

July 16, 2020

Dear JCPS Families,

I can't thank you enough for the tremendous support you've shown me, teachers, and all other Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) employees during this difficult time in our history. What you, your child, and our JCPS family accomplished, under extraordinary circumstances, at the end of last school year was incredible.

Let's do this again, together. I will be recommending to the Jefferson County Board of Education that we begin the 2020-21 school year on **August 25** with online Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) for every student. After six weeks, we will use data and science in conjunction with direction from local and state health officials to determine if it is safe to return to in-person instruction.

I expect the school board to approve this plan at its Tuesday, **July 21**, meeting. Members of the school board believe, as I do, that the health and safety of our students and staff should be our top priority. With COVID-19 cases on the rise in Louisville, allowing our students and staff to learn and teach at home is the most logical and safest choice at this time.

NTI 2.0 would be a more robust, challenging, and improved program than what students experienced in the spring. It will be more like a normal classroom model for students, with increased instruction and more frequent online contact with their school and teachers.

To facilitate online learning for all students, JCPS has ordered an additional 30,000 Chromebooks to be distributed to students. The district and schools will also host orientation and training sessions for families and community partners to share our expectations as well as available resources and support during this time.

I understand not being able to come together in person will be a hardship for many families and, as I've repeatedly said, the benefits of face-to-face classroom instruction can't be replicated with online instruction. Obviously, this decision is not an easy one. Most of you understand there are no good options for our return to school, but I believe starting the school year with NTI is the best, and safest, of these imperfect models.

We will be following the data, science, and recommendations from health officials in determining when it is safe to return our students and teachers to the classroom. We miss seeing our students and hope we can reopen sooner rather than later this fall.

Thank you again for your support of JCPS.

Sincerely,
Marty Pollio, Superintendent