

Prep optimistic about upcoming post-COVID academic year

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Jackson Prep's student body and faculty have endured a challenging year of pandemic school, but things will be more "normal" next school year starting with summer school. This is because of Governor Reeves' executive order, which removes all restrictions on schools except for masks, which will have to be worn until the end of this school year.

While the school will continue to stay updated on CDC recommendations and the governor's executive orders, it looks like Jackson Prep students will no longer have to wear masks or complete the dreaded Ascend, a virtual platform that requires students to undergo daily check-ups.

Going back to normal will also mean that the MPR will revert back to a multi-purpose room instead of an extension of the cafeteria, and the cafeteria will revert to full capacity.

The pandemic has also affected school events such as football games and graduation. With the restrictions on large gatherings removed, Head of School Lawrence Coco, has high hopes that rules will allow students to be able to attend Jackson Prep's extracurricular events.

Mr. Coco also said, "While we have enjoyed being at Trustmark, we are looking for-

ward to going back to Thalia Mara Hall for graduation and getting back to the formality and ceremony of being at Thalia Mara."

With everything going back to school, this leaves one important question unanswered: What about Zoom? Zoom will stay the same as this year, which means that a student who contracts or is exposed to COVID-19 will be able to use Zoom during their quarantine.

If a student has another reason for an extended absence and needs to use Zoom, they will have to get approval from the administration to attend remote learning.

The vaccine will also play

a significant role next year because vaccinated students will not have to be quarantined if exposed to COVID. This does not mean that Jackson Prep is mandating vaccines for their teachers and students; it just means that students who choose not to get the vaccine will have to risk having more disruption in their school year.

These changes for next year have students and faculty hopeful for next year. Latin teacher and world language department chair Ms. Watts said, "I hope next year will revert to pre-COVID regulations and that we will have a new appreciation for in school learning. I also hope to never open Zoom again."

