



August 13, 2021

Dear GPS Families,

The new school year is quickly approaching and we are very excited to have our students back in the buildings to experience the many great opportunities we have planned for this year! First, I would like to take a moment to thank the entire GPS team. I continue to be amazed by our staff - they truly do everything they can to ensure we provide the very best for our students every single day. I am thankful for each of them and proud to be a part of this amazing team of individuals.

I also would like to thank our community as it is due to their generous support that we have been able to update every single classroom throughout our district with new technology, flooring, and furniture as well as provide collaborative learning areas in each building. In addition, we have new Career and Technical Education areas with state-of-the-art equipment to better prepare our students for their dream careers. Secured entrances and additional security systems are now in place across the district and we have added a new drop-off and pick-up lane at the middle school. We could not be more pleased with the extent of the improvements we were able to provide our students, knowing that our students will reap these benefits for many years to come. I'd like to thank Clark Construction and GMB Architecture + Engineering for their never-ending support through our bond construction projects, which will be fully completed by the end of December.

Looking beyond these upgrades, we continue to keep an eye focused on future improvements. One such area of focus includes exploring the option of universal preschool for all children. We know students are more successful in school with an early childhood experience that starts prior to beginning the K-12 school system. Additionally, we also recognize a need for air conditioning in several elementary schools and the need to expand more Career and Technical Education into the middle school and elementary levels. Our work is not done, but we are making great progress.

Mitigating COVID continues to be difficult for schools. Greenville Public Schools is committed to providing a safe environment for all students and staff so it is with this in mind that I wanted to remind you of our COVID protocols. We highly recommend staff and students along with visitors wear a mask while in our school buildings to protect each other. Please review the images below along with the [GPS 2021-2022 COVID Plan](#) for additional safety protocols. Visit our [website](#) for continuous COVID-19 updates as new guidance emerges.

GPS is looking forward to serving you and your children. We are here to inspire our students and provide opportunities that will help them soar in any area of interest they have. Please review the [GPS MI Blueprint Plan](#) regarding some steps we are taking through the MI Blueprint efforts at the state level to continue to help meet the needs of all of our students every day. We know working together will provide the best results possible for our students.

The start up of school this fall is as follows:

- First day for students is Monday, August 23, 2021
 - GHS full day schedule: 7:35am - 2:30pm
 - GMS full day schedule: 7:30am - 2:25pm
 - Elementary full day schedule: 8:50am - 3:45pm
- No School August 27, September 3 and September 6
- [GPS 2021-2022 District Calendar](#)

Please see each building's communication for Open House details.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Our staff is grateful to serve in a community that embraces a quality education for all students and supports us in so many incredible ways. We know this is going to be a great year and cannot wait to see our students on Monday, August 23!

Sincerely,

Linda Van Houten
Superintendent

Greenville Public Schools 2021-22 Return to School Outline



We continue to review the best options for a safe return to school in the fall. Our goal is to implement strategies that provide for a safe learning environment for our students, staff and families. Given our current situation, GPS will plan to move forward with the following recommendations for the 2021-2022 school year:

<u>WE WILL</u>	<u>WE WILL NOT</u>	<u>WE MUST</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perform routine cleaning and sanitizing to maintain a healthy learning environment.• Encourage social distancing when feasible.• Ask that individuals stay home when sick or not feeling well.• Recommend wearing a mask while in our schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Require masks in our buildings, but they are highly recommended.• Require proof of COVID-19 vaccinations to attend school.• Require testing, unless required by the health department or MHSAA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow current federal regulations on requiring masks on all school transportation.• Follow MHSAA guidelines to allow students the opportunity to participate in MHSAA events/tournaments. 

GPS hopes to maintain these recommendations for the 2021-22 school year, but the COVID situation continues to be very fluid. If our situation changes and the prevention strategies need to be adjusted, we will provide an update as quickly as possible.



Student tests positive for COVID-19.	Vaccinated Unvaccinated	Quarantine for 10 days, contact trace for minimum two days prior to symptoms or positive test. Notify MI Health Department with MMDHD paperwork .*
Student comes into close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.	Vaccinated Unvaccinated	Families will receive communication from district or health department. Quarantining recommended.*

*Students will work with teachers and principals to stay up to date with learning.



Prevention



Sanitize!
Practice sanitation, including your hands, frequently touched surfaces, and phones!



Mask up!
Properly wearing a face mask, is a good way to keep yourself and those around you safe!



Wash your hands!
20 seconds, scrubbing palms, under fingernails, and between your fingers!



Practice Social Distancing!
When possible, try to stay 3-6+ feet away from those around you!



Consider getting vaccinated!
The SARS-COVID-19 vaccines have been scientifically proven to lessen the chance catching COVID-19, and to lessen severity of symptoms if caught!

