A REOPENING GUIDE FOR FAMILIES & STAFF

SAFE and RESPONSIBLE

www.grandvalley.school
(440) 805-4545 Main Number
(440) 805-4568 Bus Garage
Dear Grand Valley Families and Students,

On behalf of Grand Valley Local Schools, I would like to thank our community for the great patience they have shown during these challenging months. Inside of this document, you will find our guideline to return to school for the 2020-2021 school year.

This document is being produced to give students, parents, staff members and community members a general guideline on how we intend to open schools. There are new information/guidelines updated every day and concrete opening plans are almost impossible to produce. It is important to note that the information in this guide is based on the most recent information provided by the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education and the Office of the Governor, and it intended to protect the health of all Ohioans. In the coming weeks, additional information may become available which may alter the original guidance of this document. The district will communicate any changes to these guidelines as information becomes available.

We do know that we want to open safe and responsible. Given the continued presence of Covid-19, health and safety precautions are paramount. We must: 1) Care for Students and Adults, especially the most vulnerable; 2) Prioritize Student Learning; 3) Ensure effective Teaching; and 4) Operate efficiently, effectively and responsibly within state defined parameters.

As we reopen our schools, please be assured that this goal will govern all daily practices. We have three levels of “Brick and Mortar” attendance for kids coming back to traditional school. We will participate at the level which is the safest for our children, staff and community. We will also have a Grand Valley total virtual option for students/parents to choose from as well. If total virtual is your choice, we ask that you enroll you child as soon as possible so we can prepare online curriculums for those students. Grand Valley Digital Learning Enrollment Form (Link)

The staff members will participate in professional development as early as August 18th which will include training staff members in the use of GV Digital platforms (the digital platforms that will be used), as well as procedures and policies in our schools with regard to COVID-19. Our students will return to the classroom “to be announced,” but no earlier than August 25th. In August, each building will have a schedule of when specific groups will start school. Delays and staggered starts are probable and will be communicated when known.

We have taken great care to follow all mandates set forth by Governor DeWine, the Ohio Health Department, the Centers for Disease Control, the Ohio Department of Education and the Ashtabula County Health Department when creating our plan to return to school. As the district receives new and updated mandates, we will adjust practices in our school campus. I would remind you that although we are planning to return to school, Governor DeWine can issue a stay at home order at any time, resulting in school closing and all students returning to online classrooms.

Thank you for entrusting Grand Valley with the education of your children. Together we will work to educate our students through these uncertain and turbulent times.

Stay healthy and safe,

[Signature]

Superintendent
Grand Valley Local Schools
william.nye@grandvalley.school
440) 805-4545 Ext. 4
Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)
cdc.gov/coronavirus

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:

- Cough
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

VIGILANTLY ASSESS for SYMPTOMS

Since COVID-19 spreads so rapidly, it is essential that students (and their caregivers), staff and volunteers conduct daily health checks prior to going to school which should include taking their temperature and assessing their symptoms. Anyone with symptoms or a temperature above 100 degrees or above must stay home.

How to stop it spreading

- Wash your hands regularly
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Stay home if you’re unwell
Learning Options

Families will have two options for learning environments when students return to school:

**Option 1: Attend school in person**
- Ride a bus to school (all riders wear a mask) or dropped off at school (highly encouraged)
- Safety protocols in place
- Face coverings must be worn in grades 3-12
- Grades K-2 face covering highly encouraged
- Social distancing when possible

We will have three (3) modes of instruction for the **Attend School in Person** model:

1. **Green** where students can attend all five (5) days a week safely.
2. **Yellow** where students will attend 2 – 2.5 days a week at school and 2 – 2.5 days a week online with their teacher with a school assigned device. This mode will be used to meet needed social distancing requirements to remain safe.
3. **Red** – where students will attend school five (5) days a week online with their teacher with a school assigned device. This mode will be used to meet urgent safety needs.

With all modes, the students will be required to attend class with their teacher during a regular scheduled school day.

**Option 2: Learn from home**
- Students enroll for an entire semester at a time
- Online classes taught by Grand Valley staff
- Students engage in online learning and independent assignments
- Curriculum follows the Ohio Department of Education guidelines
- If a child returns to in-person learning, after being in an online setting for a semester, they are not guaranteed to have the same teacher that they had while online. They will be on pace with in-school students.
- A child enrolled in online classes will be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Students enrolled in ATECH programs are able to take their high school classes and vocational classes at ATECH and should carefully review all expectations with their program supervisor before enrolling.
- Any Grand Valley online students will have the ability to receive or purchase breakfast and lunch. Meals will be taken to drop off points during the week.

At this time, students in grades K-12 are able to register to remain at home while receiving their education online.

The online school option will be provided by the Grand Valley Local School District teaching staff who will continue to follow state standards utilizing district curriculum resources. Students can participate in both synchronous (live) virtual learning, and asynchronous (working independently on assignments) virtual learning. Students will be expected to participate in all local and state testing as required by the Ohio Department of Education and attendance requirements will apply. For students with an IEP or 504 plan, specific services and accommodations will be reviewed as a team prior to the start of classes. All students will receive instruction in core courses and be provided access to the courses that will enable them to earn the appropriate credits toward promotion and graduation. Based on enrollment and staffing, some elective options may not be available as synchronous (live) courses and will be completed independently as an asynchronous option with teacher monitoring and support. Families will commit to a minimum of one semester of instruction when choosing the online school option.

If you would prefer to have your child remain at home and receive an online education, you can register them here: [Grand Valley Digital Learning Enrollment Form (Link)](Link)
The most effective tool used in all schools is social distancing. The district will make every effort to distance students and staff at all times.

**In order to keep Grand Valley students and staff safe, the following measures will be taken inside of all buildings:**

- All policies, practices and procedures used in Grand Valley buildings will follow mandates and guidelines created by the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ashtabula County Health Department and the Office of Governor DeWine. These are subject to change based on the recommendations of these agencies.
- Class schedules and building start and end times may be changed. Fifth grade will be on an Elementary School schedule.
- Specific guidelines have been developed for students visiting school clinics.
- When possible, classroom furniture will be spaced appropriately and will face in the same direction.
- There will be no large group gatherings (assemblies, field trips, etc.).
- In order to minimize the potential for the spread of germs on common surfaces, doors will remain open.
- Students will eat in the cafeteria and will be distanced to the greatest extent possible. Lunch times will be staggered to decrease the number of students in the cafeteria at one time. Some students will eat in their rooms.
- Locker use will be minimized. It may be necessary for students to keep all materials with them during the day.
- There will be no shared materials (glue sticks, crayons, pens, etc.).
- Any item that must be used by more than one person (i.e. computers) will be sanitized following each use.
- Students will have assigned seats whenever possible: lunch, in-class, on buses.
- School bus disinfection protocol, established by state and local health department, will be followed daily and between bus runs.

**PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Keeping a distance of 6 feet or more between people adds another layer of prevention against the spread of COVID-19 by minimizing the chance of coming into contact with the virus through respiratory droplets.

**FACT:** Social distancing, with at least 6 feet between people, can reduce the spread of infectious disease.
In order to keep Grand Valley students and staff safe, the following measures will be taken inside of all buildings (continued):

- Students will not be permitted to bring snacks/treats to schools to share with fellow classmates. This includes birthday treats at the elementary level.
- All meetings of parent sponsored organizations will be held in a virtual format (for example: Boosters, PTO, PTA).
- Additional cleaning/disinfecting will be performed before, during and after school.
- Except in the case of an emergency, there will be no visitors permitted in buildings. This includes Elementary School classroom parties.
- Elementary School students will be going outside for recess on a staggered schedule to decrease the number of students on the playground.
- When social distancing in physical education classes, students will be instructed by their physical education teachers as to when they are able to remove facial coverings.
- To the greatest extent possible, traveling in hallways will be limited. There could be one way travel.
- Restrooms will be used by a limited number of persons at any given time.
- Information specific to each building will be sent out by building principals.
- Additional hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the building in high traffic areas and classrooms.
- Additional cleaning materials will be in classrooms and available for use throughout the day.
- Increased opportunities will be given throughout the school day for additional handwashing.
- Schools must monitor daily absences of students and staff for trends.
- Students will provide their own hand sanitizer to be used in addition to the sanitizer supplied by the district.

**WASH and SANITIZE HANDS to PREVENT SPREAD**

**FACT:** Handwashing and other common prevention methods are some of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of infectious disease.

Handwashing and sanitizing is an important tool in preventing the spread of COVID-19 by killing the virus.
As stated in Governor DeWine’s health and prevention guidelines, “Use of cloth face coverings can reduce the spread of respiratory droplets that, in infected people, carry and spread COVID-19.” Because of this, Grand Valley Local Schools will require the use of masks to reduce the spread of germs. When possible, the district will always use social distancing as the first line of defense.

Persons will be required to wear masks, unless they are unable to do so due to medical reasons. Persons unable to wear a mask will be required to present written documentation provided by a physician as to why they are unable to wear a facial covering.

- All students in grades 3-12 will be required to wear a mask on campus or in school, when socially distancing is not possible (students are in a group or less than 6 feet from other persons). Students that are working independently, and are socially distant, will be permitted to work without a mask as determined by staff.
- Student masks will be provided by parents/family.
- Students will not be required to wear a mask while eating.
- Visitors will only be allowed on campus for absolute need.
- All visitors on campus will be required to wear a mask at all times.
- Persons unable to wear a mask must provide written documentation.
- Students in grades K-2 are encouraged to wear masks, but this is not mandatory.
- Elementary students may wear face covering/shield in lieu of a mask only with staff approval.
Someone in our school is sick. What now? www.grandvalley.school

In order to ensure the health and well being of our families, students and staff, it is imperative that the district follow all mandates set by Governor DeWine’s office and the state and local health departments.

**If a person in a school building were to become ill or exhibit signs and symptoms of COVID-19:**

- Any person showing signs of illness will be immediately quarantined in a designated location in their school building. Once quarantined:
  - Temperature will be taken by designated school personnel wearing appropriate PPE.
  - Any person exhibiting symptoms will be sent home and will be referred to appropriate health care professionals or a COVID-19 testing site.
  - COVID-19 symptomatic person cannot return to school until they meet current CDC criteria for return to work/school.
- Areas of the building occupied by a person with symptoms will be thoroughly sanitized.
- Local health department protocol will be followed with regard to reporting of persons in the building exhibiting symptoms.
- Local health departments will inform persons of potential exposure and those persons should follow quarantine and other recommendations from local health departments and their healthcare provider.

***All procedures are subject to change based on recommendations from the state and local health departments***

**If a person in a school building were to test positive for COVID-19 or is in the presence of another person testing positive for COVID-19:**

- Any person testing positive for COVID-19 must refrain from entering a Grand Valley building for a minimum of 14 days unless otherwise instructed by their healthcare professional.
- Any person testing positive for COVID-19 must present the school with a note from their healthcare professional stating that it is safe for them to return to our Grand Valley campus.
- Individuals who test positive for or are suspected to have COVID-19 must experience an improvement in symptoms and isolate for a period of time (as recommended by the local health department) before returning to school.
- Individuals who are in the presence of someone that has tested positive for COVID-19 must follow all recommendations set by the local health department and must contact their home school.

FOR UPDATED PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION AND RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO COVID-19, VISIT WWW.CORONAVIRUS.ohio.gov.