.
4. **Classroom Management/Desks:** Classrooms will limit capacity to the MDH and CDC guidelines. The goal will be to create as much space as possible for each student. There will be minimal sharing of high-touch materials. Each student will keep school supply items for individual use.
5. **Social Distancing:** Maintaining a six foot distance between persons is the most effective safety measure. TJS will encourage a culture that supports social distancing.
6. **Hand Hygiene:** TJS will encourage hand washing using soap and hot water for 20 seconds on a regular basis. Soap and water are the best way to clean your hands according to the CDC. Students, faculty and staff will use existing hand washing stations. TJS will not resource additional portable hand washing stations. Hand sanitizers will be placed throughout the building at the doors and at high traffic areas. TJS will provide gloves for faculty and staff.
7. **Disinfection and Cleaning:** TJS maintenance employees will coordinate enhanced disinfection and cleaning of high-touch areas such as restrooms, lunchrooms, and door handles.
8. **Touchless Meal Delivery:** Staff will serve meals to students, eliminating the need for students to handle common utensils. Meal service will utilize social distancing strategies such as staggered release and adjusted seating, and will be structured to limit time in the cafeterias.
9. **Case Management:** Education on COVID-19 will occur with both students and employees. Symptoms will be self – monitored throughout the day by all. Those who become ill during the day, will report to the office, and be isolated and evaluated. They'll either go home or return to class/assignment after assessment. Self -isolation and quarantine will be followed per the MDH guidelines. Notifications to the community will occur after consultation with the MDH. Mental health concerns will be addressed through risk assessment and referral as appropriate.

Instructional Programs

Students will learn the established curriculum for the 2020-21 school year. The delivery model in which teachers share this content may vary depending on the learning scenario. As always, expect teachers to reach out to students regularly in any of the three scenarios. More information on student expectations will be shared before the start of school. Learning throughout the 2020-21 school year will be monitored and evaluated to continuously improve services provided to students for all learning formats. In-person learning as part of scenarios one and two, will have content provided in a classroom setting. Increased safety measures will limit the amount of small group work and sharing of materials. Distance learning as part of scenario two and three, will engage students in varied online learning activities and interactions with the teaching staff. Zoom, Seesaw and/or Google applications will be the primary tools used for the online interaction.

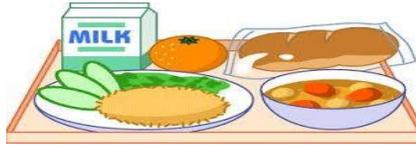


Special Education Services

TJS will continue to provide a continuum of special education services to service students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) no matter the learning scenario. Students will be provided with instruction and services related to individual IEP goals and objectives, however, modifications may be made to existing IEPs. Any such changes will be discussed with families before or as school starts. As always, differentiated and individualized instruction will be provided for meaningful instruction. Academic and behavior interventions will continue. Evaluations will be conducted to support with IEPs. There will be collaborative meetings with grade-level/content-area teachers to ensure the use of differentiated instructional strategies to support students receiving special education services as they engage with grade-level standards-based instruction.

Technology

TJS is committed to providing equitable and effective use of existing and emerging technology. For the 2020-21 school year, all students will be utilizing a technology device. Students may either use their own device or ask to be provided a school device. Families may also purchase a Chromebook from TJS. Please contact the school office for more details.



Child Nutrition Services

All TJS students will receive free breakfasts and free lunches. Students who are onsite will receive a free breakfast and a free lunch daily. Families requesting meals for learning days at home will be required to submit this request the week before.

Transportation

Parents are encouraged to transport their children to and from school during the pandemic. Those who are riding the school bus are required to wear a face mask/covering on the bus as well as the bus driver. More information will be shared when available.

Social-Emotional Wellness

The COVID-19 pandemic may be stressful and evoke a wide-range of emotions and behaviors. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. A variety of school supports are available. Please contact the school office for more information.



Communication

TJS strives for effective communication. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it's vital that TJS families understand the information shared and have their communication expectations met. In order to meet these goals, please check the following communication channels:

*The Journey School website (www.thejourneyschool.org) *newsletters *voicemail *email *text

*TJS Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)

Attendance and Dress Code

TJS hours are 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM. Students should enter and exit the building at door #6 (gym door). This door will be opened at 8:00 AM and locked at 8:30 AM. All late arrivals should enter at the front office. All students must wear their uniform to school – tops: purple, black, gray; bottoms: black or gray.

Students who are online must report on time to for their online class meeting with their teacher on Zoom, Seesaw and/or Google. Students must be fully clothed in school appropriate clothing when having an online class meeting (must have a top and bottom - no pajamas or shirts with inappropriate graphics or sayings).

Assessments and Grading

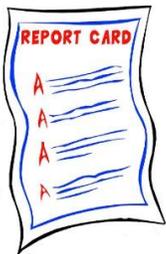
Assessments will continue as directed by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Administration of these will happen during any learning scenario - in person or at-home learning. The following grading scale will be used:

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

+ = Mastered	✓ = Satisfactory	- = Not Mastered	“empty” – Not evaluated at this time
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Grades 3 – 7

Letter Grade	Percentage Correct
A	100 – 93
B	92 – 85
C	84 – 78
D	77 – 70
F	Below 70



Testing Schedule 2020 – 2021

September 8 – 10	Placement Tests
September 15 – 17	MAP
September 29	AIMSweb
December 8 – 10	MAP
January 14	AIMSweb
April 27	MCAs
May 13	AIMSweb
May 25 – 27	MAP