

Date: August 24, 2021

To: JMPHS Board

From: Mark Akerman, Principal

Re: Monthly report

Introduction

Per the request of Bo Hardee, School Board President, I would like to provide an update since our last board meeting.

Enrolment

We started the school year with 194 students as previously predicted over the summer. As a reminder, we only have 35 students in our Senior class. We have a small waiting list in all other classes.

COVID-19

These past two weeks have seen an overwhelming surge in close contact cases of COVID-19. We have had 4 students test positive causing us to quarantine 61 students over a two-week period. The Madison County Health Department/CDC has adjusted the time of quarantine from 14 days to 8. Students who receive a negative test after 5 days post exposure may return to school. While we have many more students out of school than the last two years, they are out for a shorter period of time.

All but one faculty member and one staff member has been vaccinated.

School Grade

As you may recall, we had the option of “opting out” of our state school grade this year because of COVID-19. Each school had to figure (guess) what their grade would be and then accept or decline. The state would not tell the schools what their grade was going to be before they had to accept or decline. We decided to accept our grade since the district accepted all theirs, as well as the fact that even with a “B” we would still be in the running for high performing status next year. Our calculations indicate that we will have a high B. It has not been made official.

Our Algebra I scores have traditionally been low. They are still higher than the district schools, but lower than they should be. The Honors Geometry scores were some of the highest we have had since the school was opened.

Science and Social Studies scores were still some of the highest in the region, but were lower than in the past. Those two areas have made up for lower scores in Reading and Math in the past.

Our primary focus will be on Algebra I. We continue to have students come to us who are not prepared for Algebra I. Hayley Starling has requested to implement a Saturday bootcamp to tutor at the Pre-Algebra level. This would **not** be a “one off” for one Saturday, but an ongoing opportunity. We have students coming to us who lack very basic math skills. We would like to roll this program out next month. Mrs. Starling will select students who need to attend the program and I will use the bully pulpit to get them to attend. I will work with Amy on recommending a small supplement for Mrs. Starling even though she did not ask for one.

I will let the board know when our official notification of our school grade come in.

Clubs and Activities

Students and teachers are coming up with ideas for clubs we can offer at JMPHS. Next month we will start our “last Friday of the month during the last period”.

Students

So far………………we are loving this group of Freshmen! We put out some pretty serious rules on the first two days and they have all responded pretty well.

We have very few Seniors on campus, most are taking DE classes.

We are asking that students who do not have classes on our campus stay at home or at the college in order to reduce their exposure to the virus. We love them dearly, but too many want to just come and hang out.

Block Building / Hospital

We will be getting the final items out of the block building this week. There is a broke down old piano that was donated. It evidently came from MCHS years ago. Not sure what to do with it. It has broken keys and missing ivory so I don’t think it can even be given away. If we can’t give it away Bo said I could give it to Jacob. We also have two fire proof filing cabinets we will be moving to the blue building.

PTO

Patrick White will be putting a meeting together one evening with parents interested in being part of this important part of our school community.