Dear Falcon Families:

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year! During this unprecedented time, Superintendent Dr. Terry Oatts made the very difficult decision to return to school virtually with the plan of possibly resuming in-person instruction for staff and students in the Spring. Instead, the school year will start August 24, 2020 virtually and will remain virtual for the Fall semester. While the global pandemic has prevented us from beginning the school year traditionally, I want to assure you that our focus will remain the same. My dedicated and hard-working staff will continue to honor our commitment to our students and their families. Furthermore, I will remain committed to my promise to LEAD with both humility and confidence, LEARN alongside you and our students, LOVE our school and its community, and work diligently to ensure that CJH is a great place to work, learn, and GROW…even from a distance.

In keeping with tradition, you will receive a Welcome Back/Open House postcard in the mail from your child’s teacher. This year we will host Open House virtually on August 20, 2020. For your convenience, you will be able to choose from four grade level sessions:

- 5:00 pm
- 5:40 pm
- 6:20 pm
- 7:00 pm

Beginning the week of August 17th, Ready, Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade students will be issued iPads and 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will be issued laptops. Forthcoming, will be details on how you can retrieve your child’s school-issued device and instructional materials. Be sure to check the CJH webpage routinely at cjh.rockdaleschools.org for updates as well as to create an Infinite Campus parent portal account if you have not already done so as you will need to complete the Acceptable Use Policy and Laptop Check-out Form located in Infinite Campus prior to picking up a new device. This school year, you will not find an updated copy of our school supplies list in stores or on our webpage as we will be providing each student with a bag of essential school supplies when they retrieve their new device. We simply ask that each family create a dedicated, at home working space for students to remain organized and ready to learn.

To maximize instructional time and engage students in high levels of teaching and learning in a collaborative and supportive environment, teachers will begin the new school year teaching and reinforcing PBIS and Digital Citizenship expectations. For the Fall semester, students will engage in both synchronous learning and asynchronous learning from 7:35 am – 12:05 pm and 12:35 pm – 2:20 pm with frequent breaks in between content blocks. Please see the attached graphic organizer for your reference. We are pleased that our virtual master schedule will allow students to benefit from both delivery models. We will also offer our Flying Falcons afterschool tutorial program virtually, beginning mid-September, to provide additional interventions for some of our students in 2nd through 5th grade.

To ensure that we communicate with you clearly and consistently, I will resume my weekly Sunday phone call at the start of the school year, you will continue to receive our monthly newsletter, the Falcon Flyer, and we will use Remind® to send you brief notifications by text. As we continue to prepare for our first day of school, our teachers and staff look forward to virtually meeting and greeting our students with a warm smile, loving heart, and thoughtfully planned lessons. We are in service to you this school year and beyond.

With Falcon Pride,

Dr. Erica Wakefall

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August 3, 2020