

# PRIDE TIME

Perseverant Resiliency: Yes We Can!



May 27, 2020

Volume 1, Issue 5

## From the Principal's Desk

*Perseverant Resiliency*  
**Yes We Can**, the motto of James M. Singleton Charter School is alive and thriving. The 2019-2020 school year did not end as we would have liked and our lives will be forever changed by this pandemic. It is important to reflect historically on pandemics to grasp what may seem like an intolerable circumstance:

- 2009 - the H1N1 pandemic took the lives of **151,700-575,400**;
- 2005 - **36 million** people died from AIDS;
- 1968 - **1 million**

lives were lost due to HH3N2; to our counterparts throughout the area.

- 1957 - H2N2 was responsible for **1.2 million** deaths;
- 1918 - H1N1 caused **50 million** deaths;
- 1852 - Cholera claimed **1million**;
- 1346 - **200 million** people died from the Bubonic Plague.

We are *Singleton Strong* and we have persevered in **ROARING** fashion. 68% of our 3rd-8th grade students participated in distance learning. That is a remarkable feat when compared

Continue to practice social distancing and rigorous hand washing to ensure each of you remain healthy. Please look at the planning efforts detailed on page two to answer questions about next school



### Special Points of Interest

- **July 20, 2020— Staff Returns**
- **August 4, 2020 — Students 1-8 First Day of School**
- **August 6, 2020— PreK & K First Day of School**

### Students ROARING LOUD!

⇒ Report cards will be mailed on Friday, May 28, 2020 and may also be viewed on the student and family portal.

⇒ 8th grade gift and promotion certificates will be available for pickup on

### SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday, June 1, 2020 from 9-12am.

Office staff will be available for phone calls only on Mondays-Thursdays, **June 1 - 11, 9:00am - 12:00pm**, if you have any questions or concerns.

**Registration is by appointment only.**

School Phone: (504) 568-3466.

Registration contact emails:

- [cdavis@dryadesymca.com](mailto:cdavis@dryadesymca.com)
- [colive@dryadesymca.com](mailto:colive@dryadesymca.com)

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# COVID TENTATIVE PLANS

There was a time when families ate dinner together every night and parents were talking to their children for at least an hour a day. Those days are gone and parents compete with extra curricular activities, electronic devices and multi media. Rarely do parents get the intense one-on-one time with their children any more. Be creative and make a one-hour, "no electronic" time that is sacred in the house for ALL members, including adults. Play a board game with the family. Take a walk in the park together and talk about the new apps for teenagers and you will be surprised at how much information you will get from your child about him /her and their friends.

Research from various sources indicate that children from the ages of 11– 18 spend SIX hours on an electronic device a day. That is more time then students spend at school working or with families at home.

One year old babies work iPads and use technology.

Let us take a little time to spend with our children that is uninterrupted and talk to them.



## UNIFORMS

Uniforms will be sold at a retail vendor for the incoming school year. The school will not house uniform items for retail.



## SILVERBACK SOCIETY

The 8th Grade Silverbacks may pick up their bags from the school by appointment only.



# COVID TENTATIVE PLAN

In planning for the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year, the district has convened and will lead a 30-member NOLA-PS Reopening Task Force to assist in their development of a Roadmap to Reopening, which is tentatively scheduled for release by the end of June.

JMSCS goal for the 2020-21 school year is to deliver the full educational experience with as much social connection and as many extra curricular opportunities as possible. This goal will be the primary lens for our planning and professional development this summer. We have assembled a task force team that will work in unison with NOLA PS to ensure academic excellence for all.

The administrative team has developed three options for learning depending on the phase of reentry:

Alongside our framework for mitigating risk, we have developed three different methods for school operation and have begun planning for each. We believe these three plans offer maximum flexibility amid the continued public health threat and uncertainty about future conditions. (These complement a fourth modality of "Business as Usual," describing campus operations with no Covid-19-related measures in place.)

The three modalities are:

- *On-Campus* (Normal Group Size)  
All students and faculty will be on campus at the same time to conduct school. This plan will operate with health measures in place based on guidance from public health experts. This would likely include restrictions on large-group gatherings.
- *Modified Campus* (Restrictions on Group Size)  
This option is designed for restrictions on class sizes. We believe we have the capacity to use our campus creatively to provide learning spaces for every student and group on the same day.
- *Off-Campus* (Distance Learning)  
In this method, which will be a last resort should public health guidance require it, the campus will be closed for most faculty and students. Under this plan, all students will be engaged in robust distance learning.

Modifications will be implemented as directives change.

We understand that there are a range of circumstances for families. We will consider each circumstance and will be supportive. For example, there may be circumstances where families want their child enrolled at Singleton but not physically present on campus. We are planning for this circumstance and are committed to working with families who make this choice to provide a full academic experience.

Given the current circumstances, we are making targeted improvements to our software systems and technology infrastructure. We are working closely with NOLA PS to secure enough devices and WIFI services for a successful distance learning structure.

### **Risks Related to Covid-19**

The safety of our community is our top priority. Our decision-making at school will be guided by a variety of resources including the CDC, Louisiana Health Department, New Orleans Health Department, and other health experts. Given the risks related to the Covid-19 virus, we ask each parent to review regularly the links below to make an informed decision about the return to campus for each child. Prior to the beginning of the school year, we will share detailed information about our safety protocols and our framework for mitigation.

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/>

<http://ldh.la.gov/>

<https://www.nola.gov/health-department>

### **The Heart of our School – The Faculty**

The key to our success in the 2020-21 school year will be our teachers, who will be working diligently this summer to prepare for the opening. We firmly believe that our teachers are our most important asset at Singleton. During Distance Learning, our teachers have been on the front lines and have performed impressively. Their commitment, hard work, and dedication have been inspirational.

We are asking substantially more of our teachers this summer. Additional planning and intensive professional development will occur throughout the summer. I firmly believe in the talent and commitment of the Singleton faculty and am confident that our teachers will be well prepared for the challenges and complexity of next school year.

I know this is a lot of information to absorb. If the next two months are anything like the last two, much will change, and we will adjust thoughtfully and intentionally. That said, I have confidence in Singleton. Our School has weathered these and many other challenging times, and I know it will succeed within the context of the current crisis.

We will continue to work hard in planning for the 2020-21 school year. As details take shape over the coming weeks and months, we will provide frequent updates for families. I hope you enjoy the summer months ahead. Thanks for ROARING Loud!