

Thunderbird Update – December 17, 2020



Dear Johnson Families:

I hope this communication finds you and your family healthy. Thank you to our Johnson Parent Teacher Organization, and all they do for our Thunderbirds. They recently published our Thunderbird Thank You and thanked several Johnson parents who have done some amazing things for your children. Our virtual book fair did well, they supplied needed warm gear to families, and they continue to look for ways to support all. I am very grateful to our JPTO. As we enter a new phase come January 19th, I look forward to their continued support and yours. Thank you for your kind notes and words of encouragement of late. I appreciate all of you as well.

We are excited about children returning. We have missed them, and we have missed you. We are currently preparing and planning for in-person learning with all students attending. We will follow as many of the safety protocols as we can that we followed in hybrid learning. We will publish more information after break as more details are ironed out at the district level. We currently have space in the following grades if you know of a family that would like to return to Johnson for the Spring 2021 semester: 1st, 2nd, and 4th. If a family would like to return to Johnson for Spring 2021, they need to submit a transfer request. The process and request form can be found at the following link: [School Options and Choice in PSD](#)

We are in School of Choice season and 1st consideration window for Fall 2021. We have a virtual open house planned for January 7, 2021. This event is for all families interested in Johnson. Yesterday, I sent information about our kindergarten programming and a link to this evening. If you know a family with an incoming kindergartener, please get the word to them about what a great place Johnson is to learn and grow.

When we open back up in the new year, we will publish reminders about how you can help keep us open and operating. We will publish our campus expectations for arrival, departure, the 3 W's etc. Please take a moment to review this information.

Finally, I hope you have a safe, happy, rejuvenating winter break. My hope for all families is peace, joy, and good health. Have a wonderful winter break, and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

All my best,

Georgie Dawson, Principal

PSD – January 2021 Plan

We are confident you have read the email communication from PSD regarding the plan for January. We are so happy that students in grades K – 5 will be returning to “in-person” learning, five days per week beginning January 19. If you missed the communication, read it here: [PSD plans for after winter break](#)

January 4	NO SCHOOL – Staff Workday
January 5 – 14	Preschool in A/B hybrid model
January 5 – 15	All K – 5 students in Phase 1 – Remote Learning
January 18	NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 19	All K – 5 students in Phase 4 – In Person Learning, Mon – Fri Preschool students will attend Monday – Thursday.

Additional information included in the communication mentioned above:

- Using data to drive decision-making
- Responding to COVID-19 cases
- Temporary school closures
- Meals
- Transportation Services
- Athletics
- Remote Learning Support Center
- Health and safety protocols
- PSD Virtual student information

The district will communicate to families about plans for February and beyond as soon as possible. Please check your email frequently for updates.

LIVE Virtual Open House – January 7

Due to COVID-19 safety protocols we are not able to offer our Open House “in person” this year. However, we are planning to offer a LIVE Virtual Open House on Thursday, January 7th at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Dawson sent out information earlier today about the event and how to join online. If you know of families who have children who will be entering kindergarten next school year – please share this information with them. The event is mainly geared towards kindergarten families, but all families interested in learning more about Johnson are welcome to attend.



Johnson Calendar of Events

December		
18		Second Quarter Ends
21 – 31		NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
January 2021		
1		NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
4		NO SCHOOL – Staff Workday
5 – 15		K – 5 Students in Phase 1 – Remote Learning
7	6:00 – 7:00 pm	LIVE Virtual Open House
11	4:30 pm 4:00 – 5:00 pm	Reports available to view in ParentVUE JPTO Executive Board Meeting *Virtual
13	6:00 – 7:30 pm 6:00 pm	SAAC Committee Meeting *Virtual Webber MS – Live Virtual Open House https://web.psdschools.org
14		Kindergarten Registration for 2021/2022 School Year
15	Noon	First Round School of Choice Deadline
18		NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
19	8:50a – 3:20p	K – 5 Students in Phase 4 – In Person (Monday – Friday)
25	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting *Virtual
February		
8	4:00 – 5:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting *Virtual
15		NO SCHOOL – Staff Workday
22	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting *Virtual
March		
8	4:00 – 5:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting
10	6:00 – 7:30 pm	SAAC Committee Meeting
12		End of 3 rd Quarter
14		Daylight Savings Time Begins
15 – 19		NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
20		Spring Begins!
22	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting

Frequently Asked Questions and Resources

Answers to other common questions are available on the PSD website. [Read more >>](#)

Technical Support Calendar	Health & Safety Transportation	2020-21 School Year School Meals	ParentVUE District Policies	PSD Virtual Departments
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[In Case you missed it!](#)

Kindergarten Registration 2021 – 2022 – January 14

Kindergarten is an exciting and important first step on your student's educational journey. Kindergarten Registration for the 2021 – 2022 school year is just around the corner. Kindergartners must be 5 years old on or before October 1.



Kindergarten Registration is scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2021. Families register online for your neighborhood school. [Online registration](#) will open for the 2021-22 school year on Friday, January 8. Please visit the PSD Website for the most up to date information: [Kindergarten Registration](#). Please call our office if you have any questions, 970-488-5000.

All new students register at their neighborhood school. You can find your neighborhood school on the [School Locator web page](#). You may also call 970-490-3302 to speak with someone regarding school locations.

School Options and Choice for School Year 2021 – 2022

Applications are being accepted for the 2021 – 2022 school year. **The deadline for 1st round applications is Friday, January 15th at Noon** for all grades (K-12).

PSD's School Choice program allows families to select the school that best meets their child's educational needs based on space availability and eligibility requirements. A school choice application is required to attend a school that is not a student's neighborhood school or to attend only by choice.

The first-round application deadline is Friday, January 15th for all grade levels. Application forms must be submitted online for the desired choice school or program. The order in which applications are received during this period does not affect a student's chances or acceptance. Parents must complete and submit a separate application for each child.

For complete details and application visit this website: [School Options and Choice](#)

Apply for ECE Programs/Preschool

To apply for the Early Head Start program (from birth to 36 months) or the Preschool program (for 3 to 5-year-olds), please submit an Early Childhood Program Application. Children must be 3-years-old on or before October 1 to be eligible to attend preschool. Preschool applications and registration are handled through the PSD Early Childhood office. For general information regarding Preschool you may call 970-490-3204 or visit their website here: [Early Childhood Education in PSD](#)

Menus & Meal Information

Learn about ingredients and other menu details here: [Menus & Meal Information](#)

Menus are subject to change based on availability of ingredients, supply or other factors.

- PSD's [Menu Website](#) lets you search for your school's menus and gives you access to information about allergens, carb counts, and nutrition details with each daily item. To download a free app for your phone, go to [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#) and search for Nutrislice.
- Ingredients in recipes are listed in the [Ingredient Database](#).
- For details about nutritional data, allergens, meal exemptions and substitutions, visit our [Special Food Needs](#) web page.

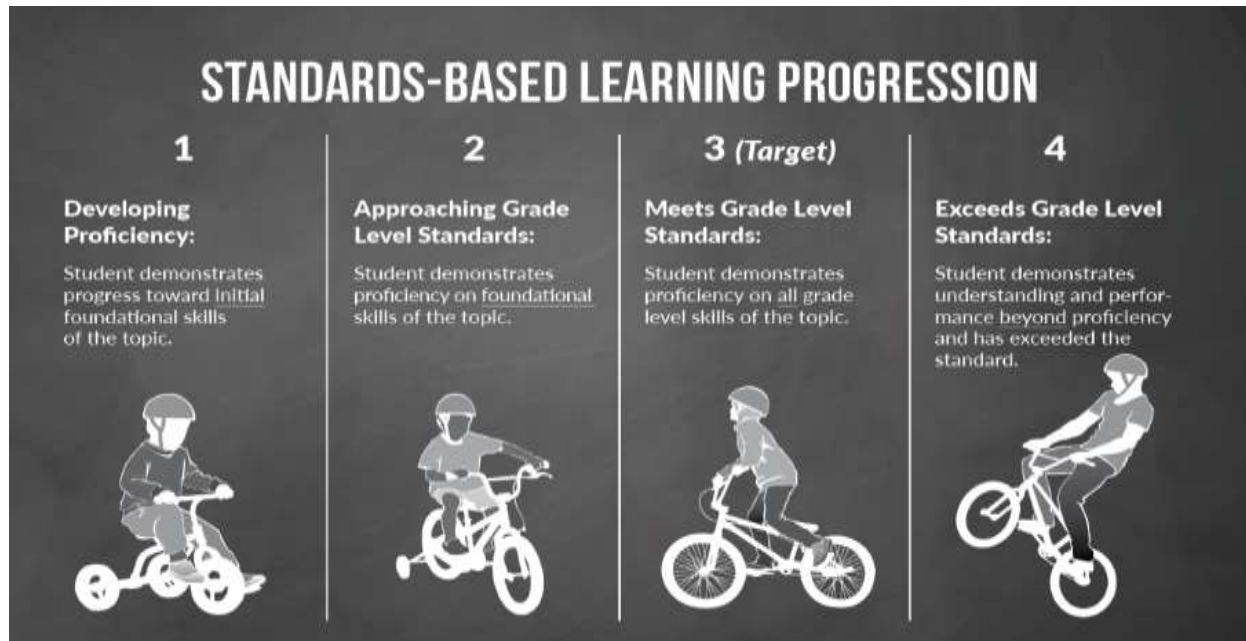
Switch to Standards Based Report Cards

PSD has updated elementary report cards and moved to a standards-based system. If you have a child in middle school, you are familiar with this system. The new report cards align with how they are mastering grade level standards, and not simply a percentage. Teachers are able to provide more specific feedback on the actual skill or task and what the student needs to practice in order to improve.

Your students will now receive a mark of 1, 2, 3, or 4. **A mark of 3 indicates they are exactly where we expect them to be at this time.**

Effort & Personal Development	<i>Explanation of Marks</i>	Achievement
	Consistently shows a thorough understanding of the concepts or skills and extends understanding beyond the requirements of the standards.	4 = Exceeding Expectations
3 = Meeting Expectations	Shows a complete and correct understanding of the concepts or the ability to perform the skills as articulated in the standards.	3 = Meeting Expectations
2 = Approaching Expectations	Shows partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and limited or incomplete understanding of the concepts or skills as articulated in the standards.	2 = Approaching Expectations
1 = Beginning Expectations	Shows a beginning understanding of the concepts or performance of the skills as articulated in the standards.	1 = Beginning Expectations
NA = Not Applicable		NA = Not Applicable

This representation, from Clear Creek Independent School District in Texas, is a great visual.



Please understand it will take some time for everyone to adjust to this new system. This includes shifting our classroom practices and assessments, training students, and providing more standards information to families. For example, previous progress reports this semester may not align directly with this new grading scale, as teachers are working to adjust their own grading practices”.

Families will be able to access report cards in ParentVUE at the end of each semester in both January and June.

Want more information on standards-based grading?

- http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational_leadership/oct08/vol66/num02/Seven_Reasons_for_Standards-Based_Grading.aspx
- <http://standardslearning.pbworks.com/f/Seven+Reasons+for+Standards+Based+Grading.pdf>
- <https://www.schoolology.com/blog/standards-based-grading>

Attendance and Absence Reporting

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:



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.



Snow-cially Distanced Holiday Decorating Contest

Johnson PTO is excited to announce our first ever snow-cially distanced holiday decorating contest. The goal is to spread joy to our community through creative displays and beautiful lights while bringing families together to share the excitement of the holiday season. Join in the fun, get in the holiday spirit, and let's bring a glimmer of joy to our community this holiday season.

All information can be found here: <https://johnsonpto.weebly.com/snow-cially-distanced-holiday-decorating.html>

Kelly Steinway, JPTO Rep

AlphaBEST Education

Did you know **AlphaBEST Education** offers a program that facilitates the student's distance learning and adds enrichment, fitness, fun and quiet time in a safe and supervised environment? They offer programs at several Poudre School District locations. Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.

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

Please contact AlphaBEST with questions: 972-668-0640 or customerservice@alphabest.org

Poudre Library Winter Reading Challenge

Poudre Libraries is offering a **Winter Reading Challenge** for all ages including adults! We hope this offers some incentive to keep reading over the winter months.



The reading challenge runs from **Nov. 16, 2020 - Feb. 7, 2021** but you can sign up **any time after the challenge begins!**

1. A Winter Tale **reading logs** are available at the libraries and online – these can be accessed by using the Curbside Pickup Service or by visiting www.poudrelibraries.org/winter
2. Starting Monday 11/23, there will be an **online Grand Prize Entry form available** on the Winter Reading Challenge webpage so people can enter the drawing that way.
3. **Completion prizes** are set to be available for pick up beginning 12/1 and run through 2/7/21

PSD continues distributing meals for free to students 18 and under

When PSD is in Phase1 Remote Learning, meals will be available for students to pick up at designated school and mobile sites. The USDA extended its school district reimbursement program, so meals will be free for all children 18 or younger through the end of the 2020-21 school year, instead of through December as previously communicated. The Food Bank of Larimer County meal sites are also open to all children 18 or younger. See the full list of locations on the [PSD Meals During 2020-21 web page.](#) >>



Tech Support

[PSD Community Tech Portal](#): Technical support information, how-to guides, documentation and more.

[Technical Support and Resources](#): General overview of tech support, teacher learning pages and links to Poudre River Library videos.

- Email: covidtechhelp@psdschools.org
- Phone: Family and Student Support Line at 970-490-3339

COVID resources

To continue our PSD communities' health and safety, here are some of the resources created specifically for our staff and students, in collaboration with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment.

- [COVID-19 School Status and Information web page](#): This page features PSD's recently launched data dashboard and information about COVID-19 case assessments.
- [PSD COVID-19 protocols](#): Staff and student protocols for a COVID-19 case or outbreak in PSD.
- [Return to Learn](#): When students and staff can return to school and work after experiencing illness symptoms.
- [Health and Safety web page](#): Information on the 3 W's best practices, cleaning and sanitizing of schools.
- [Larimer County COVID-19 data](#): Current COVID-19 data from the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment.
- [PSD employee symptom-tracking app](#): Complete before entering any PSD school or facility.
- [COVID Applications and Support](#): Documentation, FAQs and technical guidance on COVID applications and related systems.

Quick Links

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



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.