

## Thunderbird Update – October 1, 2020



Dear Johnson Families:

As our Thursday update, I wanted to remind everyone of our parking lot etiquette. If you drive your child/children to school, please keep the following in mind.

### **Parking**

Please use the east facing slots in the parking lot. This allows you to back out without interfering with vehicles in the drop off lane. Also, the two lanes closest to the building are for buses, daycare vans, and authorized vehicles only between 8:35 – 9:05 a.m. and 3:10 – 3:35 p.m. Do not drive in the inner lanes during these times. The parking slots on the inner lanes are reserved for staff members only, so do not park in these spots. Do not park vehicles on the blacktop on the north or south side of the building. All vehicles should be parked in our parking lot only or along the roadway in appropriate parking areas.

### **Student Drop Off and Pick-Up**

An ideal drop off place for students is on Seneca St., north of the school by the backstop at the park, or south of the school past the Johnson soccer field. Dropping off at these points eliminates the need to enter the parking lot. For small children, we recommend you park and walk your child up to the building.

### **Parking Lot Etiquette**

We are very fortunate at Johnson Elementary to have so many families who attend our school. Unfortunately, our parking lot was not designed to accommodate such many vehicles when families are dropping off or picking up their child/children. So, to ensure student safety and to speed up the process, we ask that you help us out by doing the following:

DO not leave your car unattended

In the drop off lane, please pull all the way forward to the very end of the parking lot (south side) before stopping to let your student(s) out of the vehicle. A staff member will be on duty and will motion you forward as space allows. We have two crosswalks to our building, and it is essential that we use the full length of the drop off lane to keep traffic flowing. In the afternoon, when picking up, the staff member on duty will help your student(s) find your vehicle even if you pull all the way to the end of the lane.

- In the drop off lane, if you are waiting for the vehicle in front of you, please be patient and do not let your student(s) exit the vehicle until you have been motioned forward and are at least even with the first crosswalk. We will move vehicles through the drop off lane much faster and students will be better supervised.
- Please do not park and exit your vehicle in the drop off lane. It is important that you be able to pull forward when motioned by the staff member on duty. If you need to park and exit your vehicle, please find an open parking space on the east side of our parking lot (the west side is for staff) or park along Seneca to the north of our building. When picking up in the afternoon, the staff member on duty will help your student(s) find your vehicle so you do not need to get out to find your student(s).

- Please wait until a space is available in the drive through lane before pulling into our parking lot. We must always keep the intersection and the bus/van lane clear. Also, please do not let your student(s) exit the vehicle while parked at the stop sign. We must be able to keep traffic moving along.
- After you drop off or pick up your student(s), please exit the drop off lane and pull through the parking lot to exit. This will open more space for parents waiting in line. Please watch for parents leaving parking spaces on the east side of our parking lot.

We appreciate your help in supporting safe arrival and departure from school.

Best to you all,  
Georgie Dawson, Principal

### **Coming back to elementary school**

Although not exhaustive in nature, the video below gives families a sense of what they can expect to see as we return to in-person learning. Share it with your student if you feel it would help prepare them for returning to school. [Video](#)

[Phase 3](#) begins for **PK – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** students on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> begin on October 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 with remote learning Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
- **"B group"** attends school on Tuesdays and Thursdays with remote learning on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Fridays:
  - Live morning check-in/class meeting
  - The rest of Friday, students complete independent and asynchronous work and participate in synchronous lessons.
  - Teachers provide instructional support to students for approximately 1/3 of the day. For the remainder of the day, teachers collaboratively plan and prepare for the next week.

### **Medication and Health Care Action Plans**

Please turn in student medication forms, Health Care Action Plans, medications, and updated immunization records during Friday drop off/pick up day, or call to make and arrangements to deliver them prior to your child attending school. **These items should be brought to the main entry.** Give us a call and we will come out to meet you. Phone: 970-488-5000

You may also FAX medical forms: 970-488-5007 – Attention: Wrenn Thornton

## Attendance and Absence Reporting

If your student is ill, they should not come to school.

If your child will be absent or tardy, please call our school attendance line at 970-488-5095. Be prepared to answer the following questions:



1. Give your students **First and Last Name, Grade and Teacher**
2. **Reason for Absence**
3. If your child is ill, is he/she experiencing any of these COVID-like symptoms:
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell, OR
  - Sore throat

Please leave a detailed message about your child's symptoms, information about any possible exposure to a COVID-19 case, and your phone number to receive a call back from our health office staff.

## Daily Schedule PHASE 3

School hours for students are 8:50 a.m. to 3:28 p.m. **Students should not arrive at school before 8:35 a.m. unless attending AlphaBEST or eating breakfast.** Safety is a priority, and we want to be sure that staff members are present for supervision. **Please make sure children are not on campus prior to 8:35 a.m. and leave promptly by 3:45 p.m.**

8:35 a.m.	Campus supervision begins,	and breakfast is served.
8:50 a.m.	Classes begin.	
3:28 a.m.	School dismissed by grade level (oldest to youngest) using staggered dismissal procedures.	
3:45 a.m.	Students should be off campus.	

## Arrival procedures

Gathering before school on the grounds or playing on the playground is not permitted. Students are to go directly to the exterior classroom door, unless he/she is having breakfast. 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, report to the outer door for their classroom and line up on a dot. All classroom teachers are on duty at their classroom doors at 8:35 a.m. Students who come in late (after 8:50 a.m.) should check-in at the front door and staff will direct them.

## Dismissal procedures

Staggered dismissal calls will be made over the intercom starting at 3:28 p.m. All students leave out exterior classroom doors and pick up younger siblings at his/her classroom door. From there they proceed to either the bus line, car line, AlphaBEST, or walk home as directed by parent. Students who are not picked up by 3:45 p.m. should return to the oldest child's outside classroom door. Teachers will contact the office, so family contact can be made.

## What will lunch and snack time look like?

Students will eat lunch and snack in their classrooms. For students who normally get their lunch from our cafeteria, they will have their lunches delivered to the classroom. Teachers will record student meal choice (cold/hot) in the morning as they take attendance for each child. We will follow a sanitizing routine before and after eating times. Students will wash their hands before and after eating. Each child's space will be sanitized before and after eating times. We also plan to eat outdoors when the weather permits. During eating times, students will be socially distanced and have a mask break.



### Quick Links to October Meal Menus

- [October In-Person Breakfast Menu](#)
- [October In-Person Lunch Menu](#)
- [October Remote Breakfast Menu](#)
- [October Remote Lunch Menu](#)

If you send your child with a lunch or snack, make sure your child can independently open what you have provided.

### **Lunch Schedule by Grade**

- Kindergarten 11:30 – 11:55 a.m.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade 11:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade 11:55 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade 12:05 – 12:25 p.m.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade 12:30 – 12:50 p.m.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade 12:40 – 1:00 p.m.
  
- Free breakfasts and lunches will continue to be available to all students (18 years and under) through December, thanks to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's reimbursement program.
- From Thursday, Oct. 1-Friday, Oct. 9., meals will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside at only the [18 school sites](#). PSD's currently operated mobile sites will close as bus drivers transition to bussing students in Phase 3.
- In order to balance needs across the district with a transition to Phase 3, on Monday, Oct. 12, PSD will open meal distribution sites outside at Webber Middle School, Kinard Middle School,

Lincoln Middle School, Boltz Middle School and Eyestone Elementary. They will be open 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on scheduled school days.

- Only students doing in-person learning that day will get lunch meals at their schools. On their remote days, students can pick up meals at one of the five school distribution sites listed above.

### **Visitors and volunteers – Student pick-up/drop-off during the school day**

No volunteers or visitors are permitted inside the school building during the first semester.

Parents who need to check their child out of school during the school day should ring the doorbell at the main entrance and speak to office staff. We will verify that you are on the child's pick-up list and bring the child out to you. You will be required to sign your student out.

### **Transportation in Phase 3 in-person learning**

PSD's Transportation department is striving to maximize student ridership while following state and county safety guidelines.

In alignment with the district's 2020-21 school year planning, PSD will bus students for whom transportation is legally required, as well as many students who applied for and are approved for bussing. Those who applied but live within walking distance of their school or applied to a PSD school of choice are not eligible. PSD instituted a transportation registration process this school year because current public health guidance significantly limits the number of students on each bus.

- The Transportation Department will start communicating routes to families approved for transportation the week of Sept. 28. It is likely that communication will start with K-2 families only, as grades K-2 start in Phase 3 on Oct. 5, followed by families with students in grades 3-5 and secondary students.
- To follow public health guidance, seating will be limited to one rider per seat; two can ride on one seat if both riders are from the same household.
- Face coverings will be required for all drivers/riders to board the bus.
- All buses will be disinfected at least twice daily.

For additional information and applications for transportation, click here: [Transportation in the 2020-21 school year](#)



### **PSD's new before and after school care provider – AlphaBEST**

To support families during the modified return-to-school plan, AlphaBEST is providing a full-day option with their AlphaAcademy program, as well as before-and-after care for students returning to the classrooms during the hybrid schedule. Before-and after care will be held at Johnson. The full day program for the days children are not onsite will be available at Lopez Elementary.

A secure registration platform is available on the [AlphaBEST website](#).

Please contact AlphaBEST with questions:

972-668-0640 or [customerservice@alphabest.org](mailto:customerservice@alphabest.org)

### **UPDATE on ordering Original Works Products**

The students have been given links for directed drawings from Ms. England in a previous email, guiding them with a lesson plan idea and helping them complete an artwork that will be perfect to use for the Original Works program.

Please ensure they're sketching on separate paper and transferring their final product to the thick sheet of paper that was sent home. Then put it in a safe place until we are able to place our orders.

Unfortunately, due to some bugs in the online system our ordering timeframe has been pushed back. When we get the green light from Original Works, we will send the ordering information immediately to ensure prompt turnaround allowing orders to arrive in time for the holidays.

We apologize for the inconvenience. Stay tuned for more information to come.

~Kelly Steinway, Coordinator



**Johnson Calendar of Events**

October		
1		<b>October Student Count Day</b>
5		<b>Phase 3</b> begins for <b>Grades PreK – 2</b> 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 <sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher Conferences
13	4:00 – 8:00 pm	K – 5 <sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher Conferences
14	4:00 – 8:00 pm	K – 5 <sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher Conferences
15		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> – Conference Comp Day End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
16		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> – Conference Comp Day
19 – 23		<b>Classified Staff Appreciation Week *</b> *Support Staff: Paras, Food Service, Custodial, Bus Drivers, Office Staff, Grounds, etc.
19		<b>Phase 3</b> begins for <b>Grades 3 – 5</b> 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		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> – Thanksgiving Break

**Quick Links**

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



**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.

## 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](mailto: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 |

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



### **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.



### **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 >>](#)

*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.*