

## *A Note from the Principals...*

As we prepared to write our monthly note the list of things we wanted to mention kept growing. We have been in school for such a short time, and yet it feels like we never left last spring. A quote worth sharing and a starting point for this communication:

*“Being challenged in life is inevitable,  
being defeated is optional.”*

We will not be defeated, but we must work together as a community! We will take the lead here in the following areas:

- We can strengthen our larger school community by introducing you to various staff members. We will be sending **short video introductions** over the next month. Our hope is you will get to know some of the names and faces of staff members that you might see in the car line, in the offices or that might serve your child in a small group.
- House Teams - Due to our safety protocols we will not be hosting larger House Team events at this time. However, we will be honoring the work that was done this summer in preparation for those events by allowing each class time on Team Tuesday to complete the activity. I think it as best said by Mrs. Ashley, *“As a SE family we may be starting house teams apart, yet we are still together in spirit and heart.”*
- We will continue to work diligently to enforce our safety protocols within the building. We are promoting lots of hand-washing, hand-sanitizing, social distancing when possible, staying within our classroom cohorts and following the JPS Return to Learn Plan.
- The Contact Tracing Team will only contact you if your child has come into close contact with a student that has tested positive. We will not be sharing that child’s name with you. We will review your options when we notify you, followed up by an email. We appreciate your caution and care when determining what is best for your child and our school community.

Contact Tracing Team: [lindy.risenhoover@jenksps.org](mailto:lindy.risenhoover@jenksps.org), [kim.mcdaniel@Jenksps.org](mailto:kim.mcdaniel@Jenksps.org),  
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How can you help?

- Monitor your child's health. Please do not send them to school with a fever. We have had several families mention that the [SYMPTOMS CHART](#) is very helpful.
- If you know they have been around someone outside of school that has tested positive, please let us know of that exposure. We must try to mitigate the spread here at school.
- Please consider the following:

*Jenks Public Schools strongly encourages wearing a mask inside District facilities and buses.*

*In-person learning, extracurricular activities, and social interactions are important components of the educational experience. We want students and employees to be able to remain at school and avoid any need to transition to distance learning. State and local health departments and the CDC recommend vaccinated and unvaccinated people wear masks indoors to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As the Delta variant continues to cause positive case numbers to rise in our community, please consider sending your student to school in a mask.*

We have masks for students and adults in the offices and appreciate your help in reducing the spread!

### **Important Dates**

Friday, September 4 - NO SCHOOL - PD Day for Staff

Monday, September 6 - NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

Friday, September 24 - Collaboration Day - Distance Learning for ALL students

**Car Tags** - We have several new staff members assisting in our ovals during drop-off/pick-up. PLEASE make sure you have the appropriate color of car tag with your **Last Name** written clearly for staff to see. Please hang that tag so that it is visible for staff to see. This process really does help us move traffic in an efficient manner. Thank you!

Pink - Pre-K (North Oval)      Orange - Grades K - 4 (North Oval)

Green - Grades K - 4 (South Oval)

**Responsive Classroom** - Each classroom conducts daily morning meetings which establish community and a sense of belonging, as well as build upon key social/academic skills. If you want to know more, you can always ask your child about the morning message, greeting, or energizer in his/her classroom!

**Academics/Assessments** - The focus of the first 10-20 days of school is building community, mastering our procedures, observing and assessing the needs of our students, while working toward implementing our academic goals and expectations. We have BIG plans for our students!

**Progress Reports** - All students, grades K - 4, will bring home a Progress Report on Thursday, September 16.

*Thank you for supporting all that we do here at Southeast! We are honored to educate and care for your children!*

*Lindy Risenhoover*

Site Principal

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