

Dates to remember

► **Monday-Friday, March 28-April 1 – NO SCHOOL,**
Spring Break (school resumes Monday, April 4)

Please complete our Glasser Quality School Survey

Grand Traverse Academy was established in 2000, with the principles of Dr. William Glasser's Choice Theory® at its foundation, and was declared a Glasser Quality School in 2005. Choice Theory teaches us that healthy relationships are critical for learning and we do our best to foster them by recognizing and meeting each student's basic needs. Every spring, we survey our stakeholders to provide feedback on the current status of our school as it relates to Choice Theory. We invite parents and staff members to complete this [short questionnaire](#) and submit your responses by Friday, April 15. Thank you for your participation!

Important carpool reminders

Parents and other carpool drivers are asked to please remember the following when picking up and dropping off students:

South parking lot. Parents picking up their elementary children in the south lot after school are reminded to *please meet them at the crosswalk and walk them to your car.* We have had a lot of children attempt to dart across the driveway as soon as they see their parent's car – while other cars are driving through the carpool lane – which is a huge safety hazard. Please help us to keep our students safe by asking them to wait for you to retrieve them if you use the lot.

North carpool. Parents dropping off children at the north entrance in the morning are reminded to *please use the carpool lanes instead of using the parking lot to unload.* The lot is busy with pedestrians in the morning, including student drivers, who may not always be watching for non-parking traffic traveling through the lot. The carpool lanes are a very quick and efficient way to transport children to and from school.

The results are in!

Congratulations to GTA Elementary students and their



teachers, whose hard work and dedication to reading made our first-ever Read-A-Thon a HUGE

success. We exceeded our goals for both total minutes read and money raised. K-6 students read for a grand total of 90,512 minutes; what's more, our families raised a whopping \$13,365! Mrs. Gorton's and Mrs. Bohrer's classrooms each won a pizza party by capturing the number one spots, with 7,898 minutes read (Gorton) and \$1,285 raised (Bohrer). A special shout out to the top 10 students in each category:

Student	Teacher	Minutes Read
Adriana Johnson	Gorton	1,210
Brycen Bowen	Wilson	1,135
Eden VanBerlo	Rogers	1,080
James Pounds	Wilson	905
Jaiden Bowen	Gorton	820
Kallan Bennecoff	Lazar	775
Lukas Gleason	Kipke	750
Troy Mizell	Gorton	748
Elijah Legkiy	Kipke	700
Joshua Hollenbeck	Gorton	661

Student	Teacher	Funds Raised
Ava Boogaard	Hall	\$600
Levi Hansen	Cherup	\$560
Mason Beckwith	Hamrick	\$410
Ava Miller	Hamrick	\$350
Brooklynn Williams	Gorton	\$325
Giovi West	Bohrer	\$305
Addison Garber	Bohrer	\$300
Saylor Desmond	Flores	\$280
Nico Cammarata	Bohrer	\$275
Stella Desmond	Flores	\$260

We so appreciate the following GTA family-owned businesses and other community members who supported our Read-A-Thon: **AMRA Energy, Piché Family Chiropractic, Subie Guys Inc., Roy's General Store, Tom's Food Markets, Doug Murdick's Fudge, Oleson's Food Stores, Front Street Insurance Agency and 4Front Credit Union.**

Thank you to all students who participated! **Each and every minute read and dollar raised made a difference.** We are so grateful for all of the friends, family members and community business leaders who came together to support our students' reading efforts with monetary donations and personal words of encouragement and support. And our teachers are grateful for the ability to add to their classroom libraries, which would not have been possible without such a wonderful effort by all in making our GTA Read-A-Thon a success!

Band Jam beats fund raising record!

Mr. Floering, director of bands, extends a big “thank you” to everyone who helped us raise a total of \$5,642 at our recent Band Jam 2022 fund raising event – the most we have ever brought in at our one and only band fund raiser of the year! The monies were pure profit this year

and will go a long way toward music scholarships for our students and the purchase and maintenance of school-owned musical instruments.

Test-out information for high school students

Under Michigan law, high school students may request the opportunity to “test out” of any high school class they select, with the exception of a course in which they are currently enrolled or have previously failed. The intent is to allow students to demonstrate knowledge and skills they already possess to enroll in higher level courses. If a student believes they have the extensive knowledge and background to demonstrate competency in a course, they may wish to consider this opportunity. Details and a test-out application are [available here](#). The application must be completed **on or before April 22, 2022**; courses requiring students to complete extended projects and/or research papers in addition to passing the test-out exam must be completed **by May 27, 2022**.



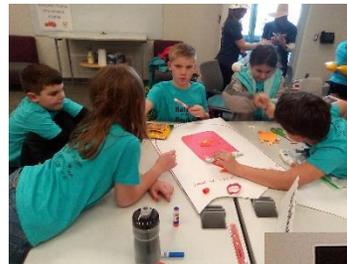
Elementary bagel sales begin

Members of the sophomore class will be selling bagels to Elementary students on Wednesday mornings from 7:45-8:10 am in the Intention Room (at the entrance to the Elementary Wing). The cost is \$2 for several varieties.



Congratulations to Battle of the Books teams

This year, GTA sent three teams to Battle of the Books – the quiz competition for 4th and 5th graders sponsored by Traverse City’s National Writers Series. It was a fun and educational



experience as they were challenged to read selected books, create a team name and



coat of arms, dress in costume for the event and design a board game based on the books. Tournament teams

competed with others on their knowledge of the books’ content.



Mr. Mason’s Faire team, the “DoReados,” won the award for Most Creative Team Name! Members were **Anabella Boardwine, Bishop York, Jezlynn Bailey, Memphis Agruda, David Laven and Owen Hoffman**. Tournament teams were Mrs. Drost’s “Book Cooks”: **Lincoln Klooster, Lela McCulley, Anna Alpers, Kai Bennecoff, Lilyanah Bourdkani and Natalia Stewart**; and Mrs. Mroczkowski’s “Reading Rattlesnakes”: **Matthew Smith, June York, Lily Smith, Shane Durga, Ember Lauzon and Ruby Mimnaugh**. Congratulations to all for their hard work and creativity!

Freshman class sponsors 3 on 3 basketball tournament

GTA 9th graders are sponsoring a 3 on 3 basketball tournament for junior high on **Friday, April 8 at 3:15 pm**. All 7th and 8th graders were sent a registration form via email. The entry fee is \$10 per person and concessions will be available. Players are asked to bring shoes suitable for the gym floor.

Annual spring testing begins after break

Various state- and federal-mandated tests will be administered shortly after Spring Break, designed to provide important information about student knowledge and their progress toward being career- and college-ready on graduation. Elementary test dates will be determined and communicated by classroom teachers; Secondary tests will take place as follows:

	April 11	April 12	April 13	April 14
Grade 7		M-STEP	M-STEP	M-STEP
Grade 8	M-STEP	M-STEP	PSAT	M-STEP
Grade 9			PSAT	
Grade 10			PSAT	
Grade 11	M-STEP	M-STEP	SAT	WorkKeys

Important note: Although the Michigan Department of Education’s goal of 95 percent participation in state assessments was waived last year due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are told that this is no longer the case for 2022 and **there is no acceptable way under state or federal law to allow a student opt-out of state assessments**. Please see the attached letter from the state superintendent for details.

Will your children return to GTA in the fall?

Though current GTA students do not need to reapply to attend Grand Traverse Academy during subsequent school years, we do wish to know if your children will be returning in the fall as we plan for next year. Parents of current students are asked to complete our [Intent to Return Survey](#) and submit it at your earliest convenience. If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in the fall, or will be transferring to GTA from another school, an [enrollment application](#) must be completed. Questions may be directed to Amy Truesdell at truesdella@mygta.us or 932-6900.

Absences or late arrivals

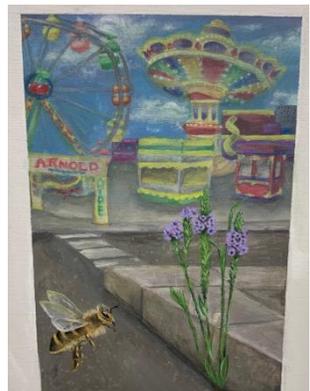
If your child will be late for school or absent for the day, please notify the office by 8:30 am. Parents will be called to verify any unexcused absences after that time.

Elementary 995-0665 / Secondary 932-6038

GTA art students make top 30 in Cherry Festival print contest

Vote on Facebook for your favorites!

Congratulations to GTA’s **Emily Needham, Ian Weaver, Tyleen Priest, Maddison McPhilimy, Maran Edgren and Lucy Bodie**, whose artwork made the cut for the Top 30 entries in the 2022 National Cherry Festival print contest. Their art is shown below and [voting is done via Facebook for the People’s Choice Top 5](#). A panel of judges will determine the Top 3, who will receive scholarships. You may only “like” five images or your votes will not count.



Upcoming Elementary music events announced



Our K-6 students have been busy practicing for several spring performances. Be sure to mark your calendars for the following events:

Grades 3-4 Spring Sing

Monday, April 18 - Small Gym

6:00 pm - Bostick, Cherup, Wilson

7:00 pm - Drost, Kipke, Olsen, Winowiecki

Grades 1-2 Spring Sing

Tuesday, April 19 - Small Gym

6:00 pm - Bohrer, Flores, Hamrick

7:00 pm - Dennis, Gorton, Howery, Rogers

Elementary Band

Friday, May 6 - Big Gym

11:00 am - All Elementary Band Students

Elementary Choir plus Mustang & Chamber Choirs

Friday May 20 - 6:00 pm, Big Gym

Young Explorers "Informance"

Friday, May 27 - 11:00 am, Small Gym

Elementary to celebrate Purple Up! Day on April 14

April is the Month of the Military Child. Here at Grand



Traverse Academy, Elementary students are invited to celebrate their fellow military connected GTA

students on **Thursday, April 14** by wearing purple shirts. We will take this time to celebrate these amazing children for their selflessness and sacrifice as they serve our country as part of a military family. Why purple? Purple references the joint environment of the military, encompassing all service branches: Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard and Veterans. Purple combines each branch's colors into one: The Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard all use shades of blue, the Army uses green, and the Marines use red. Special Purple Up! t-shirts are [available here](#) for those interested in purchasing one.

Mother-son bowling event planned!

Mark your calendars for our semi-annual Mother-Son bowling party at Incredible Mo's, planned for **Saturday, April 23 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm**. GTA boys in preschool-grade 6 are invited to this fun event, accompanied by their mom, stepmom, guardian, grandma, aunt, etc. The cost is just \$15 per person, and includes one game of bowling with shoes, a \$5 arcade card, two slices of pizza and soda. A registration form is attached to this newsletter. If you have questions or wish to register via email, please contact Mrs. Dean at deanm@mygta.us.



GTA board opportunity

Grand Traverse Academy's mission is for all students to be safe, loved and learning as they achieve excellence in character and academics. If you have an interest in helping our school to achieve our mission, have 2-5 hours per month to devote to guiding our school, are a team player and will serve as a community ambassador for GTA, you might be a great candidate for our board of directors. The board is currently accepting applications for a member to replace one whose term will expire this year. The term will begin at the start of the 2022-23 school year. For more information or to apply, please contact board trustee Katherine McCulley at mcculleyk@mygta.us.

GTA student artwork featured at exhibit

Congratulations to the following students, whose work is representing Grand Traverse Academy in the annual Crooked Tree Youth Art Show!

Kindergarten: Kateryna Narolska, Mekhi VanZandt, Isla Wonacott; **Grades 1-2:** Maevyn Gibson, Willa Hubbell, Cobe Kline, Ellisynd Miller, Rebecca Wheeler; **Grades 3-4:** Emma Allerding, Emily Behnken, Shane Durga, Claire Gorman, Kaitlyn Lambert, David Laven, Emerson Lazar, Emma Long, Bella Rapmund; **Grades 5-6:** Kallan Bennekoff, Mason Hauserman, Connor Kirkman, Molly Mesko, Lilia Miller, Rufina Narolska, Piper Shumar, Madelyn Tessin, Kylie Vermilyea, Reznor Young.

Work is on display and available for public viewing at the Crooked Tree Arts Center on 6th Street through April 16. **Please note that the Center is closed from March 28-April 1 due to Spring Break and their regular schedule will resume on Saturday, April 2.**

Elementary girls' running club reminder

Girls Take Action, an after-school running club for girls in grades 3-6, starts on **Tuesday, April 12**. Coached by Ms. Kipke and Mrs. Callahan, this program teaches girls to be self-confident and is based on the GTA character traits. Practices will be held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays after school until 5:00 pm**. The cost of \$30 per person includes a water bottle, t-shirt and a final run. Please see the attached flier for more information and to register. **Forms are due back with payment by Friday, April 8**. Keep running! – Ms. Kipke and Ms. Callahan.



Choice Theory: Connecting & Disconnecting Habits

by Mindy VanHouzen

As a Glasser Quality School, we believe that all students are able to do competent work. For this to happen, a healthy connection between teachers and students must be present. This connection is established when teachers abandon external controls (Glasser's "deadly" or Disconnecting Habits) and replace them with his Connecting Habits. Practicing the Connecting Habits at home helps support our use of them at school and strengthens family relationships, too.



Connecting Habit #6: Respect. Respect in our relationships helps to build feelings of trust, safety and general wellbeing. As adults, we often want our children to respect us, but forget that they need help learning what respect looks and feels like. The best way for us to teach them is by modeling respect in all of our relationships. When we respect our children, it will not only show them what it looks like to be respectful, but it will also help them to feel safe and accepted. They will be more likely to have self-respect as well.

Disconnecting Habit #6: Punishing. It is important to understand the difference between punishing and imposing consequences. The definition of punish, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is "to make suffer for a fault or crime." Punishing puts a penalty on someone for doing wrong, rather than trying to help the person understand the infraction and choose differently in the future. We want to help our children to understand that there are better ways to react or handle situations, so instead of "punishing" we

want to respectfully impose consequences. The difference would be in our goal. Our goal should not be to "make suffer" but rather to help gain an understanding of how our actions affect ourselves and others. Our consequences should be clearly defined, consistently enforced, proportionate to the misconduct and not delivered out of anger.

GTA Family Council corner

Fund raising opportunity continues. Purchase a Mirror Image Car Wash & Detailing single basic wash coupon for \$7 or a book of five for \$35. Full-service interior & exterior washes are available for \$25 each or \$125 for a book of five. Profits will support the GTA Family Council's efforts throughout the school year. Follow this link to purchase: [GTA FC CAR WASH](#) or contact Kristin Boogaard at (616) 328-4646 or kristinboogaard@gmail.com.

👉 Reminder: Be sure to join the Facebook group, **GTA Family Council**, to stay connected and keep up to date with all the amazing service opportunities.

Mighty Mustangs Preschool enrolling now

Grand Traverse Academy's Mighty Mustangs Preschool is a licensed, tuition-based program created especially for 3-5-year-olds. Through fun, hands-on activities, children develop the confidence, creativity and critical thinking skills that prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond. Full- and half-day sessions are available and parents may choose two, three or five mornings or days per week. For more information or to apply for enrollment, visit the Mighty Mustangs [Preschool webpage](#). And feel free to share this information with other parents of preschool-aged children!



Student health screenings important

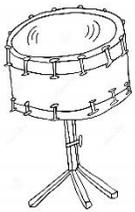
One of our goals at GTA is for students and staff to stay healthy. It continues to be so important for parents to screen for illness **before** bringing your children to school, especially for COVID symptoms, and keeping them home if necessary – both in their best interest and for the protection and safety of others. Screening for COVID-19 symptoms daily before leaving for school is helpful in keeping our GTA community healthy. Please check for the following and keep children home with any of these symptoms: *fever of 100.4 degrees or*

higher, sore throat, new uncontrolled cough, new absence of taste or smell, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain or new onset of a severe headache (especially with a fever). Please keep children home with any of these symptoms. **This is especially important on returning from break, particularly if your family has done any traveling.** The Grand Traverse County Health Department screening protocol is attached for your convenience. Please screen your children and follow the protocol if any symptoms are noted. Thank you!

New! Traverse Symphony Suzuki School

The Traverse Symphony Orchestra is pleased to announce violin instruction for children aged 4-8 using the Suzuki method. For more information, visit <http://traversesymphony.org/education/suzuki> or send an email to suzuki@traversesymphony.org. Orientation dates for the school are Thursday, **September 1 at 5:00 pm** and **Tuesday, September 13 at 5:00 pm**.

Dad Jokes from Don



I wasn't at work yesterday because I slipped and bumped my head on a snare drum while I was sweeping the band room floor.

The doctor said I got a percussion.

Ongoing events

Elementary Pizza Days – Every other Wednesday, as follows: *March 23, April 13 & 27 and May 11 & 25 (order and pay by the preceding Monday using forms sent home on off weeks), \$1.50 per slice of pepperoni or cheese*

Secondary Pizza Days – *Every Thursday (order and pay on Tuesdays using forms provided in Advisory classrooms), \$1.50 per slice of cheese or pepperoni*

Secondary Bagel Sales – *Every Wednesday in Multipurpose Rooms 3 & 4, 7:40-8:00 am, \$2 each for several varieties*

Elementary Bagel Sales – *Every Wednesday in the Intention Room (at the entrance to the Elementary Wing), 7:45-8:10 am, \$2 each for several varieties.*

Secondary Doughnut Sales – *Every Friday in Multipurpose Rooms 3 & 4, 7:40-8:00 am, \$1 each for several varieties*

Fill the Pantry Jeans Days – *March 24, May 26*



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

March 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This spring, your school district will administer state tests designed to provide important information on student knowledge and their progress toward being career- and college-ready upon graduation. These tests are required by federal and state laws. Schools and districts use these test results for school improvement initiatives that benefit all students. The data gathered from this year's state assessments will help educators support students when they return to school in the fall and move forward with their education.

Students in grades 3-10 will participate in the following assessments:

- M-STEP English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grades 3-7)
- PSAT 8/9 (grade 8)
- M-STEP science and social studies (grades 5 and 8)
- PSAT 8/9 (grade 9)
- PSAT 10 (grade 10)

Grade 11 students will participate in the Michigan Merit Examination (MME), which has three required components:

- SAT with Essay college entrance exam that also measures student knowledge on Michigan's ELA and mathematics standards
- ACT WorkKeys work skills assessment
- M-STEP science and social studies

We want your child's state testing experience to be as stress-free as possible. Your positive outlook will support your child's experience. State assessment results do not affect your student's grades in any way.

On average, a student will spend no more than three hours on M-STEP mathematics and ELA tests. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will spend an additional two hours on science and social studies testing.

While we support parents in making choices for their children, there is no acceptable way under state or federal law to allow an "opt-out" of state assessments. Last year, requirements for 95 percent participation in state assessments were waived by the U.S. Department of Education due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, this is no longer the case for 2022. Students who are not assessed this year will count against their school's required 95 percent participation rate, which will create an incomplete picture of their school's performance.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER
JUDITH PRITCHETT – NASBE DELEGATE • ELLEN COGEN LIPTON
NIKKI SNYDER • JASON STRAYHORN

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788

Parent/Guardian
Page 2
March 2022

Annual assessments provide information on how Michigan students perform and how well our schools and districts are teaching students compared to those in other communities, states, and nations. Assessment results help target support and resources to students and schools that need them most. The test results may also inform future state education programs and policies to help Michigan students catch up on learning that was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can find information about Michigan's state assessment system on our website, www.michigan.gov/oeaa. An excellent place to start is with the handout "Michigan's State Assessment System: What It Is, What It Means, and What It Offers." Additional information, including how to help your child prepare for M-STEP testing, is available at www.michigan.gov/mstep.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
State Superintendent

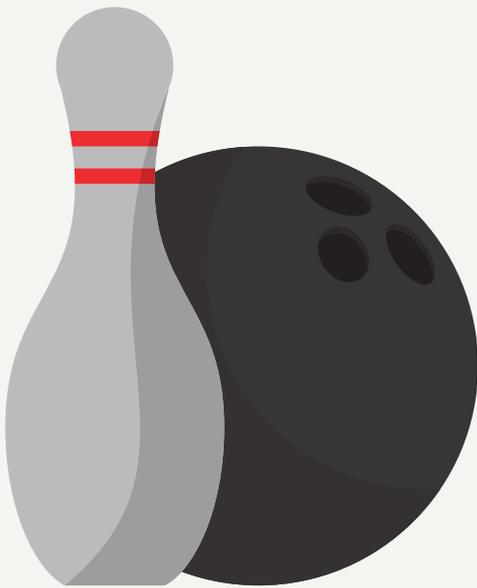


Mother-Son Event

Saturday, April 23, 2022

10:00 am-12:00 pm

at Incredible Mo's



Just \$15 per person
includes:

- 1 game of bowling and shoes
- \$5 arcade card
- 2 slices of pizza and soda

Please turn registration form into the office by Friday, April 15, 2022

.....
Name of Mother and Son (s)

Number of persons attending _____ x \$15.00= _____ Total



Girls Take Action is an after school program for 3rd-6th grade girls offered at Grand Traverse Academy. This program will focus on all the things that girls can be empowered to take action on in their lives. The framework of the program will be the character traits taught at GTA.

The program will begin at Grand Traverse Academy on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-5:00 pm. We will meet in Red 4 classroom and will run in various locations around the school. The final run will be held on Friday, May 27th at 1:00 at GTA.

If you have any questions, please contact Coach Courtney Kipke at kipkec@mygta.us or Annie Callahan at callahana@mygta.us.

DUE: April 8, 2022

Keep Running!

Ms. Kipke

Registration for Girls Take Action

Name _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP: _____ Phone _____ T-SHIRT SIZE: Youth M L or Adult S M L XL 2XL

I, _____ give permission for _____
(parent/guardian) (daughter)

to participate in the Girls Take Action program. I understand this is a non-competitive running program designed for girls in 3rd-6th grades. Along with physical workouts, coaches provide focused and age-appropriate discussions on certain areas based on the GTA character traits in order to prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. The registration fee for Girls Take action is \$30 and includes a water bottle, t-shirt, and the final run.

Enclosed is my \$30. Checks should be payable to Grand Traverse Academy. Please return the completed form, with payment, to the school office.

Student Screening

Screen your child for the following symptoms daily before they leave for school. Follow the directions below if your child displays symptoms or has been exposed.

Symptoms

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Close Contact/Potential Exposure

In the past 14 days, has your child:

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19; OR
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19; OR
- Had a travel history

If the answer is **YES** to any of the **symptom** questions, keep your child(ren) home from school.

If the answer is **YES** to any symptoms question and **YES** to any close contact/potential exposure question, call the school as soon as possible to let them know the reason your child(ren) won't be there today. Call your healthcare provider right away. If you don't have one or cannot be seen, go to www.mi.gov/coronavirustest or call 2-1-1 to find a location to have your child(ren) tested for COVID-19.

If the answer is **YES** to any of the symptom questions, but **NO** to any close contact/potential exposure questions, your student may return based on the guidance for their symptoms (see "[Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools](#)"):

- Fever: at least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Sore throat: improvement (if strep throat: do not return until at least 2 doses of antibiotic have been taken);
- Cough/Shortness of breath: improvement
- Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain: no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours
- Severe headache: improvement

DISCLAIMER: This screening tool is subject to change based on the latest information on COVID-19.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; [Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations](#)

