



July 28, 2020

Dear Morris Jeff Families,

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! If you are a new family to our school, we hope you feel at home in our community that supports your student's learning in every possible way. We have intentionally planned for this unprecedented year with your child's health and safety, along with that of our faculty and staff, at the forefront of our thinking. Together we will have a strong school year.

We have received several emails inquiring about our first day of school, with concerns for technology, among others. We understand that things are different for all of us this year and thank you for any measure of flexibility you have offered. We are confident that our staff will do their best to provide what you need for a successful school year. Devices are being distributed to families daily until we start school.

Regarding our first day, state attendance requirements have not changed with the pandemic. We remain bound by the required number of annual instructional minutes. Our teachers and staff are contracted for a set number of days each school year. All public schools in NOLA are starting between Aug. 4 and 11, according to the Common Calendar adopted in spring, 2020. Our teachers returned to work last week to prepare for Morris Jeff's first day of school on August 4. There are no extra days in our school calendar to allow for a delayed first day of school and there is currently no waiver for the required number of days set by the state.

The LA Department of Education and NOLA Public Schools required that all schools submit Distance Learning plans before schools reopen. We knew that we would need to have two plans for reopening - in-person and virtual, and we have worked all summer to ensure we start school strong under either scenario. Even as we open school virtually, we will continue to adhere to the [NOLA PS Roadmap to Reopening Schools](#) and the [Supplemental Guidance](#) provided as we look towards having students back to school in person at some point.

Our [Distance Learning pages](#) on our website are updated today for elementary, middle, and high school, as well as student support and counseling. Please [read](#) through the details that are necessary for your family.

More information is on its way as we count down until school begins!

Thank you!