

Thunderbird Update – September 24, 2020



Dear Johnson Families:

Thank you for your patience as news of re-entry into phase 3 A/B model has been announced. As I outlined in my last communication, we are in the midst of planning our instructional model for each grade level. You will receive communication from your child's teacher of how each grade level plans to deliver four new learning opportunities per content area over a 5 day period of time.

As a reminder, our goals as we enter the 2020-21 school year are the following:

- We stay in face-to-face teaching and learning for as long as possible.
- We create systems, so we minimize the risk of getting sick for students, staff, and families.
- We create new routines, so students feel safe at school, staff feel safe at work, and families feel safe.
- We are intentional about devoting time and support to mental health and connections, and we create a system where all students can access learning and grow academically.

The health and safety guidelines we will follow in a synopsis are the following:

- Frequent handwashing
- Face coverings required
- Restricted mixing between groups- Homeroom becomes a cohort that does not mix with other homerooms
- Specials rotate location so rooms can be sanitized between cohort groups
- Lunch and breakfast are in classrooms
- Staggered arrival and dismissal procedures
- Social distancing practices within the classroom
- Socially distanced recess for cohort groups
- Frequent cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- No visitors and volunteers will be allowed in the school
- Ongoing symptom monitoring for staff and students (families will monitor symptoms and keep symptomatic children home)

As we welcome back our PreK-2nd grade students into in-person learning, we will continue to build relationships and teach new routines for safety. We hope to strike the right balance of new learning while in-person with complimenting challenge and practice for remote learning days. During this time, students will have opportunity to meet and work with specials teachers, have recess, practice safety routines, and much more.

Guiding our instructional practice is the feedback we are receiving from families and children. Students will also be given opportunities for through traditional paper and pencil work for at home learning on their days out of school. While students are expected to join morning meetings, small group instruction, and/or specials virtually while learning remotely, our hope is that the more traditional work options meet your expectations and needs as a family. Please look for more information from your child's teacher for details.

Breakfast and lunch will be served. If you would like your child to have breakfast, they should enter through the designated door, use hand sanitizer, go to the cafeteria, pick up breakfast for that day and the following remote day, go out the gym doors and report to the outer door for their classroom. We will have staff on duty to help all children navigate getting breakfast.

Lunch will be served in the classroom. We have two lunch options for children to choose from. These are bagged meals. All students with food intolerances and allergies will have meals free of these intolerances and allergens. My hope is you will see a published menu as we usually do. I will try to keep you posted as I know more about meal options for your children. Below is a direct link to school meal information: <https://www.psdschools.org/programs-services/school-meals>

We will follow the Larimer County Health and Environment Department's guidance. Our strategies to stay open and keep all safe across our district are to follow the "3 W's": Wear a mask, wash hands, and watch distance. We have designed schedules to allow for frequent cleaning, to honor the above health guidelines, and keep students in classroom cohorts as much as possible.

Here is what we expect of families:

- Complete symptom checks for your children every day.
- Keep your children home if they are symptomatic or sick.
- Reinforce the safety measures we put in place at school.
- Help your children to understand this will pass, and we hope to return to "normalcy" as soon as possible.
- Provide your children with a mask and teach them how to wear and care for masks.
- Remind your children to wash their hands frequently.
- Communicate with us about cases and potential exposures.
- Assist your children in accessing learning pages and online learning platforms during remote learning.

If you have questions, I would guide you to look to the following PSD resource: <https://www.psdschools.org/node/1624>. You can also give our office a call, and we will answer questions based on the latest conditions and information.

In closing, we walk as one and we continue to be in this together. We are excited to see your children as they re-enter in-person learning. Please look for updates on Thursdays as we usually do.

Best to you all.
Georgie Dawson

Johnson Calendar of Events

October		
1		October Student Count Day
5		Phase 3 begins for Grades PreK – 2 Group A – Monday and Wednesday Group B – Tuesday and Thursday All Students learn remotely on Fridays
12	4:00 – 5:00 pm 4:00 – 8:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting *Virtual K – 5 th Parent/Teacher Conferences
13	4:00 – 8:00 pm	K – 5 th Parent/Teacher Conferences
14	4:00 – 8:00 pm	K – 5 th Parent/Teacher Conferences
15		NO SCHOOL – Conference Comp Day End of 1 st Quarter
16		NO SCHOOL – Conference Comp Day
19 – 23		Classified Staff Appreciation Week * *Support Staff: Paras, Food Service, Custodial, Bus Drivers, Office Staff, Grounds, etc.
19		Phase 3 begins for Grades 3 – 5 Group A – Monday and Wednesday Group B – Tuesday and Thursday All Students learn remotely on Fridays
26	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting - *Virtual
26 – 30		Virtual Scholastic Book Fair
November		
11		Veterans' Recognition at Johnson * *This event will look different than in years past.
16	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting *Virtual
25 – 27		NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break

Quick Links

- [Johnson Elementary Website](#)
- [PSD Schools Parent Website](#)
- [District News](#)
- [PSD School Calendars & Schedules](#)



Mental health matters

Several weeks into remote learning at PSD, we are finding our stride: teachers are mastering learning platforms, students are engaged, and parents are finding routines. However, life can still be complicated and overwhelming at times. Our brains can be overloaded with current events, fears, changes and emotional/physical exhaustion. Simple strategies can help our brain manage the toxic chemicals that are produced by this overload. [Read more in this week's update >>](#)

Original Works

A blank, thick sheet of paper should have come home 9/18/20. Please DO NOT doodle/ draw on these (this is the only piece you will receive) until you're given direction from Ms. England and have it ready/with the student during their weekly art class.

For those unfamiliar with Original Works, this is both a fundraiser for Johnson and an opportunity to order a variety of items (notebooks, cards, trivets, mugs, etc.) decorated with their original artwork. These items also make great holiday gifts and, with the new online ordering system, can be shipped directly to your out of town family!

We should have a school code by the time instruction is completed, be on the lookout for that information. After your original artwork is created families will need to scan or photograph the art and using the code upload the art to place an order online, the order will then be shipped directly to them. Orders are due October 8th.



Nothing else will be returned to or picked up from the school.

~Kelly Steinway, Coordinator

Important News Reminders

To review the **PSD District news updates** click here: [District News](#)

School donation requests

Below are a couple of items we are requesting donations for that are now visible in SchoolPay. Click here to learn more about SchoolPay. [Pay Fees/Charges Online](#)

- **Johnson Supplies: Kindergarten - 5th Grade 2020-21**
\$20 to cover all or a portion of the cost of purchasing expendable supplies to be used by all students for literacy, math, social studies, science, and craft activities. Waivers are not applicable; students will have access to the supplies regardless of whether payment is made. **For families with more than one child enrolled at Johnson – we would only ask for one donation of \$20.**
- **Johnson Student Planner: 4th & 5th Grade 2020-21**
\$4 To cover all or a portion of the cost of the planners. Waivers are not applicable; all students will receive a planner regardless of whether payment is made.

Family Wellness Challenge

Don't forget our Thunderbird Family Wellness Challenge continues through September 30. Take a family walk for 15 minutes, 3 – 4 times a week. Post a picture of you and your family walking together on our Johnson Facebook page @JohnsonTbirds1988.



PSD Shifting to Phase 3

Please be sure you have read Superintendent, Dr. Smyser's community message titled "[PSD shifting to hybrid learning for PreK-elementary](#)".

Here's what elementary families can expect:

- **Oct. 5 – 16:**
 - Grades K-2 in [Phase 3](#) Hybrid In-Person/Remote Learning (*see schedule below*)
 - Grades 3-5 in [Phase 1](#) Remote Learning
- **Oct. 19:**
 - Grades K-5 in Phase 3 Hybrid In-Person/Remote Learning (*see schedule below*)

Phase 3 schedule

All students have been assigned to an A or B group. Please check [ParentVUE](#) for your student's assignment.

- "A" group" attends school **Mondays and Wednesdays** (full days) with remote learning Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- "B" group" attends school **Tuesdays and Thursdays** (full days) with remote learning Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- On **Fridays, all students in remote education.**

For middle/high schools: PSD continues to target Oct. 19 to begin in-person learning for secondary students and will share more details the week of Sept. 28. As with elementary schools, the plan to return to in-person learning at the secondary level will be a phased in, hybrid approach.

Preschool students will return to in-person education Oct. 5. Early Childhood Education will communicate more information directly with their families.

Early Childhood Education accepting applications for preschool

PSD's preschool program still has open spaces for the 2020-21 school year. More families may qualify now than ever before. To learn more and begin your application online, visit the [Early Childhood Education web page](#) or call 970-490-3204.



Johnson Parent Teacher Organization (JPTO)

Please mark your calendar and plan to get involved in JPTO!

JPTO General Membership meetings will generally be held on the last Monday of each month from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The next meeting for the 2020-2021 school year will be **virtually on Microsoft Teams on October 26th at 6:30pm**. All Johnson parents and guardians are welcome.

If you would like a link to the meeting or have any questions and ideas on how to better our Johnson community please email JPTO80526@gmail.com. As always, you do not have to be on the Board to attend these meetings and have a say in what goes on. You can attend PTO meetings and be a voting member without having an official role.

Meet our JPTO Officers:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • President | Andrea Evans |
| • Vice-President | Wednesday Melssen-Vogel |
| • Treasurers | Amelia Olschner |
| • Secretary | Melissa Bolovitz |
| • Events and Fundraising | Kelly Steinway and Shalese Payton |

What exactly does JPTO do?

JPTO has previously sponsored events such as the Fund Run, Family Movie Night, Fall and Spring Book Fairs, Family Fun Nights, and Original Works just to name a few! This year we are looking at other creative ways we can safely provide school spirit events for our Johnson community. We would love your input!

Through fundraising JPTO has been able to purchase items for our school, support our amazing staff and community by providing appreciation weeks, spirit gear, and funding staff request for various needs. This year we will strive to continue this tradition to provide learning tools and experiences that teachers and students can benefit from to meet the moment, whether we are learning virtually or in the building at any point throughout the school year.

This year's needs may look different than previous years. We will continue to support our staff in ways that will keep your students safe and learning throughout the year.

Check out our new website <http://johnsonpto.weebly.com> and our Community Events page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JohnsonElementaryCommunityPage/>

Please "like" our page to get notifications of upcoming Johnson events for the community and invite your Thunderbird friends!

~Andrea Evans, JPTO President

Ongoing fundraisers for Johnson Elementary

These passive fundraisers directly benefit Johnson Elementary discretionary fund/classroom budgets:

➤ American Furniture Warehouse Fundraiser

Shop at any AFW location, online or by phone and mention Johnson Elementary at checkout. Our school will receive 2% donation on any purchase, 4% on Beauty Rest mattresses. Invite others to participate. Friends and Family can help too!

➤ Caps4Cash – Morning Fresh Dairy Fundraiser

Caps4Cash is a Morning Fresh Dairy program where schools earn cash by collecting caps from Morning Fresh Dairy glass bottles. Each cap will be redeemed for 5 cents. We use this fundraiser to help support our Student Council Program.



➤ Advertising Fundraising for Johnson

Organizations can purchase advertising in individual school newsletters through the [School Communications Agency](#). 60% of revenue from advertising goes back to the school to be used at the principal's discretion. Contact: (970) 239-1641

Fundraisers that directly benefit our JPTO:

➤ Box Tops Fundraiser

Looking for a quick and easy way to help support our amazing school? Download the free Box Tops App. And register Johnson Elementary as your school and when you go shopping just go into the app and take a picture of your receipt and it will give our school .10 per participating items, just make sure you submit them within 14 days of your purchase.



Another easy way to support Johnson is if you shop at King Soopers, all you need to do is go online to your King Soopers Account or go into customer service and link your Soopers customer card to Johnson Elementary and every time you shop King Soopers will donate money to our school.

We would love for you to take a few minutes of your time to help make a huge difference in supporting our amazing school.

➤ **King Soopers Community Rewards Fundraiser**

Johnson has recently been added to the list of nonprofits eligible for funding through their community rewards program. We encourage our families to register your **King SooperCard** and choose Johnson as the designated nonprofit. Go to www.KingSoopers.com

- Scroll all the way down near the bottom of the page where you will see “**Community**” click on it.
- You will then see “**KingSoopers Community Rewards**” click on it.
- In the middle of the page you will see “**enroll now**” click on it.
- Next you will need to add your **email and password**.

(If you’ve never logged in before, but still have a card, you can attach an email and password to your existing number by creating an account)

If you don’t have a card, choose “create an account”.

- A search box will open to select your charity – type “**Johnson PSD**” on the left of the screen. On the right, you can select “**education**” as type. Click on the magnifying glass for the search to work and select your organization.
- There are two Johnson schools listed. The address is with it, so finding our is easy and at the top. (4101 Seneca Street) Click “**enroll**”

You are all set!

Adding this card will not affect your gas points or other discount benefits you receive through King Soopers.

Thank you for helping JPTO raise funds for Johnson Elementary!

~Andrea Evans, JPTO President

➤ **Amazon – Smile.amazon.com Fundraiser**



Amazon has a wonderful giving program called Smile.amazon.com that gives **0.5% of your qualified purchases to a charity of your choice**. Here is how you can give to Johnson Elementary.

All you have to do is register!

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All you have to do is register!

How to enroll:

Go to smile.amazon.com, scroll to the bottom of the page

Continued on next page..

At the bottom of the page click on "**get started**"

It will take you to a login page. Log in with your **amazon account**

On the task bar you will see **Your Charity**. You can then **select the charity**. Our registered name is **Johnson Parent Teacher Organization**. (It is not listed as Johnson Elementary.)

Know that all funds go to support our school, Johnson Elementary.

Remember you must log in from the smile page at smile.amazon.com **each time you make a purchase for the charitable donation to count.**

Thank you so much for supporting our school!

Parents wanted for the District Accountability Committee

The Poudre School District's District Accountability Committee is looking to fill several important representative seats for the 2021-2022 school year. We would love to have a representative from Johnson. Interested? [Here is information](#) about the committee and how to apply!

Using the ParentVUE, StudentVUE portals

The [Synergy ParentVUE portal](#) gives parents and guardians web and mobile access to permission to share and other forms, assessments, report cards and class schedules when available. Earlier this summer, parents should have received instructions on accessing ParentVUE accounts for both new and existing users. Learn how to access and/or activate your account on the ["Accessing and Activating a ParentVUE Account" web page](#). If you have questions, refer to the [ParentVUE Frequently Asked Questions](#) or contact the school office.

The Poudre School District is committed to the policy that no otherwise qualified person shall be denied access to, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination under, any District program or activity on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, age or disability. District compliance with this policy shall be the responsibility of, and reports and complaints of discrimination based on these protected classifications should be directed to: For District students and community members: Director of Student Services, 1630 South Stover Street, Fort Collins, Colorado 80525, phone: 970-490-3033; For District employees: Executive Director of Human Resources, 2407 La Porte Avenue, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521, phone: 970-490-3620.