



JAMES IRWIN CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Committed to Character Development and Academic Excellence

August 5, 2020

Dear JICHS Parent or Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and having a great summer. I want to apologize for the delay and am grateful for your patience. The many updates and changing requirements/guidelines made it necessary to wait so that you get the most accurate information. As you know, our society is experiencing unprecedented and unpredictable shifts in the requirements and guidelines for public safety published by federal, state and local authorities. This fluidity has challenged faculty and staff across the country as we plan for what education will look like this fall. Please know that the executives and administration will make the best possible choices based upon the information available when each decision is made. We can all recognize that some will be excited about these decisions, others neutral, and others may get upset.

Spring 2020 took us all by surprise, so we did our best to educate your student under the circumstances and realize it did not have the usual rigor you are used to from JICHS. However, this school year will not look like last spring, and will feature more rigor and higher expectations for attendance, engagement, participation, communication, homework deadlines and grading.

Instructional Format

At some point in the fall, teachers will begin using an iPad and Swivl system to live-stream and record classroom lessons. These units have been ordered, but have not arrived. Until then, remote learning will be similar to the spring with Google Classroom, Zoom and Infinite Campus. Whichever remote learning platform is used, students will turn in all assignments online for safety and to keep their digital connection with teachers in case we are ordered to “Stay at Home” by Governor Polis.

Currently, our plan is to start students on August 17, 2020. Students will be released at 1:30 p.m. for August 17-21. After this, we will follow our normal school schedule. To manage social distancing, we will have a **hybrid** model with cohorts to cut in half our on-campus student population.

Last Name A-L

Mon/Wed – In-Person

Tue/Thu – Remote

Last Name M-Z

Mon/Wed – Remote

Tue/Thu – In-Person

All Students

Friday – Remote

Lessons will not be repeated by teachers. Instead, the lessons will be recorded and posted. For full credit, all homework will be due by 11:59 p.m. on the due date of the assignment. Students who are remote learning will be required to watch any video lesson and complete all work, as assigned. Teachers will have set office hours for student support. To cut down on the transmission of germs and viruses, there will be a one-way paper trail where remote learning will strictly be online, without any paper being returned to teachers from students.

Attendance

Attendance will be reported to the state, as required by law. On remote learning days, or for students who are 100% remote learning, students will be required to check into Infinite Campus daily. Failure to check in daily may result in a student being reported as truant.

Technology

Although the current *Student Handbook* prohibits electronics in the classroom, JICHS students are expected to bring to campus, during in-person instruction, whatever technology they will be using

during remote learning (laptop, tablet, cell phone, etc.). Smart watches are prohibited. Teachers will be supporting students with connecting to Google Classroom, Zoom and Infinite Campus during the first week of school. Students are responsible to be engaged in the lesson and not involved in any non-instructional apps, programs or tasks while using technology on campus. I am happy to report that every student will be assigned a James Irwin email account that will be required to use for all school communications with teachers. This will allow all teachers to know the student with whom they are communicating, rather than dealing with the confusion of generic email names.

Behavior and Discipline

Respect and professionalism from students are key. Any student behavior issues that occur during remote learning (i.e. posting inappropriate comments, misbehaving during Zoom meetings, etc.) will result in a suspension on their behavior record; and, if not rectified, could lead to expulsion. For in-person instruction, behaviors such as (but not limited to) not social distancing, not wearing a face mask or shield when required, accessing non-instructional material with technology, etc., can also lead to suspension and/or expulsion.

On the days your student's cohort is on-campus, regular dress code is required (see the current *Student Handbook*). We will send information about our lunch program soon. ***It is critical that you take the time now to ensure your Infinite Campus contact information is updated.***

Full-Time Remote Learning Option

If you or someone in your family has a *legitimate* medical need or concern, you can opt for your student to stay off campus and do remote learning full-time. All students will be required to have the technology necessary for remote learning as outlined in the current *Student Handbook* (see "Distance Learning"). All parents/guardians and students will be required to sign a remote learning agreement (which will be published at a later date). Students may opt for full-time remote learning at any point in the semester, based on a legitimate need, but must continue in that model until the end of the semester.

Safety

James Irwin Charter Schools is committed to the safety of all our school community members. Therefore, flexibility, patience and understanding are necessary in order to operate in a time where safety policies and procedures can rapidly change. We are dedicated to finding ways, regardless of the limitations, to provide a meaningful education to our students. Faculty, staff, students, parents/guardians, will need to work together and demonstrate courageous persistence and tremendous flexibility as we team up to do what is best for our students. Due to the sudden and various changes in requirements and guidelines, safety information will be published separately, like the ***JICHS 2020-2021 Coronavirus Response Plan*** that will be posted on our website by the end of this week.

Students and adults will be required to wear a face covering while on campus, which can be a mask or face shield. All masks and shields (design, decoration, fabric pattern, etc.) must follow dress code guidelines in terms of appropriateness, as published in the current *Student Handbook* (no camouflage, inappropriate words/sayings, etc.). JICHS will do everything possible to maintain a safe, socially-distanced environment, as outlined in our CEO's letter. With limited resources and personnel, JICHS needs you, as a family, to review and ensure your student understands and will comply with social distancing rules and safe hygiene procedures.

Communication

As previously mentioned, changes can happen quickly, and we want to be able to get notifications to you immediately. JICHS does this through Infinite Campus by texting and phone messaging. Letters are generally posted on our website and Facebook page within 24 hours of any Infinite Campus messages.

Make sure you have at least one cell phone and one email in Messenger Preferences checked for faster communications. Please remove any email accounts which you do not check regularly or use. If you do not know how to do this, you can contact our front office for assistance. We want to partner with you, so if you have any questions, concerns or need clarification, please call our front office at 719-302-9109, and a staff member will get you in contact with someone who can support you.

Traffic Procedures

All drivers must check the *Student Handbook* for our drop-off and pick-up procedures. It is critical every driver follows the directions and posted speed limit for absolute safety while on campus. Generally, our biggest challenge is to get all parents to pull completely forward as far west as they can. This allows as many drivers as possible to fit into our drop-off lane. I know you share our desire to have every student safely arrive on time. Regarding pick-up in the afternoons, all drivers must be willing to pull forward as soon as there is room to do so. Anyone who would like to park their vehicles may do so in the parking lot south of the building. Everyone who is walking across the lanes must use a crosswalk.

Once again, I apologize for getting this important information to you now, rather than earlier. As you can see from all the details, there were many pieces that kept changing based on state and local communications. Everyone in our society is experiencing unprecedented stress due to our society's current state of affairs; however, we will get through this together!

I am so honored and excited to be on this journey with you. My hope is that this year, despite our challenges, will bear much fruit for your student and that it is filled with health, blessings and many fond memories. Welcome to James Irwin Charter High School!

With warmest regards,



Alex Marquez, Principal