



**JAMES IRWIN CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
*Committed to Character Development and Academic Excellence*

July 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of James Irwin Charter Schools:

In my letter a couple of weeks ago, I indicated it is our strong belief that attending in-class instruction five days per week is what is best for students. I want to thank all of the parents that did reach out with suggestions and concerns moving forward. During the past month, we have heard many different reports and plans from schools across the nation, and we are still planning on being ready for in-class instruction on the first day of school with some changes to school routines and cleaning procedures. In addition to changes in routines and cleaning, we will be making some adjustments to transportation, school trips, and temporary remote learning.

The primary concern that most parents have had returning to school relates to cleaning and distancing procedures. Although I will not be going into in-depth details about these items in this letter, please know that we are preparing a document for distribution that will detail all of our cleaning procedures and your school principal is preparing a document that will outline all new and enhanced procedures to keep students safe at school. Some of the highlights include:

- Additional dedicated cleaning and sanitizing staff
- Frequent disinfecting of spaces and furniture
- Health screening for everyone entering the building
- Education on healthy practices
- Additional supplies for cleaning
- Scheduled break times for hand washing
- Face coverings for staff
- Maximum physical distancing when possible.

The most recent recommendations from the El Paso County Health Department suggest that older students and young adults should wear masks while attending classes. Each school will be providing guidance on when masks will be necessary for each age group and activity. Please make sure that your student arrives each day with a mask, whether they are required to wear it all day or not.

Presently, we are planning to provide bus transportation between the three campuses like last year. Parents choosing to take advantage of the bussing option will be required to sign an agreement that will include items such as temperature checks, health screening, and seating charts. All students will be required to wear a face covering while riding the bus. In an effort to reduce any unnecessary close contact between students and exposure from outside of the schools, we will be cancelling or postponing most school field trips for the foreseeable future.



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In early June, I believed that as a school we would be permitted to allow parents to choose between an in-school learning experience and an optional online learning option. Since that time, we have learned that public/charter schools may not provide an exclusive online learning school without opening a new school. We can, however, provide temporary remote learning if the school is required to close due to a Governor's mandate, illness in the school or for those students who are sick and required to stay at home. On a case by case basis, we will provide for your child's education at home if there is a legitimate medical reason for the student to remain at home that meets health department criteria. Our experience has been that in-person learning works best for the vast majority of students. While it is our goal to provide the very best education for all students, we know that remote learning is less effective and the social experience of being at school is important to students' well-being. I apologize to any family that may have wanted an exclusive online learning environment from James Irwin Charter Schools this year, but we are unable to provide that option.

Our hope is to see everyone back in class this fall, and it is our goal to make this happen. During the coming days and weeks you will begin to see more communication from your child's school leaders and teachers regarding the first days of school. If you have questions now, feel free to call or email Ginger Brining and we will address them as quickly as possible. Thank you for choosing James Irwin Charter Schools.

Sincerely,

Rob Daugherty, CEO

James Irwin Charter Schools

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