



FIRST WEEK



Staggered Start – Why?

- Gradual return over a 4 day period
- Allows students who are new to their school an opportunity to learn their way around the building since we are unable to do an in-person Open House
- Reduces potential back-up in car rider lines typically seen during the first week of school
- Provides extra "hands-on-deck" for younger and new students
- Allows school leaders to evaluate the effectiveness of the school-level plans and make changes if needed



ATTENDANCE



- Districts and schools will still be required to take attendance and report student attendance data to the Georgia Department of Education
- The recording of student attendance is not impacted by traditional, virtual, or distance learning
- For virtual and distance learning, attendance may include (but is not limited to):
 - Track student duration in online course and time spent in the online classroom/platform
 - Track student log-in into online platform
 - Track student attendance during live instruction
 - Track student submission of assignments and student/teacher interactions

Letter from Superintendent Dr. Rick Townsend



that were part of our K-12 educational task force that helped us create a Return to School Plan. We have established the Pickens Virtual Academy based on parent and community input.

I have visited all of our schools and met quite a few people at work and in the community. I've met Rotarians, Optimists, Lions, and Kiwanians and feel fortunate to have great service clubs to support our schools and community. I look forward to working with the Chamber as we prepare our students for the 21st century workforce. The schools are doing some amazing things inside the classrooms and our labs. I definitely know I've made the right decision to be part of this great district and community. I have been amazed at how everyone has held up and worked together to navigate this unprecedented time.

We are going to continue to work hard to support our students and our staff. I look forward to working with all of you!

Respectfully,

Dr. Rick Townsend, Superintendent

First of all, I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome my family and I have received upon our move to Pickens County. The community and school system are outstanding. We are fortunate to have a strong staff in place as we work through this unique time for education. I was proud to be part of the Pickens High School virtual graduation in May and look forward to supporting our senior class of 2021! I appreciate all the support from our community members and parents during this time. I am especially grateful for all the parents, teachers, community, and business leaders



STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES



- Continual guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and Piedmont Healthcare System
- FAQs for health services at the school and district levels
- Masks are strongly recommended but are not required
- #GotMasks #SmartSafePickens #ProtectPickens #DoYourPart

From the Transportation Dept.

Transportation Department
 330 Harmony School Road
 Jasper, GA 30143
 Phone: 706-253-1727
 Fax: 706-253-1729
 Office Hours:
 5:00 a.m – 5:30 p.m
Supervisor –
 Mrs. Ginger Grimmett
Transportation Generalist/Routing –
 Mrs. Sasha Merrell
Receptionist –
 Mrs. Kay Saunders
Bus Shop and Fleet Supervisor –
 Mr. Tracy Allday
Technicians –
 Cooper Collins, Joel Collis, and Nathan Hamby

We are excited to provide transportation services to our school district! This year, like other areas of the system, we have some big changes. We have worked diligently on the reconfiguration of bus routes to align with school location and start/end time changes. I know many of you have questions about buses and routes, and hopefully many of them will be answered for you.

Students in grades kindergarten through 6th (elementary and middle) will ride the bus together, while grades 7 through 12 will ride together. We ask that you be patient with our driv-

ers during the first couple of weeks of school. It would be helpful if you would help your child learn their bus number and driver name before school begins. To obtain this information, you may call your child's school or the transportation department beginning the week of July 27. PLEASE remember that all pick-up and drop-off times are approximate times and are subject to change.

Again, during the first few weeks of school, please be patient with our drivers. Our goal is to deliver students safely to school and return them home safely to you in the afternoon. We are always in search of great bus drivers! If you are looking for a fulfilling opportunity to help mold our children, please apply online through the county webpage. For more information call the transportation department at 706-253-1727.

What we want our Parents to know

As parents of our students, we want you to know three things about our transportation rules:

- 1) Your child may only get on the bus at their assigned stop. If they miss the bus, you will need to transport to school. They may not catch the bus at the next stop;
- 2) Discuss the Bus Safety section of the Pickens County

Schools Student Code of Conduct; and

3) Many students are allergic to certain foods and cologne/perfume smells. We ask that these items be avoided on the bus.

What we want our Students to know

It will be a great year on the school bus! We are excited that you will be with us. Here are some things to keep in mind each time you ride:

- 1) The same rules apply on the bus as they do at school. Riding the bus is just an extension of the school building. You should use an inside voice, electronics must have headphones/car buds, and carry NO object larger than 18x24;
- 2) Drivers will give assigned seats. Please find your seat quickly and remain seated back-to-back and bottom-to-bottom; and,
- 3) Arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes before your scheduled stop and make sure all of your personal items are inside your backpack.

Final Thoughts

We look forward to a great year! Help us in working together to provide the safest possible ride to and from school. Your children are our precious cargo!

BUHL ORTHODONTICS

Richard F. Buhl, D.D.S.
 Specialist in Orthodontics



We recommend an evaluation from age 8-10.

If you have not had your child evaluated please give us a call for a Free Consultation.

706-692-7989
 9 South Main Street, Jasper, GA



Bojangles would like to welcome students, teachers, and staff back to school!

MEAL PLAN

Send your student or staff member back to school with the only meal plan they will need.

IT'S BO TIME!

Jasper Bojangles
 1811 Highway 53 West

Administrators & Teachers
 Watch for the 'Famous Red Folder' with special school pricing for all of your school catering needs!



Bojangles Gift Cards Available Year Round!