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2021-22 Parent Newsletter # 1

Welcome back,
STUDENTS!

Dear Parent/Guardian/Student,

I hope that you and your families are well and safe during these challenging times.

For returning students, welcome back to another school year at JKO! For new students, our JKO family welcomes you to your new home!

This year commences with many challenges as a result of the covid 19 pandemic. Specifically, we will have to continue to follow safety protocols. There will be no remote learning option for this year.

We are anxious to welcome students, faculty and staff back to our school building. While the duration of the pandemic remains unclear, and the situation continues to evolve, we remain focused on the implementation of public health control measures such as social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, the use of appropriate personal protective equipment, along with other safety protocols. Please note that we will try to conduct all necessary meetings with parents remotely when possible. All visitors to the school building must use face masks, have their temperature taken by the school with a non-touch thermometer, answer covid 19 related questions, be escorted to and from their destination, follow social distancing guidelines of three feet, as well as any and all other DOE safety protocols.

Additionally, the following protocols, the DOE has issued the following:

In partnership with the DOHMH, the NYCDOE is emphasizing the use of multiple layers of protection against COVID-19 and encouraging those who are eligible to get vaccinated. Strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 include:

- Properly wearing a face covering at all times when on DOE property;
- Increasing ventilation, wherever possible;
- Washing and sanitizing hands regularly;
- Staying home when sick, after being in close contact with a person with COVID-19, or if someone in your household is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms;
- Ensuring students maintain a distance of at least three feet from other students; and most importantly,
- If eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, getting the vaccine.
- Physical Distancing
- Following CDC and NYSED guidance, schools should provide a minimum of three feet of physical distancing, where possible. Both the CDC and NYSED emphasize that physical distancing requirements should not prevent students from fully returning to school this year.

To ensure that staff and students do not report to school if they have or potentially may have COVID-19 or are feeling ill, a health screening must be completed, ideally at home, by all students, staff, and visitors before entering NYCDOE school facilities.

NYCDOE families/students are encouraged to use the online health screening tool to pre-screen themselves before entering a NYCDOE building. Upon entering the school facility, families/students will be asked to provide the results of their screening either by showing the email on their smartphone or a printout of the results. Families should support students as needed with this online screening questionnaire and should ensure students have proper documentation for morning entry.

If a student fails a health screening or shows symptoms of COVID-19, the student will be assessed by the nurse on site. If it is confirmed that the student is showing symptoms of COVID-19, the guardian of the student must be immediately contacted and advised to pick up the child. If the guardian cannot be reached, the school must contact the emergency contacts on the student's Blue Card.

Three feet distancing is not required for passing between classes and in some elevators. For schools where an elevator is required in order to get into the school, three feet distancing is not required, but all individuals in the elevator must properly wear a face covering and the elevator ride should not take more than ten minutes. Schools should discourage student use of elevators in buildings where elevators are not essential to accessing the school.

For certain activities, including lunch, additional safety measures will be used. When eating, students must maintain three feet of physical distance and should be seated in such a way that they are facing away from one another. For example, students may sit on a single side of a cafeteria bench, three feet apart. Schools may utilize other spaces, including but not limited to classrooms, auditoriums, gyms, and outdoor spaces for cafeteria use.

In classrooms or cafeterias where three feet thresholds cannot be met, the Division of School Facilities and Space Planning will work with schools to increase ventilation through the use of additional air purifiers. Schools should work with their custodial staff to increase ventilation in these rooms.

Face Coverings

Mandatory use of face coverings must be enforced for all individuals (unless they have a medical exemption) while on school property, on school buses, and on any school-sponsored transportation, regardless of the individual's COVID-19 vaccine status. A face covering is any well-secured cloth or disposable mask that covers a person's nose and mouth. A face covering with an exhalation valve or vent cannot be used on school property as exhalation valves allow unfiltered exhaled air to escape to others. Face shields are not appropriate substitutes for face coverings. Please see the Face Covering guidance for more information.

Criteria for Returning to School after Showing Symptoms

Any individual (student or staff member) showing signs of COVID-19 can only return to school when all the following conditions are met:

Received a positive COVID-19 test AND
Isolated for 10 days AND
The individual has been fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication and overall symptoms are improving.

OR

Received a negative COVID-19 test since the onset of symptoms (the negative result must have been from a test that tested saliva or used a nose or throat swab, not a blood test) AND
The individual has been fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication and overall symptoms are improving.

OR

Never got a COVID-19 test AND
At least 10 days have passed since symptoms started AND
The individual has been fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication and overall symptoms are improving.

OR

Was vaccinated against COVID-19 within the past three days AND
The individual has been fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

The goal is to ensure that all members of our school community are safe when inside the school building.

I truly look forward to our partnership in ensuring that your child is successful and safe throughout the school year. Feel free to contact the school should you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,



Manuel A. Ureña, Principal

PARENT COORDINATOR CONNECTIONS

From the Desk of the
Parent Coordinator
Ms. Bernabel
ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov
Tel #646-265-5169

Announcements

- The first day of school for students to report to school is Monday, September 13th.
- The following is the bell schedule for the 2021-22 school year:

PERIOD	BEGINS	Breakfast is available from 7:30 AM to 8:15 AM	ENDS
1	8:20		9:05
2	9:08		9:53
3	9:56		10:41
4(LUNCH)	10:44		11:29
5 (LUNCH)	11:32		12:17
6 (LUNCH)	12:20		1:05
7 (LUNCH)	1:08		1:53
8	1:55		2:40



Please ensure that you are registered on PupilPath, our online grading and communication system. If not, please reach out to Ms. Bernabel, Parent Coordinator, at Abernabel@schools.nyc.gov.



We recommend that students and parents check academic progress at least once a week on PupilPath. Additionally, please check for emails from the school there since this is the way we send messages regularly to parents and students.

- Student lockers will be assigned on the last week of September.
- Student metro cards will be distributed on the first day of school; September 13th.
- Student schedules will be mailed on the last week of August and also distributed to students on the first day of school. Program change requests/reviews will take place from September 20th to the 24th.
- **Reminder from previous communication:** We are excited to offer new students the opportunity to attend our Summer Bridge Program which will take place during the time span of 3 days; August 31st, September 1st and 2nd from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. We highly recommend new students attend since it is essential part of making the transition to high school and JKO.



The days will be comprised of the following activities:

1. Roundabout Theater Company Post Card Production
2. Technical theater workshops
3. Art workshops
4. Business Program workshop
5. Guidance Counselor workshops involving college and career readiness
6. English Language Arts activities aligned to the summer reading assignments (Student summer reading assignments can be found on our website—JKOhighschool.org—under the "Students" tab.)
7. ID card pictures taken; ID cards issued
8. Scavenger hunts
9. Etc. The list goes on and on!!!

Please register for this by completing the form: <https://forms.gle/US5dtARzN3Lz1u8t9>

Reach out to our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Bernabel, if you have any questions (ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov).

We look forward to seeing your child soon!!!

- Welcome to our newest teachers at JKO who have now become part of the JKO family!!! They are: Manuela Ramirez (Special Education), Debbie Gordon (Special Education), and Kamrul Hasan (Math Teacher), Rukhshana Tuli (Living Environment). We are very excited to work alongside these outstanding educators!!!
- The recommended school supply list is listed below:



- 2 inch hardcover 3-ring binder
 - 8 subject dividers (multi-colored)
 - 8 three (3) hole punched folders
 - A portable three (3) hole puncher that fits in 3 ring binder
 - 1 pack of Index Cards
 - Several pkgs. of Post-Its
 - Graph Paper Note Book
 - Loose Leaf Paper (College rule) 50 sheets per subject
 - One three (3) hole punched pencil case
 - 1 Box of Pencils
 - 1 Box of Pens
 - 4 Highlighters
 - 1 portable Pencil Sharpener
 - 12 inch Ruler
 - 1 Protractor
- **Message from the DOE:** It's important that your school can reach you to share crucial information quickly, including alerts about confirmed COVID-19 cases in your child's school. Please sign up for a NYC Schools Account (NYCSA) so we can contact you via

phone, email, or text message. With NYCSA, you can access your child's grades, test scores, schedules, transportation information, and more—from anywhere, and in all nine standard DOE language translations. In order to see your child's records, request an Account Creation Code from your school. If you don't have an account, sign up today at schools.nyc.gov/nycsa. It only takes five minutes!

- The principal and administrative team will conduct a Town Hall for parents regarding DOE covid 19 safety protocol questions and any other concerns on Friday, September 10th from 11 to 12 pm. The Town Hall will be conducted virtually via the DOE Zoom. The following is the link information:

Topic: JKO Town Hall Meeting

Time: Sep 3, 2021 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86818172666?pwd=RVVIZHJTZ0JDSDU3T2VEZGFNBG00dz09>

Meeting ID: 868 1817 2666

Passcode: 961305

- Please complete the NYC financial forms, formerly known as Lunch Forms. While lunch is currently given to all students regardless of income, schools still need parents to complete in order to qualify for federal Title I funding. All information submitted by parents is completely confidential.
- PTA/SLT Meetings: The first PTA/SLT meeting for the school year will be held on Monday, September 27th. SLT commences at 4 pm and ends at 5 pm. PTA meetings commence at 5 pm to 6 pm. Additionally, meetings will be held virtually until further notice from the DOE on any changes or options for the new school year. An email with the Zoom links will be sent to parents the prior week.
- Computers/Laptops will be distributed to students who need one on the first day of classes. These laptops should be carried to school daily since they will be needed for instructional use while in the building.
- The following are documents students will be given on the first day of school which must be completed by parents and handed to Ms. Bernabel:



- Emergency Contact Card
- COVID-19 Consent Form (Families can also use NYCSA to submit their COVID-19 consent form)
- Military Parent Letter: This form requests information regarding the military active-duty status of parents and guardians. Parents who are not on active duty can disregard this form. Parents who completed this form in prior years must complete it again. For every family who submits a survey response indicating that the student's parent or guardian is on military active duty, you or your designees must use the BINU screen in ATS to enter 'M' in the District C field.
- Housing Questionnaire
- CH-205 Child & Adolescent Health Examination Form
- Parent Ethnicity Survey
- Home Language Identification Survey

- The following is the DOE 2021-22 School Year Calendar:

NYC Department of Education School Year Calendar

2021–2022

This is the 2021–22 school year calendar for all K–12 NYCDOE public schools. If your child attends a private, parochial, or charter school, please contact your child’s school for information about their calendar. Please note the following reminders:

- November 2, Election Day, will be a fully remote, asynchronous instructional day for all students.
- On “Snow days” or days when school buildings are closed due to an emergency, all students and families should plan on participating in remote learning.
- Parent-teacher conference dates are the citywide defaults; individual school dates might differ from those below. Your child’s teacher will work with you to schedule your conference.

DATE	WEEKDAY	EVENT
September 13	Monday	First day of school for students
September 16	Thursday	Yom Kippur, schools closed
October 11	Monday	Italian Heritage Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day, schools closed
November 2	Tuesday	Election Day, fully remote, asynchronous instructional day
November 3	Wednesday	Evening parent-teacher conferences for elementary schools and K–8 schools.
November 4	Thursday	Afternoon parent-teacher conferences for elementary schools and K–8 schools; students in these schools dismissed three hours early.
November 10	Wednesday	Evening parent-teacher conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools.
November 11	Thursday	Veterans Day, schools closed
November 12	Friday	Afternoon parent-teacher conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools; students in these schools dismissed three hours early.
November 17	Wednesday	Evening parent-teacher conferences for middle schools and District 75 school programs.
November 18	Thursday	Afternoon Conferences for middle schools and District 75 school programs; students in these schools dismissed three hours early.
November 25–26	Thursday–Friday	Thanksgiving Recess, schools closed
December 24–31	Friday–Friday	Winter Recess, schools closed
January 17	Monday	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, schools closed
January 25–28	Tuesday–Friday	Regents Administration

DATE	WEEKDAY	EVENT
January 31	Monday	Professional Development day for 9–12 and 6–12 schools, students in these schools do not attend
February 1	Tuesday	Lunar New Year, schools closed
February 2	Wednesday	Spring Term begins for semester-based schools
February 21–25	Monday–Friday	Midwinter Recess, schools closed
March 2	Wednesday	Evening parent-teacher conferences for elementary schools and K–8 schools.
March 3	Thursday	Afternoon parent-teacher conferences for elementary schools and K–8 schools; students in these schools dismissed three hours early.
March 9	Wednesday	Evening parent-teacher conferences for middle schools and district 75 schools and programs.
March 10	Thursday	Afternoon parent-teacher conferences for middle schools and district 75 schools and programs; students in these schools dismissed three hours early.
March 16	Wednesday	Evening parent-teacher conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools.
March 18	Friday	Afternoon parent-teacher conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools; students in these schools dismissed three hours early.
March 29–31	Tuesday–Thursday	3–8 ELA Assessment administration
April 15–22	Friday–Friday	Spring Recess (includes Good Friday and Passover), schools closed
April 26–28	Tuesday–Thursday	3–8 Math Assessment administration
May 2	Monday	Eid al-Fitr, schools closed
May 30	Monday	Memorial Day, schools closed
June 7	Tuesday	Clerical Day, K–5, K–6, 6–8, and K–12 schools and D75 programs, students in these schools do not attend
June 9	Thursday	Anniversary Day, Chancellor’s Conference Day for staff development, students do not attend
June 15–24	Wednesday–Friday	Regents Administration
June 20	Monday	Juneteenth (observed), schools closed
June 27	Monday	Last day of school for students