

## Thunderbird Update – January 14, 2020



Dear Johnson Families:

We are very excited for students to return next Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. In preparation, I would ask for your help with a smooth arrival and pick-up. Please review our parking lot etiquette. We have published this multiple times. We have reposted it here in our newsletter, and our duty staff have created a video to review how our parking lot works. We should have that out to all families soon. In the spirit of safe arrival and pick-up, we recommend you allow for extra time (15 minutes) as you get used to how long it will take to drop your child off at school. Below, I have highlighted a few things to pay attention to.

1. For student drop-off/pick-up, use the two lanes on the east (left lanes as you enter) of the parking lot. Do not use the inner (west/right) lanes closest to the school. The west lanes are for our buses and authorized vehicles. If you need our ADA parking, you are an authorized vehicle, but you must have your tag displayed. We have small children crossing these lanes, and they are hard to see.
2. We expect all families to use our “staffed” cross walks during high traffic times (arrival and dismissal) when students are crossing the parking lot to get to the school. We do not want families using the crossing area that crosses at the entrance of our inner lanes. This cross walk is not staffed, and the large pine tree obstructs drivers’ view for small children. During low traffic times, it is fine to use this crossing area.
3. Use the sidewalks rather than walking down the middle of our traffic lanes or crossing between cars.
4. If you are stopped by a staff member, and he/she is asking you to do something differently, please comply. Our goal is to create a safe campus for your child.
5. If you are in a hurry, park along Seneca (in a legal space) or W. Troutman and walk up to the campus. Your children do know where they are to go and can do so independently. We will have staff helping. If you have a preschooler, you will need to check your child in at the preschool doors.

We are getting ready for heavier car traffic than we normally see since busing is restricted at this time. Patience, grace, and flexibility are currently our mottos. We hope we can all engage in this thinking as we begin in-person learning for our second semester.

Last week, I sent our guidance for how families can support our school staying open for in-person learning. Please review this as well.

In closing, thank you for all you do to make this a great place to be. We are so excited to see you and your children!

Best,

Georgianna Dawson, Principal

### Visitors/volunteers

No visitors/parents, or volunteers are currently allowed in PSD schools. If a parent needs to drop an item off for a student, or pick items up from the main office, they may come to the main entry, ring the doorbell and someone from the office will come out and assist you.

### Here is what we expect of families:

- Complete symptom checks for your children every day. If your child is experiencing **any** of the symptoms listed, keep your child home: [Can I go to school today?](#)
- 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. The mask should fit snugly.
- Remind your children to wash their hands frequently.
- Communicate with us about cases and potential exposures.

### School arrival and dismissal process

**School hours** for In-person learning: **8:50 a.m. – 3:28 p.m.**

Students can arrive to campus beginning at 8:35 am. Students should report directly to their outer classroom doors. No early arrivals and no playing or gathering before school. **No students or family members should come through our front doors.** We have socially distanced dots/markers painted outside each door. Each child should wait (using social distancing dots) to be checked in with the teacher. Once students are checked in, they will wash hands and get settled at their learning space.

At dismissal, we will use a staggered dismissal process that supports social distancing. If you normally pick your child up, please allow for extra time for this staggered process. All students need to be picked up promptly.



### What will mealtime look like?

School meals are free to all children for the remainder of this school year.

Sack breakfast will be available for pick-up at the cafeteria door on the south east corner of the school near our pre-school classrooms. **Breakfast is served from 8:35 – 8:50 am.** If your student arrives after 8:50 am, make sure he/she has had breakfast. Students will pick up their breakfast and go to their classroom outer door where they will wait to be checked in. They will then follow the handwashing procedures, then eat breakfast at their space. Once done eating, they will clean up their area and get it ready for sanitizing. Staff will help each student sanitize spaces.

Students will eat lunch and snack in their classrooms, except for kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students who will eat with social distancing and plexiglass dividers, in the school cafeteria. Two sack lunch choices will be offered each day. Sack lunches will be delivered to classrooms and the students eating in the cafeteria. 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.

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 11:25 – 11:50 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 12:25 – 12:45 p.m.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade 12:40 – 1:00 p.m.



### Menus & meal information

The district will continue to provide free meals to PSD students (PreK-12) through the end of this school year. Menus are subject to change based on availability of ingredients, supply or other factors.

PSD's [Menu Website](#) lets you search for 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.

### Recess information

Students will have recess in cohort groups. When they can socially distance, they will not be required to wear a mask. We have planned activities that promote play and social distancing. When they play on the large play structures, they will need to have their masks on.



### Student pick-up during the school day/late arrival

If your child arrives late to school (after 8:50) and teacher has already closed her outside classroom door, please walk him/her to the main front door near the office. Office staff will ask you to sign your student in.

If you need to pick your child up during the school day – please call the main office (970-488-5000) when you are on your way to the school (5 to 10 min away). We will have your student ready and waiting for you to sign out at the main entrance. Ring the bell to the left of the main door and we will bring your student out to you.

### 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 inner driveway is for buses and daycare vans **only** between 8:35 – 9:05 a.m. and 3:10 – 3:35 p.m. Please do not drive in the inner lane during those times. The parking slots on the inner lanes are reserved for staff members only, so please do not park in these spots. Please 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.

### 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.



### Parking lot etiquette

We are very fortunate at Johnson Elementary to have over 400 students who attend our school. Unfortunately, our parking lot was not designed to accommodate such a large number of vehicles when parents are dropping off or picking up their student(s). 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 keep the intersection and the bus/van lane clear at all times. 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 up more space for parents waiting in line. Please watch for parents leaving parking spaces on the east side of our parking lot.

### Johnson Calendar of Events

January 2021		
14		Kindergarten Registration for 2021/2022 School Year
15	Noon	First Round School of Choice Deadline
18		<b>NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</b>
19	8:50a – 3:28p	<b>K – 5 Students in Phase 4 – In Person (Monday – Friday)</b>
25	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting *Virtual
29		Virtual PRIDE Assembly
February		
8	4:00 – 5:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting *Virtual
15		<b>NO SCHOOL – Staff Workday</b>
22	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting *Virtual
26		Virtual PRIDE Assembly
March		
8	4:00 – 5:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting
10	6:00 – 7:30 pm	SAAC Committee Meeting
12		End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
14		Daylight Savings Time Begins
15 – 19		<b>NO SCHOOL – Spring Break</b>
20		Spring Begins!
22	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting

Frequently asked questions and resources [Read more >>](#)

<a href="#">Technical Support</a>	<a href="#">Health &amp; Safety</a>	<a href="#">2020-21 School Year</a>	<a href="#">ParentVUE</a>	<a href="#">PSD Virtual</a>
<a href="#">Calendar</a>	<a href="#">Transportation</a>	<a href="#">School Meals</a>	<a href="#">District Policies</a>	<a href="#">Departments</a>

### Quick Links

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



## In case you missed it!

### PSD reopening phase info

If you missed the Jan. 6 update, learn more about PSD's shift to in-person education in January and February [here](#). Access other important 2020-21 school year details, including information about each phase of education, [on the PSD website](#).

### Mrs. Dawson's communication – January 6

Dear Johnson Families:

Happy New Year! We hope this communication finds you and your family healthy and happy. Our first few days in remote learning have gone well. Thank you to all our families who have picked up needed supplies for this week. We will have another distribution tomorrow, January 8, 2021 to support your child's learning at home next week.

We are excited for the return of all students to in-person learning on January 19<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, our goals as we entered the 2020-21 school year were the following and are the same goals as we enter our second semester of 2020-21:

- We stay in in-person 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 when possible.
- Specials rooms are sanitized between cohort groups
- Lunch and breakfast are in classrooms
- Staggered arrival and dismissal procedures
- Social distancing practices within the classroom as much as possible
- 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)

*Continued.....*

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. The mask should fit snugly.
- Remind your children to wash their hands frequently.
- Communicate with us about cases and potential exposures.

If you have questions, I would guide you to look to the following resource:

<https://www.psdschools.org/node/1586> . 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, Principal

**Kindergarten registration 2021 – 2022 – Register Now**

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](#) opened 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 1<sup>st</sup> round applications is Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

### Join us for the next JPTO general membership meeting

JPTO General Membership meetings will generally be held on the last Monday of each month from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. **Our next meeting will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams on January 25 at 6:30 p.m.** 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 serve 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.

### PSD superintendent search online survey, forums

The Board of Education would like to hear input as it searches for the next Poudre School District superintendent. Parents/guardians, students, staff and other members of the PSD community are invited to complete a survey.

- The survey takes about 10 minutes and must be completed by Jan. 22.
- English survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PSDsearch>
- Spanish survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PSDbusqueda>
- Hazard Young Attea & Associates, a search firm hired by the Board of Education, will compile input gathered from the survey, forums and invite-only focus groups and create a leadership profile report that will be presented at the board's public Feb. 9 meeting.

The school board will also solicit diverse ideas from numerous stakeholder groups, including parents/guardians and students, through a series of facilitated, invitation-only, online January forums. Event information is posted on the [PSD Superintendent Search web page](#), which is the primary source of information for the hiring search. We encourage everyone to share their voices as part of this important process.

Once on the [PSD Superintendent Search web page](#) users can translate the content. Click on the word "Translate" along the top, green navigation bar and select your desired language from the list displayed.

### Menus & Meal Information

The district will provide free meals to PSD students (PreK-12) through the end of the 2020-21 school year. Learn more about the meal distribution model, with the return to in-person learning, on the [PSD Meals During 2020-21 web page >>](#)

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.

## AlphaBEST Education

Did you know **AlphaBEST Education** offers before and after school care at Johnson Elementary. The program facilitates adds enrichment, fitness, fun and quiet time in a safe and supervised environment? Johnson AlphaBEST Hours: 6:30 a.m. – 6:00 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](mailto:customerservice@alphabest.org)

## Transportation as we look ahead

The Transportation Department is working to quickly re-design routes in order to bus students across all grade levels and amid the different phase changes. Due to current bus driver shortages and health guidelines, among other challenges, PSD is not adding routes and will still bus a limited number of students. Busing is guaranteed for students for whom transportation is legally required (i.e. those with Individualized Transportation Plans (ITP) and some foster students), as well as McKinney-Vento students experiencing homelessness. If circumstances in your family's life have changed and you feel your student meets these criteria, please contact your school to see if busing may be provided.

Families should expect updated communication from Transportation by the end of business Jan. 15 that will let them know if their student will be bused moving forward. It is likely that routes, times and bus numbers will change for students who have been bused during previous educational phases. [Transportation information >>](#)

## PSD COVID-19 case protocols will shift with return to in-person learning

- [PSD COVID-19 Data and School Information](#): PSD 14-Day COVID-19 Location Screening case trends, monitoring when a school's case percentage goes over 1% – when a partial or whole school temporary closure may be necessary.
- [PSD COVID-19 protocols](#): Contact tracing will look different at the preschool/elementary and secondary levels.
- [Return to Learn](#): PSD will align with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's updated Return to Learn guidance, which maps out 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.

Commented [NS1]: Debra and I are meeting with Transportation at 4 p.m. Thursday and should have updated information to add thereafter.

## 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.

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*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.*