



Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools

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July 28, 2020

Dear GJPS Staff and Families,

The current time in education is challenging and ever changing. We continue to work closely with Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) officials to monitor our *Return to Learn* plans and our work to ensure all staff and students are safe.

After receiving updated information this morning from FCPH Director Joe Mazzola, I invite you all to view this [Learning Model Update video](#), in which I explain recent factors influencing today's decision to move to a **100% distance learning model for our fall start**.

Why the change? FCPH is very concerned about the spread of the coronavirus in our community, high positivity rates in testing and the overall number of new cases. To return to school safely, even with social distancing and other health and safety measures, FCPH said it was important to see a significant decline in new cases over a four-week period. FCPH will update its guidance and recommendations when numbers decrease accordingly, and we will then determine if we are able to implement our hybrid model.

We know this news is very difficult, and it affects individual students and families differently. It is important to know we remain committed to developing and implementing a plan that focuses our priorities on health, safety and high-quality teaching and learning. We are unsure how athletics and extracurricular activities will be affected by this change, and when we know more we will share it with you.

We will share more information about our distance learning plan in the coming weeks, but we wanted to share this change with you as soon as possible. We know you need time to plan for the fall, and that this news will take time to process. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate through this very difficult time.

Thank you,

Steve Barrett
Superintendent