



June 24, 2026

Dear Families:

It is hard to believe, but in less than two months the 2026-27 school year will begin.

As I prepare to conclude my tenure as superintendent of Johnstown-Monroe Local Schools and begin a new role with the State of Ohio, I want to thank our students, families, staff, and community for their support and partnership. It has been a privilege to serve this district, and I am proud of all that we have accomplished.

Looking ahead, I welcome Dr. Lou Kramer as our next superintendent. Dr. Kramer will officially start on August 1st. Previously, Dr. Kramer served 15 years as a school superintendent and, most recently, the last 11 years as superintendent of the London City Schools. He and I have already begun preparations for the leadership change, and we will continue to work closely this summer to ensure a smooth transition.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, this letter contains important information. One area I would like to draw special attention to is the transportation section for the 26-27 school year, which includes expanded bus rider options. The transportation section below provides more details, but the critical point is that all students, including students who rode the bus last year, **must complete the Returning Student Transportation form no later than July 10, 2026**, to receive transportation services on the first day of school. Because it is new and time-sensitive, it is the first update item below.

The past couple of years have been marked by expansions to our high school and other construction projects. We look forward to completing these construction projects this year. You can follow progress on these various facility enhancements [HERE](#).

School will resume for 1st- through 12th-grade students on August 19, 2026. Kindergarten students will begin the year on a staggered start determined by alphabet as communicated by Mrs. Wagoner at JES.

The following provides details to help with preparations for the upcoming school year. Please read through each section, as better preparation will ensure a smoother, less stressful start to the school year for students, families, and staff.

Transportation Eligibility Updates and Opt-In Requirement

The Board of Education has recently reviewed and updated the district transportation eligibility guidelines, with a continued focus on student safety. Previously, transportation was not provided to students in grades K–12 who resided within a 1.5-mile walking radius of their school of attendance.

Beginning this school year, the district will implement designated safety zones. Under these updated guidelines:



- Students in grades K–3 attending JES who would be required to cross State Route 62 or State Route 37 when walking to school are now eligible for transportation services.
- Students in grades 4–12 who would be required to cross State Route 62 when walking to school are now eligible for transportation services.

As in previous years, our third-party transportation partner, Community Bus Services (CBS), is using an “opt-in” model. **This means that if your student(s) plans to ride the bus to or from school next school year, you must complete the “Returning Student Transportation” form in PowerSchool no later than July 10 in order to receive transportation services at the start of the school year on August 19.** All returning student forms in PowerSchool are currently active and available for completion for the upcoming school year.

Students who submit transportation requests after July 10 will not be eligible to begin receiving transportation services until Monday, August 31.

To complete the Returning Student Transportation form, families must log into the **PowerSchool Parent Portal**, select forms, then enrollment to access the Returning Student Forms section.

This timeline is necessary to give Community Bus Services (CBS) sufficient time to design and finalize bus routes before the start of the school year. Timely submission of transportation requests is critical to ensuring efficient routing and a smooth start to the school year for all families.

Annual Updates By Building

Watch for communications from Johnstown-Monroe building principals the week of August 3rd regarding schedules, **PowerSchool Updates** and more.

District Direct Messaging

Johnstown-Monroe uses **School Messenger** for rapid notification services. This will require all parents who wish to receive direct, immediate messaging to enroll in the service. Information for downloading necessary apps and enrollment may be found **HERE**:

<https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/home>

Food Service

For menus and food service needs, including payment through the **Meal Magic Family Portal**, click **HERE**. All electronic payments for food service *must be made through the Meal Magic Family Portal*. We encourage creation of a Meal Magic account, which allows you to view balances, see account and purchase histories, make deposits, transfer money among family members and set parental controls.

Residency Tip Line

Our District is making a concerted effort to ensure that students who reside within our District boundaries are not adversely affected by students attending our schools using a fraudulent address. More about these efforts, including an anonymous tip line, can be found **HERE**.



Safety

The safety of our students and staff are a priority. As we constantly enhance our safety systems, we are continuing to use the security system called “Raptor.” More about this important service can be found [HERE](#). Also, Johnstown-Monroe has moved to a new, state-operated anonymous tip line, the **Safer Ohio School Tip Line**: <https://ohioschoolsafetycenter.ohio.gov/pre-k-12-schools/safer-ohio-school-tip-line>

Student & Athletic Fees

All electronic payments of student and athletic fees must be paid via eFunds for Schools. Create your eFunds for Schools account [HERE](#).

Student Data Privacy

Our district is committed to protecting student data and only utilizes approved tools and vendors. We follow all federal and state requirements, including Ohio’s Senate Bill 29. To learn more and see the full notice, along with our list of approved resources, visit our website [HERE](#).

Supply Lists & Student Fees

As was recently announced, for the 2026-27 school year, *the District will again provide all school supplies, except calculators*. The Board of Education has also suspended general course fees for the 2026-27 school year. More about these changes may be found [HERE](#).

Employment Opportunities

We have some open positions! We hire high-quality, student-centered educators, including veterans as teachers within our faculty. Veterans can bring a plethora of transferable skills to the civilian workplace: leadership, discipline, and a strong sense of service. You may view available J-M jobs [HERE](#) or by visiting <https://johnstown.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>

Finally, information including [District calendars](#), [student handbooks](#) and more can be found on the district’s [official website: https://www.johnstown.k12.oh.us/](https://www.johnstown.k12.oh.us/)

As partners in your child’s education, we value your input and welcome your involvement in our school community. Thank you for your continued support, and on behalf of the Board of Education and staff, we look forward to a rewarding and successful school year!

Sincerely,

Philip H. Wagner, Ph.D.
Superintendent