

Frequently Asked Questions for GJSP Families

March 18, 2020

Dear Gahanna-Jefferson Families,

The last several days have undoubtedly been a test of our resiliency, and the most challenging days are yet to come. This unprecedented situation requires all of us to be creative, flexible, and responsive and we thank you for your continued patience and support.

Below you will find some frequently asked questions that you may find helpful as we prepare for distance learning. We will continue to share information and adjustments to our plan as necessary.

We are so proud of our staff, students, and families for responding to the rapid changes coming your way. We hope that everyone stays safe and well. We will continue to support our students and families the best way we can, and we know you will be there with us every step of the way. Together, we will get through this.

Sincerely,

Steve Barrett
Superintendent

Frequently Asked Questions

When will GJPS schools open again for classroom learning?

At this time, the closure is scheduled to go through Friday, April 3 with classroom learning in the schools to begin again on Monday, April 6, 2020. Governor DeWine has warned everyone this could be a lengthy hiatus from school and we may not return on April 6 as planned. We will continue to communicate as we learn more.

When will distance learning begin for students?

Distance learning for all GJPS students begins today, Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

How can my children receive lunch during distance learning?

We understand how impactful closing schools can be for our students and families, and we are committed to continuing to support our students in every way we can. We will provide [“Grab & Go” lunches](#) at five Gahanna-Jefferson school locations and will serve all students PK-12 who are in need. We are grateful for our community partner GRIN for helping to serve lunches during spring break. As a district we are not able to provide lunch that week due to USDA limitations and GRIN is stepping up to serve our kids in a remarkable way.

If you have not already done so, please complete the [Free Lunch Request Form](#) to help us plan accordingly.

Lunch pick up will be held from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM on the following days:

- Wednesday, March 18 (3 days worth of meals) - Completed
- Monday, March 23 (5 days worth of meals)
- Monday, March 30 (5 days worth of meals)

Lunch pick up will be at these locations:

- Goshen Lane Elementary
- Royal Manor Elementary
- Middle School East
- Middle School West
- Lincoln High School

How can I pick up my child's medication from the school clinic?

If you haven't been able to pick up your student's medication and need to do so, please contact your school nurse or building principal to set up a time.

Will we still have spring break?

Yes. Students will be on spring break beginning March 23 through March 27. During this time, our students will not be required to complete any distance learning. Please rest, relax and enjoy your time off. We will come back to distance learning on Monday, March 30, 2020.

When should I hear from my child's teacher(s) regarding plans for distance learning?

In preparation for today's learning opportunities, you and/or your student should have received communication yesterday from your child's teacher(s) with information about what to expect over the next few weeks. Teachers will be sharing information in an ongoing manner about learning opportunities and expectations through a variety of platforms. We encourage you to stay connected with teachers throughout this distance learning period.

What are the expectations for students during distance learning?

During this time away from the traditional classroom, the goal of distance learning is to keep the learning moving forward as much as possible. We do not expect distance learning to replace the rich experiences that happen in our classrooms every day, but our hope is to keep our students engaged with learning opportunities until we can meet again in person. Students are expected to participate in the learning opportunities created and shared by teachers during this time.

If I do not have wifi or Internet access, what can be done to help?

Please contact your teacher or building principal if Internet access is not available for your student at home. Our technology department will work to find a solution so your student(s) can participate in their distance learning opportunities.

What should I do if my student is experiencing issues with a district provided device?

Students/Families can submit a tech support ticket using the [GJPS Tech Support Link](#) or by phone at 614-479-1507.

Will the district need to make up this time during the summer?

Current guidance from the Ohio Department of Education indicates that our distance learning plan does not require the district to add days to the academic calendar. We are waiting to learn more about possible updates to requirements such as testing, attendance, required hours, etc. Distance learning days are not considered calamity days because school is still in session.

How do I contact my child's teacher during distance learning?

You can contact your child's teacher via email. Teachers will be available Monday-Friday the weeks of March 18 and March 30 and will be unavailable during spring break, March 23 - 27. You can find your teacher's email address at www.GahannaSchools.org. Find your school in the drop-down menu under "Our Schools" and click on "Teacher and Staff Portals".

What is the status of extracurricular activities?

All extracurricular activities including sports, clubs, performances, and tutoring have been canceled or postponed until further notice.

Will school-sponsored trips take place?

All school-sponsored trips scheduled to occur between March 13 and April 6 are canceled. Trips scheduled to occur in April and May are to be determined.

How will this three-week closure affect annual state testing?

At this time, we do not have a full understanding of how this three-week closure will impact state testing. We do know the tests we were in the process of administering have been suspended and the spring test windows will be delayed. We are not clear on whether districts will still be required to complete spring assessments. We will continue to monitor information from ODE, and we will adjust accordingly to their guidance.

What will happen for any students that are not yet safe from the retention provision of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee law?

At this time, the Ohio Department of Education has not released any guidance specific to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. When we have more information, we will do everything we can to support students in meeting the expectations set forth for promotion and will communicate directly with all families involved.

Have graduation plans changed?

All graduation plans remain the same at this time. We will continue to follow guidance from Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Education, and we will update families with any changes. Any current seniors working on graduation capstones should continue to work with your teacher/advisor toward completing that project. If you have any questions specific to your child's situation please contact your student's school counselor.

What is the status of prom for Gahanna Lincoln High School juniors and seniors?

At this time, our current prom venue has closed their facilities through April. We are working on a plan that would allow prom to be held if we are able per guidelines from Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Education. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

What will happen if we do not return to classroom learning on April 6?

If schools do not re-open for learning in our buildings on April 6, our distance learning plan will be adjusted accordingly and more information will be shared with students and families.

As we have said many times, the health and safety of our students and staff are of the utmost importance. We hope this break in traditional classroom learning will help minimize the risk and slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community and across the country. We will continue to communicate up-to-date, accurate information through email, social media and the [GJPS Coronavirus | COVID-19 Update page](#) on our [district website](#) as it becomes available.