

May 6, 2020

Dear Jones County School System Staff, Students, and Families,

Clemson University's head coach, Dabo Swinney, once said, *"If there's hope in the future, then there's power in the present."* Giving the current conditions, as superintendent of the Jones County School System, I would like to put a little twist on this quote, *"If there's hope in the future, then there's power in the present to persevere."* Our community and the Jones County School System family are meeting the challenges of the current times. We are persevering, and we are thriving. It is my belief that this is because of our educational legacy, a strong sense of community, family connectivity, and educators that are willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that students thrive and succeed.

No one could have foreseen the impact that COVID-19 would have on our nation, our community, our students, and our loved ones. Despite these sobering times, the Jones County community has become stronger with support in academics, student welfare and safety, and a show of tremendous love for our students, especially the Class of 2020 seniors. As a system, we are very passionate about what we do and the students we serve. As we begin the month of May and our final days of digital learning in the 2019-2020 school year, I want to provide further guidance for the remaining days.

Our academic calendar will end May 22, 2020. In order to prepare for that, all Jones County High School senior assignments are due by May 8, 2020. Students in grades kindergarten through eleventh grade will have until May 15, 2020 to complete all remaining assignments. Please remember to continue placing all assignments in the designated containers. Parents, your support and patience with digital/distance learning is to be commended. We could not have completed this task without your assistance.

Each school has specific, end of the year procedures and will be contacting you about retrieving student personal items left in the schools, returning electronic devices, library books, yearbooks and any fees owed. We will be hosting the Senior Grad Drive-Thru on Thursday, May 7th, recognizing the hard work of the 2020 graduates. Please check your email and the school webpages for frequent updates.

The Jones County Nutrition Department will continue to serve meals on Tuesday and Thursday through July 23, 2020. Meals will not be served May 25 – May 29, 2020 and June 29 - July 3, 2020.

I will continue to provide information made available to our district as we receive it from the Georgia Department of Education, Department of Public Health, and the Governor's office, throughout the summer months. We are very appreciative of the efforts of the entire faculty and staff of the Jones County School System and we are very fortunate to have such a supportive community. Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Gibson

Charles W. Gibson, Superintendent