

Handbook Statements for 2020-21 – Elementary, Middle School, and High School

COVID-19 Acknowledgement

Joplin Schools is taking extensive precautions to mitigate risk for all students and staff members during the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic. The administration and staff are in frequent consultation with the local health department. In addition, Joplin Schools has consulted the U.S Centers for Disease Control guidance documents, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Missouri High School Activities Association and several other entities.

Joplin Schools has devised a plan for the normal school day, cleaning facilities, social distancing, practices involving wearing face masks, transportation services protocols, food services practices, and extensive planning for extra and co-curricular activities. It is the desire of Joplin Schools for all students, staff and parents to adhere to the guidelines and practices that have been developed. And it is expected protocols, practices, and procedures will be adjusted as additional information is presented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 virus throughout the school year.

Therefore, by enrolling and attending school at Joplin Schools and/or participating in Joplin Schools extra and co-curricular activities, in person, for the 2020-2021 school year (including summer school 2021) - *students and their parents understand they assume risks associated with spread of the COVID-19 virus*. This understanding also comes with responsibility. Students will be directed to follow protocols for their safety as well as everyone else in the school district. The school day will include different practices such as social distancing in the classroom as much as possible, less movement between classes or parts of the building in some cases, different locations for breakfast and/or lunch, different expectations for riding a bus, frequent temperature checks. In addition, it is vital that students and parents comply in every situation with both school officials and local health officials when contact tracing is necessary after a known positive case.

Therefore, by enrolling in school for face to face instruction for any part of the school day, students (and their parents) understand the risks of transmission and they will comply with school practices, procedures, and policies enacted to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Finally, Joplin Schools is offering a remote learning option all grade levels. If a student, with the approval of their parent, feels they are better served by a remote learning option because of a health condition, the student and parent can discuss and petition for a remote learning option with the school's administration at pre-determined intervals (as determined by the school district).