



As of 7-16-2020 PLEASE KEEP IN MIND ADH AND DESE GUIDANCE COULD CHANGE THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS

The Greene County Tech School District will follow the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines and the Arkansas Ready for Learning Report issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in planning for re-opening of the school district in the fall. We hope the following information helps answer many of the questions and alleviate concerns about the reopening of schools.

The goal of the Greene County Tech School District will be to provide the safest learning environment possible which provides both a rich educational experience with learning opportunities for students including social interaction and extracurricular activities, while following the guidelines provided by the ADH.

Thank you for the responses to the planning survey, which provided valuable information to the faculty, staff, and logistics of safely planning for engagement during the fall of 2020. As GCT receives additional guidance and direction from the ADH, and DESE, the FAQ's will be revised and updated. Please visit the website often to receive updated information and receive notifications as procedures and guidelines are changed.

GCT is offering two options of learning for the 2020-2021 school year. Option one (1) is Blended (On Site) Learning. Option two (2) is Virtual (Off-Site) learning exclusively at home. At this time, there is NOT a plan to schedule alternating days or half days for students. All blended learning (on site instruction) will occur five (5) days a week.

Option 1

BLENDED LEARNING (ONSITE LEARNING)-

Blended Learning (on site and remote learning) is a combination of face to face instruction in the classroom combined with technology components (Google Classroom and Zoom) both on campus and at home when school could be closed. Teachers will use Google Classroom for assignments, and while in the classroom teachers will also provide face to face instruction. A teacher will be in the classroom at all times to provide support and direction. Blended Learning means students will be on site for the school day, however, some classroom instruction can remotely be provided with the use of technology. The purpose of providing blended learning is to prepare students for any closures that could occur, and students will be prepared to participate in learning experiences at home using Google Classroom and Zoom.

When is the first day for students who attend and commit to blended (onsite) instruction?

School will begin in the Greene County Tech School District on Monday, August 24, 2020. The date could change if the ADH or DESE sends updated guidance altering the beginning date of school for students.

Will blended learning (onsite) be the same schedule as in the past?

The goal of the GCT School District is to provide the best educational experience for all students in a safe environment. The district is required to follow the guidelines as set by the ADH and DESE. Modifications to typical daily schedules on site may be necessary to meet the guidelines. Based on the current DATE and ADH guidelines, GCT will provide five (5) days of instruction PK-12 to students who are enrolled in blended learning.

Will students attend school every day or will an alternative schedule be implemented?

Yes, students who attend school in a blended learning environment, will attend school every day, unless ADH and DESE guidelines alter the schedule.

Please make arrangements for your child to have day care or etc in case the district has to close or send students home to meet ADH guidelines regarding COVID. Students will continue with Google Classroom and Zoom for Blended Learning lessons in times of closure.

Preschool Guidelines?

Preschool routines could change based on the guidance from Department of Human Services (DHS) and Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) guidelines.

Will students be allowed to attend half or split days of blended learning?

Students will attend a full day of school, five days a week, at this time the plan is not to provide half or split days of blended learning.

If a student commits to blended learning can the student switch to virtual online learning later?

Students will remain in a blended learning (on site) plan through the end of the semester, except in extenuating circumstances.

How will attendance be taken for blended (on-site) instruction?

Student attendance will be taken as outlined in the Parent Student Handbook.

How do students NEW to the district register for blended (onsite instruction)?

Contact the building of attendance for registration information, and enrollment packets.

Will GCT host Open House in each building?

Open house will be hosted virtually with technology before August 24, 2020. Information for each building's open house will be provided on the district's webpage. Buildings will provide a virtual tour of buildings, with teacher introductions and etc. Information will be on the district's web page under tab Open House. Middle School, Jr. High and High School will mail out student schedules and could provide additional virtual orientation information.

What will the first day of school look like for students?

Preschool: by scheduled appointments (split days) with social distancing guidelines practiced during the week of August 24-August 28, 2020.
Primary: by scheduled times for K-1 students (split days) with social distancing guidelines practiced during the week of August 24-August 28, 2020.
Elementary: by scheduled times for 2-3 students (split days) with social distancing guidelines practiced during the days of August 24-August 25, 2020.
Intermediate: by scheduled times for (1/2) 4-5 students (split days) with social distancing guidelines practiced during the days of August 24-August 25, 2020.
Middle School: All blended learning (on site) students will report to campus on August 24, 2020
Jr. High School: All blended learning (on site) students will report to campus on August 24, 2020
High School: All blended learning (on site) students will report to campus on August 24, 2020
Eagle Academy: All blended learning (on site) students will report to campus on August 24, 2020
GCT Virtual Learning Academy (GCTVLA), August 24, 2020, with Virtual Overview

Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes, we are planning no changes for bus schedules or bus stops at this time

Will social distancing guidelines be observed on the buses?

Yes, as much as possible

What special safety procedures will be implemented on buses?

Windows may be rolled down when possible to allow for fresh circulation of air to flow on buses.

Will students on a school bus be required to wear a mask?

Yes, due to the confined area of a bus where physical distancing is not feasible, students 4th grade and up **will be required** to wear a mask while riding a bus. All mask requirements will be reviewed individually for students with disabilities and students with specialized transportation needs. It is strongly recommended that students below grade 4 wear a mask. There may be exceptions for students with special needs and these will be considered on a case by case basis.

Will students be screened daily before riding a bus?

Parents should use the current ADH Guidance to screen each student prior to sending the student to board the bus.

- 1) Have you had a fever of 100.4 F or greater in the last two (2) days?
- 2) Have you had a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste and smell?
- 3) Have you been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days?

Students should maintain a distance of six feet apart while **WAITING** on the bus to arrive.

Will hand sanitizer be available on the bus?

Yes, hand sanitizer will be available on each bus.

Will buses be sanitized?

Yes, buses will be sanitized before each route.

Will staff be screened each morning prior to entry into the building?

All GCT staff will complete a self-screening form prior to arrival to campus.

Will students be screened each morning when entering classrooms?

(PK students will be screened and parents should self screen K-12 students prior to sending them to school each day).

- 1) Have you had a fever of 100.4 F or greater in the last two (2) days?
- 2) Have you had a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste and smell?
- 3) Have you been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days?

Who will be required to wear face coverings?

According to the state mandate issued 7-16-2020, face coverings/masks **will be required to be worn** by students in 4th-12th grades and by adults when social distancing is not possible. Students in grades K-3 may also wear masks when social distancing is not possible.

Face coverings should not cause an educational distraction. There could be exceptions for students with special needs and these will be considered on a case by case basis. Every attempt is being made to provide a safe environment for students and staff.

Will face masks be provided for students?

Students may provide their own masks, but if they need one, disposable masks will be provided. Face Coverings should not cause an educational distraction. The district will provide 2 washable masks per student grades K-12.

Will students be allowed to wear dust scarf/pull up sleeve as an alternative to a face mask?

Students will be allowed to wear neck scarves as an alternative to face masks as long as an educational distraction does not exist and the face is covered.

How will students be able to hear their teacher and watch letter sounds when their teachers are wearing masks?

Teachers will be allowed to use clear face shields/specialized guards for phonemic awareness or as needed for specific educational needs.

Teachers will be provided plastic shields for lecture and instructional purposes.

What will a normal day look like for a blended learning (onsite) student?

The goal of GCT is to provide a normal day as much as possible for students enrolled in blended (on site) learning while following safety guidelines outlined by the ADH and DESE. The goal does NOT include keeping students confined to the same classroom all day long without any breaks, however modifications may have to occur in order to follow safety guidelines.

Will water fountains be available?

Water fountains will NOT be available according to ADH guidelines. Parents are encouraged to send bottled water with students. The water should be clearly labeled with the student's name. Procedures will be provided to ensure that water bottles are filled during the school day as needed for students.

Will students still have the same arrival and dismissal times?

Yes, each building will provide information on arrival and dismissal times for students. Maintaining the same district schedule is the goal to provide continuity in traffic flow.

Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?

Social distancing will be observed as much as feasibly possible but at times, students could be closer than the recommended 6 ft. apart. When social distancing requirements can not be maintained, such as class transitions, and etc., students will be expected to wear face coverings. Attempts will be made to redesign classrooms and support spaces to increase the 6ft suggested space between students but the recommended 6 ft apart may not always be available. Every effort will be made to provide distance but not limit students ability to interact and communicate with others in the classrooms. Supplies and materials should NOT be shared by students.

Will students be socially distanced in the classrooms and will class sizes be reduced?

Every attempt will be made to keep students 6 ft apart following the ADH Guidelines, however, this might not be possible in all situations. Face masks will be required when social distancing is not possible.

Will students eat lunch in their classrooms or in the cafeteria?

Based on current guidance, the ADH is recommending cafeterias limit the capacity of students in the cafeteria. We anticipate this may either mean adjusting lunch schedules or using alternative areas, such as larger gathering spaces. On a limited basis, some students could eat lunch in their classrooms. Proper sanitation of all areas will be completed after each meal. Procedures will not allow students to pick up utensils, self-serve or share food. Parents are strongly encouraged to open an online payment account for the purchase of ala carte items at the secondary level so cash is not exchanged. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students since water fountains with touchless refilling stations will be available.

Will students be allowed to bring their lunch?

Based on the current guidelines, students can bring their own lunch.

Will parents/guardians be allowed to drop off student lunches each day at specified times?

Due to safety concerns surrounding the COVID epidemic, outside lunches will not be able to be dropped off by parents/guardians.

Will K-6 students still have recess?

Yes. K-6 students will have outdoor play time following the ADH restrictions, which could include limiting the number of students and playground equipment will be sanitized between groups of students. The district will still follow the heat and cold guidance in the parent/student handbook.

How will transitions (changing classes) occur?

Transitions (changing classes) will be unique to each grade level and each building. Students may not transition for certain classes based on ADH guidelines, as teachers such as PACE, Art, and Music might transition to students. Students in grades 4-12 could transition throughout the school day and will be **required** to wear face masks during transitions. These procedures could change after further guidance is provided by ADH and DESE.

If the school day has started, how will students who are late for arrival enter the building?

Based on the current ADH guidance, students will enter through the office and still check in prior to going to class.

How will the school help fill any gaps in student learning from the previous year?

Students in grades K-8 may be administered diagnostic assessments to determine individual learning gaps. Students will be provided with support based on needs. All courses will address unfinished learning by including essential standards that were not taught from the previous course.

Will students still receive therapy services?

Yes, following social distancing requirements, speech, physical therapy, occupational therapy, dyslexia, and mental health services will be offered with parental consent and may look different than normal.

Will students be able to participate in extracurricular activities and sports in the fall?

GCT will follow the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) guidelines in accordance with the ADH guidelines provided to schools.

Will Primary, Elementary, Intermediate and MS 6th grade students still have PE, Art, Music, Guidance Class, Computers, Library, and Pace?

Students will have special classes (art, music, library, computer lab, guidance, pace, and physical education). For PE classes, students may go to the gym, where the area would need to be sanitized prior to other students being in the area. For the other special classes, the teacher may have to go to the classroom to deliver instruction.

Will before and after care services be provided for GCT students enrolled in blended learning PK-6?

Yes, the district will follow the ADH guidance and is planning to provide these services. More information will follow.

What special advice is provided with students with special needs (autism, asthma, panic attacks, anxiety, and etc.) or students with weakened immune systems and pre-existing conditions?

GCT is prepared to accommodate students through both blended learning (on site and remote) and Virtual Learning (off site) instruction for students with special needs. GCT Special Education instructors are taking precautions when working with students. If parents have concerns about their students who maybe at high-risk, because of COVID 19, they may explore the virtual learning (off site) option which allows the student to continue their education from the safety of their own home.

What special precautions will be implemented in regard to cleaning and sanitizing?

Sanitation and cleanliness is a high priority for GCT. Building custodians will clean high touch surfaces (door knobs, light switches, and etc) and restrooms on a continuous basis throughout the school day. Specialized disinfectant sprays may be used to quickly sanitize rooms between usage. Also time will be provided for handwashing and hand sanitizing stations will be provided throughout campus. The district has purchased several misters to help provide additional sanitation.

If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?

If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen the student and check, their temperature. If temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will be sent home and will need to be fever free for 48 hours without medication before returning to school. When the child returns to school they will check in with the school nurse.

If an individual tests positive for Covid-19, what will happen?

The ADH controls the procedures to follow once a staff member or student tests positive. GCT will follow the guidance and direction from the ADH.

If 14 days of a self isolation or quarantine is required, will online instruction be provided to students?

Yes, during the time of quarantine, students will be allowed to participate in blended instruction with the use of

google classroom and zoom remotely online.

What happens if school closures occur again?

Remote (online) learning will take place for all students while schools are closed, using the blended models of Google Classroom and Zoom.

Is it possible for one school to close, but not the entire district?

Yes, based on the ADH guidance, it may be necessary to close one school for a period of time, but not the entire district.

In the event of temporary school closure, how will the district serve students who have special needs (Special Education, 504, Dyslexia, and etc?)

Remote online, blended learning will take place for all students while schools are closed using Google Classroom and Zoom.

Will outside agencies/individuals be allowed (mental health, occupational and physical therapists) be screened prior to entry into the buildings?

Yes, GCT will have trained staff members who will screen those individuals who are entering the building to provide services to students.

Will visitors, parents, and PTO members be allowed to come into the buildings?

GCT has always welcomed parent and community support; however, with the current ADH guidance, visitors are not allowed in the buildings. Extenuating circumstances could occur, and should parents enter buildings, they will be screened and required to wear face coverings. Parents will be required to make appointments for scheduled meetings, and follow all safety guidelines.

Will parents/guardians be allowed to walk a student into the school building?

No, parents and guardians may NOT walk children into the school, but they may walk their child to the school entrance. Special plans are being made for open house and first day of school for certain grades with more information to follow.

Will parents/guardians, be allowed to eat lunch with their child?

Under current ADH guidance, visitors will not be allowed in the school except for extenuating circumstances. Parents will not be allowed to eat with their children. Schools will discontinue large group gatherings (assemblies, pep rallies, etc).

Will HS students be able to attend courses at the Northeast Arkansas Career and Technical Center (NEACTS) in Jonesboro?

GCT is waiting for guidance from the NEACTS regarding how classes will be scheduled. If students are able to attend, transportation will be provided.

OPTION 2 Option 2 Virtual Learning (EXCLUSIVELY OFFSITE ONLINE LEARNING)

What is Virtual Learning?

Virtual Learning (exclusively off site online learning) is a comprehensive curriculum that is offered completely online for students. Students will receive instruction in grade appropriate level standards and will include teacher lead, digital and interactive online instruction. Students can expect to spend at least 4-5 hours of daily instruction with expectations of performing independent work.

Students will be required to participate in the following assessments with guidance from DESE:

- K-2 Renaissance
- ELPA 21 Summative
- ACT Aspire grades 3-10 (Spring)
- ACT 11th grade
- PSAT 10th Grade

When is the deadline to apply to attend the GCT Virtual Learning Academy? (GCTVLA)

7/31/2020, Application will be loaded on the district's web page soon.

How do students enroll in the GCT Virtual Learning Academy? (GCTVLA)

Parents/Students will need to fill out a contract and return to building of attendance by July 31, 2020. Taking the ready for online assessment is strongly encouraged. GCTVLA information and contracts are located on the district's web page.

How do students NEW to the district register for Virtual Learning (Exclusively Off Site Online) Learning?

Contact the building administrators for registration information, and enrollment packets are located on the district's web page.

How long is the Virtual Learning (Exclusively Off Site, Online Learning) commitment to attend classes?

Students who enroll in the GCTVLA will be for a **semester**.

Is Internet access required for Virtual Learning?

Yes, students who select this option should have reliable home internet available. Parents should consider the reliability and speed of home internet service when making decisions as virtual students will need reliable and accessible internet to complete daily assignments and activities.

Is the Pre-K program offered online for virtual learning?

No, the PK program will not be offered for virtual exclusively, off site learning.

Will students enrolled in Virtual Learning be allowed to participate in Extracurricular Activities if they commit to Virtual Learning?

Yes. Students who are enrolled in Virtual Learning **WILL BE** allowed to participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, band, choir, and etc, but will be required to attend one class period under the Arkansas Athletic Association rules. For example, a student who wishes to participate in band and is enrolled in virtual school will be required to attend one class onsite, which would be the band class. Transportation to and from campus for students to participate in the class, practice, or activity will be the responsibility of the parent/guardians.

Will students enrolled in Virtual learning be allowed to participate in Clubs and Organizations?

Yes. Students registered in Virtual Learning **will also be** allowed to participate in clubs and organizations. Transportation to all meetings, and activities will be the responsibility of the parent/guardians. Virtual meeting options for some clubs and organizations may be available while others are not.

When is the first day of school for the Virtual School Students?

Virtual School will begin on August 24, 2020. This date could change if ADH provides additional guidance.

How will attendance be taken for virtual (exclusively on-line) learning?

DESE has amended the definition of an "absence" to reflect remote, off site, and virtual learning. A student is absent if the student is NOT:

1. Present for onsite instruction provided by the district
2. Participating in a planned district-approved activity, or
3. Engaged in scheduled instruction in an off-site location, including remote learning.

What about Virtual Learning GCTVLA Open House?

Open house will be provided through technology and information loaded on the district's web page.

If a student commits to virtual learning during the fall semester, can he/she still return to blended (onsite) learning in the spring?

	Yes, students should commit to attend for a semester however, extenuating circumstances may be considered.
	Will a teacher be teaching students who are enrolled in virtual learning?
	Yes, virtual (exclusively online) learning students will have daily instruction provided by a teacher through the use of technology such as Lincoln Learning, and other technology programs.
	Will the virtual learning teacher be provided by a regular GCT teacher or provided through another provider?
	Students enrolled in virtual (exclusively online) learning will have an assigned GCT teacher. The teacher will provide instruction and use a variety of learning platforms depending on the course/content.
	Will K-6 students be provided art, music, library, computer lab, guidance, and physical education virtually?
	Yes, students will be provided these courses through virtual (exclusive off site) learning options.
	How will instruction be delivered virtually?
	All instruction will be provided exclusively online. Students will NOT come on campus for instructional purposes, and will be assigned a GCT teacher. Students will be expected to participate in technology sessions variety of formats including but not limited to Lincoln Learning, Google Classroom, Zoom, and etc. Students may be required to be ONSITE for stated mandated assessments. ALL students (K-12) will be expected to participate daily in instructional activities. Students will follow all policies, handbooks, and procedures including attendance, assignments, and behavior. Secondary students will be taught by Arkansas Highly Qualified certified teachers licensed in specialized areas of instruction.
	Will students be required to be online at specific times, and participate in classroom activities with Lincoln Learning, Zoom or Google Classroom?
	Students are expected to participate in daily learning activities and will need to meet specified deadlines for completing assignments.
	What grading practices will be used in virtual learning?
	GCTVLA teachers will determine grading practices for all virtual learning courses.
	How will unfinished learning from last spring be addressed?
	Students in grades K-8 may be administered diagnostic assessments to determine individual learning gaps. Students will be provided with support based on their needs. Courses will address unfinished learning by including essential standards that were not taught from the previous course.
	Will students still receive therapy services in virtual learning ?
	Yes, with parental consent, therapy services will be provided and scheduled in a variety of ways.
	How will special education students receive services?
	Students will continue to receive services included in their IEPs. Teachers and paraprofessionals will provide instruction through Lincoln Learning, google classroom and zoom.
	How will 504 students receive services?
	Students will continue to receive the accommodations included in their 504 plans. Teachers and paraprofessionals will provide instruction and accommodations as listed on the 504 though Lincoln Learning, Google Classroom and Zoom.
	How will English Language Learners receive services?
	Students will continue to receive services as outlined in the LPAC. Teachers and paraprofessionals will provide instruction through Lincoln Learning, Google Classroom and Zoom.
	Will Gifted and Talented (GT) students receive continued support and services?
	Yes, GT students will receive online GT support and instruction through online learning systems.

		Will Pre-AP Courses (7th-10th) be offered virtually?
		This will depend on student enrollment numbers of each AP course and the availability of instructors.
		Will Advanced Placement (AP) courses be offered virtually?
		This will depend on student enrollment numbers of each AP course and the availability of instructors.
		Will paper packets be available for Virtual Learning?
		No, paper packets will not be available, all instruction will be provided in a virtually exclusive online format.
		What technology will be required for Virtual Learning?
		GCT Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) teachers will use Lincoln Learning, Google Classroom, Zoom, and other supportive technology applications for virtually exclusive online learning.
		Will the school provide computers or internet devices for virtual learning?
		Students are encouraged to use personal devices, however, if personal devices are not available, the district will have a contract for parents and students to sign to check out devices to use in the GCTVLA program. Students should also have a high speed internet provider.
		Will outdoor internet access points be available on GCT campuses?
		The GCT School District will have Wifi access points distributed in community locations and on several campuses where students can upload and complete assignments. The locations of the free wifi access points on campus include: GCT High School front parking lot, GCT High School back parking lot, GCT Jr. High School parking lot beside Reynolds Gym, GCT bus garage parking lot, the GCT Middle School front parking lot, and the GCT Primary School front parking lot.
		Community locations for free PLWC Wifi include: West View Baptist Church, 7th and Mueller Church of Christ, Center Hill Church of Christ, Greene County Courthouse, and Pecan Grove. The district is working to provide additional free wifi locations with Craighead Electric and Empower.
		Black River Technical College, Paragould-In Parking Lot A, and Math Center parking lot.