

Jackson County School District

Community Update – August 11, 2020

Superintendent: Dr. John D. Strycker



Dear School Community Members,

I am very proud of you, our school community members. You each stepped-up for our children during a crisis and have modeled for our young people how a community can come together united even considering so many different perspectives on the same situation.

Most every school day, I begin my day going room-to-room in one of our school buildings. During the first school days, I visited a lower elementary building in East Central, St. Martin, and Vancleave. From my visits, I was very pleased with how happy our students and staff were to be back in school. I was also impressed how the students were engaged in learning with a sense of normalcy. Even considering our many new COVID-19 safety precautions and processes, I feel there was already routine in the school day – and that was our goal!

During my classroom visits, I would ask the students, “Are you glad to be back in school? How are you doing today?” The response was positive from our students, and in many cases, I received the “two-thumbs-up!”

In my career, I have never led during a more polarizing time period. At the local, state, and federal level, there seems to be so much turmoil and controversy. However, I am here to report to our community that in our schools, the general feeling is positive and up-beat. Sure, we have typical issues that come with a new school year. Nonetheless, the overall environment is encouraging.

We didn’t have to come together as a community...but we did. We came together because it was the right thing to do in the best interest of our students. As my old high school football coach used to say, “Adversity reveals character, it doesn’t build it.” I agree with my coach and am sure proud that I lead in a community of strong character. I am also very thankful that this strong character is what is modeled for our young people to follow. Good for us!

Thank you and God bless,

John