

Parent Information Meeting

August 24, 2020

6:30 p.m.

ROAR84

THOMAS JOHNSON ELEMENTARY MIDDLE

Agenda

- I. Schedules
- II. Attendance
- III. Grading
- IV. Other Information
- V. Key Dates
- VI. Question and Answer Session



Definitions

Synchronous instruction means that the teacher is teaching to a group of students live. Synchronous learning occurs when teacher and students are working together at the same time. In other words, the instruction by the teacher and the learning by the student occur simultaneously.

Asynchronous learning is when the student is working independently of the teacher. This may be in the form of an assignment provided in google classroom, a paper and pencil assignment, videos to watch, or personalized learning through a program designed to meet students at their instructional level. In other words, the instruction by the teacher and the learning by the student do not occur at the same time.

20-21 **Draft** Schedule: District Time Requirements

| Grade Level | Time Requirements |
|---------------|--|
| PK | No more than 100 minutes in online instruction (synchronous and asynchronous) |
| K | No more than 160 minutes in online instruction (synchronous and asynchronous) |
| 1-5 | 230 minutes of synchronous instruction |
| 6-8 | Each course should have 45 minutes of whole group synchronous instruction and 15 minutes of small group instruction (total synchronous instruction around 315 minutes) |
| PK – 5 | Social and Emotional Learning for 10-15 minutes daily |
| 6 - 8 | 30 Minute Advisory Period Monday and Friday (beginning in mid-September); SEL embedded Tues - Thurs |
| Lunch/ Recess | 45 minutes daily |
| Resource | PK – 30 minutes synchronous & asynchronous (music and possibly PE) K-8 – 45 minutes synchronous & asynchronous daily |
| Breaks | Breaks are incorporated in the schedule as directed by the teacher during sessions |

TJEMS Schedule Highlights

Live synchronous instruction occurs daily.

Kindergarten - 8th grade are departmentalized by content areas

Small group instruction is embedded in the schedule.

Students receive SPAR classes daily.

Social emotional learning (SEL) is addressed daily.

The school day begins at 8:30 am. Lunch for all grades is 12 – 12:45 pm.

20-21 Draft Schedule: Pre- Kindergarten

Note: Not all students will have small group instruction every day.

The Early Childhood Office is preparing at home activities for families.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 8:15 – 8:30 | Teacher Prep |
| 8:30 – 8:45 | Welcoming Ritual/SEL |
| 8:45 – 9:30 | Academic Block 1 ELA New Content (2-3 days per week) OR Math New Content (2-3 days per week) |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | SPAR 2 days Break 3 days |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Academic Block 2 Math Small Group <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intervention/Enrichment OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA Small Group Intervention/Enrichment |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | Hands-on Learning (asynchronous) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit theme project work• Family-based activities |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | LUNCH |
| 12:45 – 2:30 | Hands-On Purposeful Play at home (asynchronous) |
| 2:30 – 3:30 | Teacher Office Hours |

20-21 **Draft** Schedule: Kindergarten – 2nd

Note: Not all students will have small group instruction every day.

***Personalized Learning:**

- *Independent Practice*
- *Amplify Reading*
- *ST Math*

Targeted Small Groups may be pulled during this time

| | Kindergarten | First Grade | Second Grade |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| 8:15 – 8:30 | Teacher Prep | Teacher Prep | Teacher Prep |
| 8:30 – 8:45 | Welcoming Ritual/SEL | Welcoming Ritual/SEL | Welcoming Ritual/SEL |
| 8:45 – 9:45 | Foundational Skills Small Groups | Foundational Skills Small Groups | Foundational Skills Small Groups |
| 9:45 – 10:45 | Academic Block 1 ELA/Social Studies OR Math/Science Small Groups | Academic Block 1 ELA/Social Studies OR Math/Science Small Groups | Academic Block 1 ELA/Social Studies OR Math/Science Small Groups |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | 10:45 – 11:00 Break 11:00 – 12:00 Academic Block 2 ELA/Social Studies OR Math/Science Small Groups | 10:45 – 11:15 <i>Personalized Learning*</i> 11:15 – 12:00 SPAR | 10:45 – 11:15 <i>Personalized Learning*</i> 11:15 – 12:00 SPAR |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | Lunch / Recess | Lunch / Recess | Lunch / Recess |
| 12:45 – 2:30 | 12:45 – 1:45 <i>Personalized Learning*</i> 1:45 – 2:30 SPAR | 12:45 – 2:00 Academic Block 2 ELA/Social Studies OR Math/Science Small Groups 2:00 – 2:30 <i>Personalized Learning*</i> | 12:45 – 2:00 Academic Block 2 ELA/Social Studies OR Math/Science Small Groups 2:00 – 2:30 <i>Personalized Learning*</i> |
| 2:30 – 3:30 | Teacher Office Hours | Teacher Office Hours | Teacher Office Hours |

20-21 **Draft** Schedule: 3rd – 5th Grades

Note: Not all students will have small group instruction every day.

***Personalized Learning:**

- *Independent Practice*
- *Amplify Reading*
- *ST Math, Legends of Learning*

Targeted Small Groups may be pulled during this time

| | Third Grade | Fourth Grade | Fifth Grade |
|---------------|--|--|--|
| 8:15 – 8:30 | Teacher Prep | Teacher Prep | Teacher Prep |
| 8:30 – 8:45 | Welcoming Ritual/SEL | Welcoming Ritual/SEL | Welcoming Ritual/SEL |
| 8:45 – 10:15 | Academic Block 1 ELA/Social Studies OR Math/Science Small Groups | Academic Block 1 ELA/Social Studies OR Math/Science Small Groups | Academic Block 1 ELA/Social Studies OR Math/Science Small Groups |
| 10:15 – 12:00 | Academic Block 2 ELA/Social Studies OR Math/Science Small Groups | 10:15 – 11:00 SPAR 11:00 – 12:00 Personalized Learning* | Academic Block 2 ELA/Social Studies OR Math/Science Small Groups |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | Lunch / Recess | Lunch / Recess | Lunch / Recess |
| 12:45 – 2:30 | 12:45 – 1:30 SPAR 1:30 – 2:30 Personalized Learning* | 12:45 – 2:25 Academic Block 2 ELA/Social Studies OR Math/Science Small Groups | 12:45 – 1:30 SPAR 1:30 – 2:30 Personalized Learning* |
| 2:30 – 3:30 | Teacher Office Hours | Teacher Office Hours | Teacher Office Hours |

REVISED SINCE 08.24.2020

20-21 **Draft** Schedule: 6th Grade

Note: Not all students will have small group instruction every day.

***Personalized Learning:**

- *Independent Practice*
- *Amplify Reading*
- *ST Math, Legends of Learning*

Targeted Small Groups may be pulled during this time

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 8:15 – 8:30 | Teacher Prep |
| 8:30 – 8:45 | Welcoming Ritual/SEL |
| 8:45 – 10:15 | Academic Block 1 Math / Science OR ELA / Social Studies Small Group |
| 10:15 – 11:00 | SPAR |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | Personalized Learning* |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | LUNCH |
| 12:45 – 2:25 | Academic Block 2 Math / Science OR ELA / Social Studies Small Group Optimistic Closure/SEL |
| 2:30 – 3:30 | Office Hours |

UPDATE: To allow for grade level community building, the Monday/Friday Advisory (small group SEL) will not begin until mid-October in our middle school grades. Teachers will embed Social-Emotional Learning into class sessions.

REVISED SINCE 08.24.2020

20-21 Draft Schedule: 7th – 8th

Note: Not all students will have small group instruction every day.

***Personalized Learning:**

- *Independent Practice*
- *Amplify Reading*
- *ST Math, Legends of Learning*

Targeted Small Groups may be pulled during this time

| | 7 th Grade Monday - Friday | 8 th Grade Monday - Friday |
|---------------|---|---|
| 8:15 – 8:30 | Teacher Prep | Teacher Prep |
| 8:30 – 9:30 | Academic Block 1 Science OR Social Studies Small Group, Indep Pract | Academic Block 1 Math OR ELA Small Group, Indep Pract |
| 9:30 – 9:45 | Break | Break |
| 9:45 – 10:45 | Academic Block 2 Science OR Social Studies Small Group, Indep Pract | Academic Block 2 Math OR ELA Small Group, Indep Pract |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Break | Break |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | Academic Block 3 Math OR ELA Small Group, Indep Pract | Academic Block 3 Science OR Social Studies Small Group, Indep Pract |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | Lunch | Lunch |
| 12:45 – 1:45 | Academic Block 4 Math OR ELA Small Group, Indep Pract | Academic Block 4 Science OR Social Studies Small Group, Indep Pract |
| 1:45 – 2:30 | SPAR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday – Thursday will be synchronous• Monday and Friday will be asynchronous | SPAR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday – Thursday will be synchronous• Monday and Friday will be asynchronous |
| 2:30 – 3:30 | Teacher Office Hours | Teacher Office Hours |

UPDATE: To allow for grade level community building, the Monday/Friday Advisory (small group SEL) will not begin until mid-October in our middle school grades. Teachers will embed Social-Emotional Learning into class sessions.



SPAR Classes

- PK will participate in music 2 days/week.
- K-5: Will receive library, physical education, computer science, and music. 5th will also receive health for one quarter.
- 6th: Will receive library, physical education, computer science, music, and possibly two quarters of Spanish.
- 7th-8th: Will receive computer science, library, physical education. 8th grade will also receive health and music for one quarter.
- SPAR will be delivered through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning.
- SPAR teachers will also support core subject classroom instruction.
- SPAR classes are mandatory and students will receive grades.



- Schedules are in **DRAFT format** pending District approval and updates during professional development week
- Final daily schedules will be available by 9/4
- Questions regarding schedules? Please email to emerriman@bcps.k12.md.us

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THOMAS JOHNSON ELEMENTARY MIDDLE

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance will be taken daily in Infinite Campus
- Students will be marked present if they:
 - Are present during synchronous instruction, or
 - Complete asynchronous assignments prior to the start of the next school day, provided that the parent provides a note/email explaining a valid reason why the student could not participate in synchronous instruction.

* Revised since 8.24.2020 to clarify the timeline requirements for completion of asynchronous work in order to be marked present.

GRADING

- 70% Assessments
 - 50% Formative
 - 20% Summative
- 30% Classwork/Participation

* Revised since 8.24.2020 to reflect the recent elimination of a homework component.



Other Information

- Zoom will be the official platform for live synchronous instruction.
- Google Classroom will be used for posting work for grades 1-8.
- See Saw will be used for posting work for grade grades pre-K & K.
 - Update since 8.24.2020: See Saw will not be ready at the start of the school year, due to ongoing licensing negotiations between Baltimore City Schools and See Saw.
- Parents can use Campus Parent Portal to access schedules, grades, and attendance.
- Classroom Parent will be primary method of communication.
- GAL programming will continue.
- We will continue to have a debate team (grades 3-8).
- October 1 “Child Count” protocols are still in place.
- City Schools will continue to prepare for when schools reopen in a hybrid model.
- Complete the online survey if you would like a Chromebook or a hotspot. The next tech distribution will occur the week of August 31.



Upcoming Key Dates

Staff returns for professional development

Student/parent-teacher meet and greet from 1:00 to 2:30

3 Sep.

8 Sep.

26 Aug.

4 Sep.

Student/parent orientations scheduled by grade level throughout the day

First day of school.

Q&A: Communication:

1. How and when will Chromebooks and hotspots be distributed?
 - Chromebooks and hotspots will be distributed the week of August 31. As of August 27, central office has not delivered the devices to the school yet. We will reach out to parents who requested devices after central office delivers the devices. If parents have not yet requested a device, they should complete the survey at this link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeiFo6hvMPpvuJx3na67pSuFwERGKznOJ7cDtwi_64PqR8VcA/viewform?usp=sf_link
2. Will all instruction be delivered through Google Classroom and Zoom?
 - Zoom will be the only platform used for synchronous instruction.
 - Google Classroom will be the platform used for posting assignments in grades 1-8.
 - See Saw will be used for pre-K and K rather than Google Classroom. School administration received an update on 8.27.2020 that See Saw implementation will be delayed since central office is still negotiating licenses with the company.
3. When will Google Classroom Codes be distributed?
 - Teachers will share this at parent orientation sessions on September 3.
4. How should parents get support with Infinite Campus Portal and/or Classroom Parent?
 - Infinite Campus support: email Leah Harris at lgharris@bcps.k12.md.us
 - Classroom Parent support: <https://tjems.classroomparent.com/contact/new>
5. Is there a "Sneak a Peek" scheduled for the evening?
 - Our annual Sneak a Peek at Your Seat event has been replaced with a Meet and Greet event scheduled for Friday, September 4 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, refer to the Classroom parent messages and materials that were sent out regarding this matter on August 27, 2020.
6. Will teachers be using Class Dojo as a communication tool?
 - Classroom Parent will be used for communication. Dojo will not be used for the purpose of school or grade-level communication.

Q&A: Virtual Operations at TJEMS

1. When will the school calendar be shared?

- We are confirming district dates. After the district dates are confirmed, the school calendar will be released. This will likely be released during the week of August 31, 2020. School starts on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

2. Where can parents find the survey link for laptops and hotspots?

- This survey link was sent to parents on Classroom Parent several times. Please be sure to be enrolled in Classroom Parent.
- Here is the link but please do not complete the survey requesting devices if you have already requested devices:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeiFo6hvMPpvuJx3na67pSuFwERgKznOJ7cDtwi_64PqR8VcA/viewform?usp=sf_link

3. Do students need to be in uniform during live instruction?

- The uniform is required during in-person learning. During distance learning, wearing the uniform is recommended but not required. Students must be dressed appropriately during virtual synchronous sessions. For more information, see the message and materials posted in Classroom Parent on August 27, 2020.

4. Will class schedules be readjusted if there's too much screen time?

- TJEMS will consistently be getting feedback from parents, students and teachers. Baltimore City Central Office also will get consistent feedback from parents. Adjustments to the total schedule hours will be dictated by Central Office.

5. How are teachers departmentalized?

- The TJEMS website has the current staff roster posted. The staff roster specifies the subjects that each teacher will teach at the various grade levels. Here is the link to the staff roster: <https://tjems84.com/staff/faculty-staff/>

Q&A: Finances and School Budget

1. If parents opt to homeschool, will this impact finances at TJEMS?
 - Yes there will be an impact. City Schools provides funding to schools based on enrollment. If enrollment decreases, funding will decrease as well. We will lose approximately \$6,000 for each student under our projected enrollment on October 1, 2020.
2. Will students who withdraw from TJEMS be re-enrolled at a later date if parents request re-enrollment?
 - This depends on the family's address. Only students who live in-zone will be guaranteed re-enrollment. Students who reside out of zone may need to enroll at their zone school if they request re-enrollment later in the school year.
3. Will we have school fundraisers this year?
 - This is something that we may consider at a later date.

Q&A: Curriculum and Assessments

1. Will students make up content missed last school year? How will individual assessments and writing assessments be conducted? What SPED services will be offered during online learning? What GAL services will be offered during online learning?
 - Central office has developed a recovery plan that addresses the most critical standards from spring 2020. They have also revised the scope and sequence this year so that teachers prioritize teaching the most important grade level standards.
 - Formative and summative assessments are embedded in the curriculum and will be administered through the new online platforms and during small group instruction.
 - Small group instruction is built into the schedule for all grades. As in a normal in-person school day, students receive small group instruction throughout the week but not daily. Teachers will use small group time to individually assess and address student needs based on the skills being taught.
 - Special education services will be delivered through co-teaching during whole group instruction as well as during small group instruction that will occur throughout the week.
 - GAL students will continue to be pulled in small groups throughout the quarter.
2. Will NHD and Science fair occur this year?
 - NHD – Yes. NHD will occur virtually. Protocols and procedures are still being developed.
 - Science Fair – This is unknown at this time. We will revisit this later in the school year.
3. What are homework expectations?
 - Update since 8.24.2020: Teachers will not assign homework, but students may finish asynchronous work that was not completed within the school hours.
4. When will workbooks be distributed?
 - As of 8.27.2020, Baltimore City Schools central office has not delivered workbooks to schools. Central office personnel has communicated an expected delivery date as late as mid-October for some workbooks. As soon as TJEMS receives workbooks, they will be delivered to students.

Q&A: Virtual Participation and Attendance

1. Will classes be recorded for those that may have missed a class?
 - More information from central office is forthcoming.
2. How will medical and dental appointments be handled?
 - If a student has an appointment, the parent should send a message to the teacher that the student will not attend synchronous instruction. If the student completes work asynchronously prior to the start of the next school day, the student will be marked present.

Q&A: SPAR Classes

1. Will there be live P.E. instruction?
 - Yes. Physical education instruction will include both a live component and an asynchronous component.
2. Will live art classes be provided?
 - No. The budget only allows for four SPAR teachers: Physical education, computer science, music, library.