

Thunderbird Update – March 25, 2021



Dear Johnson Families:

We have had a smooth transition back to school. I hope you all had a restful spring break. We are in our last stretch of the 2020-2021 school year. This is the season of planning for end of year events and next school year.

We have a Virtual Talent Show planned for this year. Please see information from Ms. Mathias about what and how your child can submit a video for our talent show. The talent show submissions will be judged by a panel for the final production. We all enjoy the talent show and look forward to seeing the final product.

During the week of April 12th, we will conduct parent-teacher conferences. Unlike our Fall conferences, we meet with families on an as needed basis. If you are a family that would like to attend a conference regarding your child's spring progress, please reach out to your child's teacher.

April is also a month we begin to plan for the following school year. For the 2021-22 school year, we anticipate having the following at each grade level:

- Kindergarten – Two classrooms
- First Grade – Three Classrooms
- 2nd Grade – Two classrooms
- 3rd Grade – Two classrooms
- 4th Grade – Three classrooms
- 5th Grade – Three classrooms

One of the most critical and time-consuming tasks for teachers, and for me, during the spring is class placement for the following school year. The procedures we follow to ensure the best classroom environment possible for each child takes several steps and takes several meetings. This is a complex process that teachers engage in to form classrooms that are balanced, diverse, and support all learners. The factors that are considered are academic abilities, learning styles, social and behavioral needs, peer relationships, age, gender, personality, and special needs. Every year, I get a **few** requests for class placement. If you are a family that would like to make a request, you will need to submit your request in writing. Please outline the reasons for your request. You will need to include academic ability, learning style, social and behavioral needs, peer relationships, age, gender, personality, and/or special needs for your request. **The deadline for submitting requests is Friday, April 23, 2021.** You will need to submit them to me via email with an email titled **Class Placement Request**. We truly value

parent/guardian input and will make the best effort to honor requests; however, if we have too many requests, we will not be able to meet them all. Finally, we post class lists in August. **Once these lists are posted, we do not make changes to the classrooms as these changes unravel all the work that goes into forming the class in the spring.**

As always, thank you for making Johnson a great place to be!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dawson, Principal

Contact: gdawson@psdschools.org

State Testing – Important information for families of 3 – 5th grade students

Dear Johnson Families:

This spring, Poudre School District will administer statewide assessments for students. These tests provide valuable information for our school and teachers. We use the data to understand where students are in their learning and tailor instruction accordingly. As a school, we use the data to set goals towards continuous improvement. The district also uses these results to measure overall student academic progress and identify opportunities for improvement.

Following a recently passed House Bill, the Colorado Department of Education is currently seeking a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to limit testing during the COVID-19 era, and we will update you if our current plans change as a result.

As it stands now, our school's testing schedule is as follows:

Date	Grades	Times	Subject Area
April 20, 21, 22	3, 4, 5	9:05 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	ELA, 3 units / 90 minutes
April 27, 28, 29	3, 4, 5	9:15 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Math, 3 units / 65 minutes
May 4, 5, 6	5	9:05 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Science, 3 units / 80 minutes
May 10-14	3, 4, 5	9:05 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Make-up Testing

Like in years past, students will take assessments at school. We recommend that they bring a book with them so they can read it if they finish early.

Continued.....



To excuse your student from state assessments, you may complete a Parent Excusal form digitally by logging into [ParentVUE](#) and accessing Services Tracker. Instructions and screenshots on how to do this can be found [here](#). Please note that you will need to fill out a form for each subject area. You may also print a PDF version of the "2020-21 Opt Out of State Testing Form" and return it to your school. Forms are available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#).

If you decide to opt your child out of state testing, we encourage you to keep your student home (during the scheduled testing times). These absences will be excused. Due to COVID-19 protocols, students who are opted out of tests but come to school will still sit with their classmates during the testing sessions, so we do not mix cohorts. They may sit quietly or read a book, according to state guidelines.

If your child is ill on a testing day, they should not come to school and follow the [Return to Learn guidelines](#) or [PSD COVID-19 protocols](#). We have scheduled make-up test dates to accommodate for this.

For more information about state assessments, visit the Colorado Department of Education [website here](#).

Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Matt Hughes, Assistant Principal

Contact: mhughes@psdschools.org or 970-488-5015

5th grade end of year events

We are in the planning phase of organizing our traditional 5th grade end of year events. We are planning for an "in person" promotion ceremony. The promotion ceremony will take place on the last day of school, Wednesday, May 26th in the morning. Our planning will follow all district and county guidelines. We will share more information as it becomes available.



Earth Day clean-up at Johnson – April 22

One of our parents is organizing an event for Earth Day clean-up here at Johnson. Join us in front of the school (social distanced of course) at 4:00 p.m.



What to bring: trash bags, gloves, masks, positive attitude

For questions about this event please contact: Dawnell Huitt at DawnellandJason@gmail.com or call 970-988-8302.

Meet superintendent finalists during April 2 online community forum

Search firm Hazard Young Attea & Associates, or HYA, will host a virtual forum from 5-8:30 p.m. April 2 during which PSD students, families and community members can meet the three superintendent finalists selected by the Board of Education. There will be time for attendees to ask questions. Information about the finalists will be posted on the [PSD Superintendent web page](#) when it is available, prior to the forums. Spanish interpretation will be available. [Get the online meeting link and call-in option information here >>](#)

Following public health guidelines, PSD to allow voluntary shortened quarantines

PSD believes access to education is critical to student success. As allowed by [county](#) and state public health guidance, PSD staff and students can voluntarily end their quarantines early if they meet strict criteria and are approved by PSD COVID-19 Response Teams to do so. This goes into effect March 22 and is a change from PSD's previous protocols. Process information and criteria are available on the [PSD Protocols for COVID-19 web page >>](#)

Help keep our school open:

- 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?](#)**
- Provide your children with masks and teach them how to wear and care for them.
- Remind your children to maintain safe social distancing and to wash their hands frequently.
- Honor school procedures for school arrival and departure and school guidelines for visitors.
- Let us know about COVID-19 cases and potential exposures. Call (970)488-5000.



Johnson Calendar of Events

April		
2		Virtual PRIDE Assembly
12	4:00 – 5:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting
12 – 16		Parent/Teacher Conferences (Before/After School)
16		NO SCHOOL – Conference Exchange Day
19		NO SCHOOL – Elementary Teacher Workday
20 – 22	9:05 – 10:40 am	State Testing – Grades 3, 4, 5
22	4:00 pm	Earth Day Clean-up
26	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting
27 – 29	9:15 – 10:20 am	State Testing – Grades 3, 4, 5
30		Talent Show Video Auditions are DUE
May		
3 – 7		Teacher Appreciation Week
4 – 6	9:05 – 10:30 am	State Testing, 5 th Grade
7	3:15 pm	Virtual PRIDE Assembly
10	4:00 – 5:00 pm	JPTO Executive Board Meeting
10 – 14	9:05 – 10:30 am	State Testing Make-Up Days for Grades, 3 – 5
17		NO SCHOOL – Staff Workday
17	6:30 – 7:30 pm	JPTO General Membership Meeting
26	Time TBD	5 th Grade Promotion Last Day of School – Half Day

In case you missed it...

STEM-X Summer Programs

Elementary (3rd – 5th) and Middle School (6th – 9th) grade students are invited to attend the STEM-X Summer Programs from June 7 – 18, 2021. See flyer included in today's newsletter for details and registration information.

Second School of Choice consideration period now open

If you missed the first period of consideration to apply for School of Choice, the second application period is now open. Families have a wide array of wonderful PSD schools to choose from. [More information >>](#)

Kindergarten registration is available online

Register online at olr.psdschools.org. Even if you opt to send your child to a school outside your neighborhood through School Choice, you must still register your child at your neighborhood school. [Read more about Kindergarten options >>](#)

Outdoor recess guidelines

As a gentle reminder, Colorado brings ever changing weather. Please make sure your child brings the appropriate gear to go out and play. The children love playing in the snow at recess and have such a great time with this. Our temperature cut point for going out is 10°. We do watch for windchill and factor this in. In other words, if the temperature is 20° but windchill says it feels like 7°, we keep the children inside.

Encouragement matters

During these difficult times, hearing positive feedback about how we are doing means so much to our staff. If you have something you would like to share to encourage them, please send an email to Tina Crewdson at tcrewds@psdschools.org. I will share your comments in our school newsletters and the PSD Communications office.

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.

Help us to celebrate Mission Moments in PSD

At PSD, your mission moments of how you support "Educate ... Every Child ... Every Day" is important to us. Telling positive stories about what is happening in the district during this challenging time is valuable not only for our staff but also for the community. We want to be able to display the good work that you are doing and know that it is appreciated! You're what makes us #PSDproud! [Submit a Mission Moment today. >>](#)

Early Childhood Education

Know a preschooler who could benefit from going to school in PSD and connecting with professional, compassionate educators? Did you know ECE is in-person, four days a week during the second semester? To learn about the application process and more, visit the [Early Childhood Education web page](#)>>

School Meals

The district will provide free meals to PSD students (PreK-12) through the end of the 2020-21 school year. [PSD Meals During 2020-21 web page](#) >>

Family Resources available for hardships during COVID-19

PSD staff and community partners recently compiled updated support resources for staff and families. If you know someone who needs help, check out the [Family Resources web page](#) >>

AlphaBEST Education

Did you know **AlphaBEST Education** offers before and after school care at Johnson Elementary. The program 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

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

Technical Support	Health & Safety	2020-21 School Year	ParentVUE	PSD Virtual
Calendar	Transportation	School Meals	District Policies	Departments

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.