

APRIL 2021

John F. Kennedy Middle School

ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



3/23/2021

JFK School Community,

This year has been an emotional roller coaster for so many reasons. In stride, we adapted to provide learning opportunities to both in-person and remote students through our hybrid model. Ever-changing guidelines and a host of unforeseen variables provided an arduous landscape; nevertheless, our school community unified and persevered to provide educational programming to our students. As stated in earlier correspondences, our educators delivered with passion, creativity, and commitment. Their efforts created a semblance of normalcy for our students during unprecedented times, thank you!

As students return to regular schooling, we will assess educational gaps and adjust curriculum accordingly. The unforeseen long-term impact of this pandemic will be the next challenge facing our public schools. We are fortunate that through the collective efforts of our central office leadership, building-based administration, and teachers association, we were able to implement the hybrid schedule this past September. In providing both in-person and remote options, our students were exposed to meaningful opportunities to learn. We are excited to offer more access to in-person learning and the prospect of a normal 2021-22 school year. Again, your support has been integral in keeping this all together for the benefit of our students, thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Berrios".

Andrew Berrios, Ed.D.
Principal

*Upcoming events are located on our school calendar posted on our school's homepage [HERE](#).

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Important Date Reminder

Both Thursday, March 25 and Thursday, April 1 we will follow our Asynchronous Schedule (the same schedule we utilize on Wednesdays). This is in response to educator vaccinations and was addressed by Superintendent Drezek at the Board of Education meeting on March 9, 2021. Please see *remote closure* portion of this meeting [HERE](#).

Reminder: BOE meeting tonight (3/23) at 7 pm. Viewable [HERE](#).

Four Day Learning Transition (April 19)

Starting Monday, April 19 JFK will offer four-day-a-week learning to ALL students! As the district transitions to offer four day in-person learning at the secondary level, we need your decision regarding the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. On Monday, April 19 our hybrid schedule will no longer be offered. Parents/guardians may select from the following two options: 1) send your child to school four days a week for in-person learning 2) have your child attend school remotely. Our survey will be sent to the email address you have on file with the school system on Friday, March 26 at 7 am. The survey will close on Thursday, April 1 at midnight. Please take a moment to indicate your decision, if we do not

receive a response, we will assume your current status is your selection (2 day going to 4 day in-person or remaining remote).

**Please note that if you send your child to school prior to their permitted start date, they will need to be picked up.*

Department of Education Guidance for Increased School Occupancy

In reviewing the latest U.S. Department of Education Handbook, [Strategies for Safely Reopening Elementary and Secondary Schools](#) it is clear that mitigation strategies continue to drive our ability to offer in-person learning. Furthermore, the [CDC updated their guidelines](#) a few days ago which emphasizes “phased prevention” as the pathway to in-person learning. We are fortunate that much of this guidance is already in place. Through our collective mitigation strategies, we remain proactive against the spread of COVID and effective in isolating and managing positive cases facing our school community.

Currently, we have the following guidelines embedded within our school day or underway:

1. Mandatory mask wearing while in the school building and on the bus
 - a. Must cover both the nose and mouth
 - b. Masks will be off for lunch as students are eating
2. Social distance
 - a. The CDC recently changed their distance guideline from six to three feet apart
 - b. Desks will be placed at least three apart
3. Informational placards
 - a. Signage to promote:
 - i. Wearing masks
 - ii. Frequent hand washing
 - iii. Remaining distant when possible
4. Hallways
 - a. Hallways are properly labeled with one-way arrows
5. Mask Breaks
 - a. Educators provide students with intermittent mask breaks throughout the school day
 - b. We have two large tents to ensure our students are protected from the sun and/or rain
6. Ventilation
 - a. If weather and our renovation permits, we encourage the opening of windows to increase ventilation
7. Cohort Model
 - a. Students are organized into smaller classroom groups (clusters)
 - b. Educators transition from classroom to classroom (not students)
 - c. Lunch is consumed in the classroom and not the cafeteria (auditorium)
 - d. When weather permits, educators are encouraged to take students outside to eat
8. Contact Tracing
 - a. Clear and effective contact tracing protocols in place
9. Vaccination
 - a. Most of the JFK faculty will be fully vaccinated on March 31

Rules and Procedures

Over the last few months our normal rules have been relaxed given the circumstances facing our students; however, as we transition back to normalcy, so will our daily expectations. We understand



parents/guardians and students may not always agree with the rules and regulations governing our public schools, but there is a rationale for each of them. A few worth mentioning that we will need your support with are cell phones, hats, hoods, and appropriate school dress. When you find a moment, we ask that you review JFK's rules and code of conduct with your child. Gaining clarity on our schoolwide expectations

will alleviate avoidable situations and allow us to focus on educating your child. Our handbook is available on [our school site](#) and is provided for you here: [JFK Handbook](#).

Given our limited space and CDC guidelines, behaviors that compromise student/faculty health and safety will not be tolerated. Also, a reminder that educators continue to juggle both in-class and remote teaching which is extremely challenging. In order to support a learning environment that is conducive for *all* learners, student conduct must be school-appropriate. We are beyond appreciative of the values and efforts that you place into the healthy development of your child. Your support in upholding our schoolwide expectations concerning conduct and negative behaviors is paramount. We look forward to renewing our school culture and reestablishing a healthy school environment where *all* students are able to experience success.

Students Entering & Exiting School Grounds

Parent/Guardian Pick-up & Drop-off

Just a reminder that parent/guardian pick-up and drop-off take place on the main entrance side of the building. Please enter at our southern entrance; drop-off and pick-up by the white house entrance; and exit by the main entrance. Please remain in the traffic loop during this time and do not cut across the parking lot. All students being picked-up or dropped-off during this time will utilize the main entrance of the building to enter and exit (see image below).

Walkers

Students who walk or bike to school are provided a crossing guard directly out-front of the school. We ask that students utilize this crosswalk and refrain from crossing on their own. All *walkers* are asked to enter and exit JFK via the main entrance doors (see image below).

Busing Students

All busing students are dropped off and picked up on the red house side of the building. Busing students enter and exit utilizing the red house entrance and rear library doors. In the morning students are dropped off and, weather permitting, wait outside of the red house until doors are opened at 7:41 am. If we are faced with inclement weather, students are kept on their bus until 7:41 am.

For the afternoon bus departure, it is imperative that your child know what lane they are to report to. There are seven distinctly marked lanes where buses park at the end of the school day. These lanes are located in the red house parking lot. Your child's bus will always report to same lane at the end of the school day. For example, Bus # 6 will always be in Lane # 2. We will have these posted and review it with your child when asked but it alleviates a great deal of anxiety when they are already aware. We ask

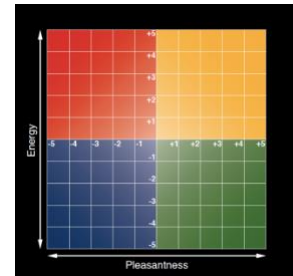
that you take a look at where your bus is located and communicate which lane your child must report to at the end of the school day. All bus assignments and lane information can be found here: [JFK Bus Lanes](#).



RULER

Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing, Regulating

After settling into our four day schedule, we plan to implement our social emotional program within our classrooms. Beginning in grade 6, we will expose students to RULER's mood meter. This assessment provides students the opportunity to anonymously share a snapshot of how they are feeling in the moment. Their individual feelings are collectively plotted on a meter which indicates the group's overall *mood*. This information is utilized to establish a dialogue and explore emotions. Speaking about feelings our students are experiencing is the foundation to developing deeper emotional intelligence. Our hope is to establish emotional regulation as our students navigate the middle school years. If you would like to learn more about Yale University's program, please visit their site here: [RULER](#).



Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) & Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

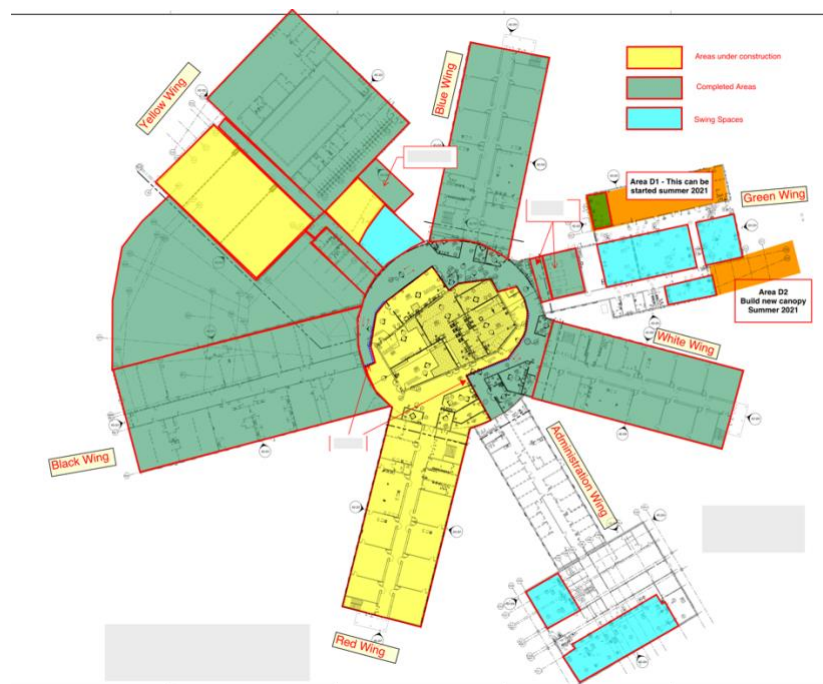
Testing season is upon us and will look very different than prior years. During the 2019-20 school year assessments were canceled due to the pandemic; however, it appears we are a "go" for the 2020-21 school year. We have experience in proctoring digital versions of SBAC and NGSS – we do not have experience in administering this assessment to remote learners who are not within our physical classrooms. Nevertheless, we will create a schedule that provides dedicated time for students who are testing whether at school or remotely. Students will need to take the assessment during the same testing window in accordance with Connecticut Department of Education (CTDOE) [guidelines](#). At the moment, we are awaiting final details surrounding test sessions and logistics. All testing will occur on your child's EPS-issued iPad.



We are leaning toward testing windows that are 100% focused upon test facilitation. For example, we may mirror our *three-hour delayed schedule* to breakup testing and classroom time. Hybrid students are expected to arrive to school at their regularly scheduled 7:41 am start time: remote learners are expected to be logged in and prepared for 7:41 am. Students would be administered their test session during the morning with the afternoon focused upon their regularly scheduled classes. Once we solidify our plan, we will communicate the logistics and details surrounding our testing schedule.

Renovation

As communicated, the blue wing has been renovated and returned to JFK faculty and students. The white wing's renovation process is currently underway. Looking ahead, we will turn our gymnasium over to Gilbane this April break. Once school concludes for summer break, Gilbane will take red wing and the interior area of the hub. Upon our September 2021 return, the yellow areas below will continue to be under construction while the areas in green will be ready for occupancy.



Miscellaneous

Yearbooks

The deadline to order yearbooks is April 23. To order your yearbook please utilize code: **11394221** here: <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/SelectJob>

Term 3 Report Cards

Report cards grades will be released via powerschool parent portal on Friday, April 23 by 3 pm.