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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jennings High School Students Will Return to School on a Modified Schedule January 20

(JENNINGS, MO, Jan. 10, 2026) – In the aftermath of a pipe break at Jennings High School on Dec. 22, 2025, Jennings School District leaders announced more time is needed to complete repairs. The return to in-person classes will be delayed until after Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 19. **The new return schedule will have students observing an alternating A/B hybrid schedule starting on Tuesday, Jan. 20.**

According to JHS Principal Dr. Cryslynn Billingsly, students will continue studying virtually, followed by the new hybrid A/B schedule. Freshmen and sophomores will return on Jan. 20 for a B-day, alternating days with juniors and seniors who will return on Jan. 21 for an A-day and Jan. 22 for a B-day. Students who are not scheduled to be in-school will have virtual days to work from home. Fridays will be designated **Academic Lab Days**, where students will have the option to attend in-person or work virtually as needed, following an A/B schedule. Please see the full schedule and other important information online at www.jenningsk12.org/JHSreturn.

Billingsley says she drew upon experience with the COVID-19 crisis to develop an alternative plan that considers in-person and virtual study, meal services, afterschool activities, sports and more. “We have adapted programs as needed (see online), and we have mobilized every team within the District to make sure that our transitions run smoothly,” she said. “A good portion of the school was untouched by the flood, and we will make use of that space as we reconfigure classrooms to accommodate students and teachers. We will be working on a familiar A and B day schedule, alternating their physical attendance at school.”

Superintendent Dr. Paula Knight says that restoration and District operations and maintenance crews, who have been onsite from day one, will shift their schedules to night work when students return.” All damaged tile has been removed from the cafeteria and connecting hallways and classrooms, leaving a smooth and safe walking surface. Temporary safety barriers are being installed to help guide students through the building.”

Dr. Knight says the high school will hold Town Halls at the school, offering tours for parents, students and teachers. **The Town Halls will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 14 and 15, 3 - 6 p.m. both days.** This will allow the school community to see the progress for themselves. “Maintaining a safe environment for students and teachers is always our priority, and we consistently monitor air quality and do safety checks when any materials are disturbed. Even so. We believe it’s important to allow students, parents and staff the opportunity to see the space for themselves and to ask questions.”

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Portrait of a JSD Warrior



Dr. Knight says Town Hall meeting sign-up sheets will be posted on the website along with an FAQ and any special instructions.

In the meantime, she says daily walk-throughs will continue along with daily staff updates. “Each day, we see the amazing progress being made in restoration efforts. I’m very proud of all of the teams who have worked night and day over winter break to limit the inconvenience to our students and teachers,” Knight said. “And I’m proud of the students and teachers who have shown such resilience and dedication in transitioning to virtual learning.”

District officials say that it is still too soon to determine the full financial impact, but they are working closely with insurance contacts who have been helping to determine the extent of damage. “I very much want to stress that this event has been one of the most serious crises we have had to face for some time. It will take time for us to learn what items we can salvage or replace, particularly when it comes to band instruments and uniforms.”

All things considered, Dr. Knight says she feels very fortunate in many ways. “The pipe break happened overnight when the building was empty. A patrol officer noticed the water and called it in quickly. Since 2 a.m. on Dec. 22, our staff, recovery teams, American Water and Jennings Fire and Police Departments have worked around the clock in their service to our students and staff. Add to that the many calls and offers for help I’ve received from across the region; I would say that, despite everything, we have a lot to be grateful for in 2026.”

Principal Billingsley says staff members are working to ensure that every student receives their modified schedules for school for the coming week. Everything will be posted online at www.jenningsk12.org/JHSreturn.

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About Jennings School District: Founded in 1871, the [Jennings School District](http://www.jenningsk12.org) serves 2,320 students PreK-12 across four elementary schools: Hanrahan, Woodland, Northview and Fairview (Primary and Intermediate), Rose Mary Johnson Jennings Middle School and Jennings Senior High School. JSD spans three communities, Jennings, Country Club Hills and Flordell Hills. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Links are available at <https://linktr.ee/JenningsK12>.

