



July 30, 2020

Dear GCS Families,

I know all families are eager for answers regarding what school will look like at Greenville in September. While there are still many questions and unknowns, all districts are creating and submitting reopening plans according to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) guidelines. In addition, Governor Cuomo has released a formula to determine whether schools can open in September. If a region is in Phase IV and the daily infection rate remains below 5% or lower using a fourteen-day average, schools can open with in-person instruction. If daily infection rates exceed 9% over a seven-day average, schools in that region would not open. The governor also announced that decisions on the opening of schools will be made during the first week of August.

In making decisions for our reopening plan, the administrative team reviewed all of the guidelines from NYSED and NYSDOH (linked below) and elicited input from our stakeholder groups. I would like to thank all of our parents/guardians who responded to our school reopening survey as we received 1,069 responses! The survey responses indicated that 80% of families want to resume in-person instruction or have a hybrid of in-person and remote learning. Others indicated they feel at-home remote learning is best and/or have not yet decided. When asked “What are your biggest concerns?”, the two most frequent responses were “Remote learning - I do not feel it matches the quality of in-person instruction” and “I am concerned my child is missing out on socialization with classmates.” It was also clear from survey results the level of concern families have for the safety and health of their children and school staff.

As we prepare to return to school this fall, it is important to know that the safety and health of our students, faculty, and staff has been the most important aspect of our planning. We want students and employees to feel safe returning to school. As an administrative team we believe for most students, in-person learning is critical for mental health and emotional well-being, as well as academic success. It is especially important at the elementary level where our students are learning so many foundational skills. Our plan is designed to safely bring the most students back in-person as possible, while providing additional opportunities and improving upon the remote learning systems that we utilized this past spring. The District is committed to continual improvement regardless of the model of instruction.

The preliminary reopening plan is a “living document” that will continue to change as we learn more and need to adjust our thinking to allow our school district to safely reopen. The plan continues to be developed with input from stakeholder groups, including families, faculty, administrators, teachers, nurses, support staff from all departments, pupil personnel services staff, and our local department of health. In summary, the preliminary reopening plan includes the following key points:

- Elementary students in grades K-5 will attend school in-person every day
- Middle and high school students in grades 6-12 will participate in a hybrid model where they attend school in-person for two days, followed by remote instruction for two days
- Some K-12 students will be fully remote

We are committed to open communication and sharing information as it becomes available. We have established a banner on our website that will take you to a page with updates and resources for the 2020-2021 school year. The administrative team will be presenting the preliminary plan to the Board of

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Education on Monday, August 3 from 5:00-6:00 pm. This presentation will be streamed on YouTube. The Preliminary Reopening Plan and corresponding slideshow presentation will be posted on our website Tuesday, August 4. [Click this link to view Monday's BOE meeting on YouTube.](#)

We have scheduled informational family sessions hosted by the building principals for the following dates:

- August 4th from 6:00-7:00 pm
Elementary School Forum via Google Meet
[Click this link to attend Google Meet](#)
- August 4th from 7:15-8:15 pm
Middle School/High School Forum via Google Meet
[Click this link to attend Google Meet](#)

The 2020-21 school year will be different for everyone and as a District we are prepared to adjust and respond at any given moment. Thank you for your support; together we will work to support our students in having a successful and safe year, both emotionally and academically.

Sincerely,



Tammy J. Sutherland
Superintendent of Schools

Links to recommendations and guidance documents our reopening plan incorporates:

- [NYS Department of Health: Interim Guidance for In-person Instruction At Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
- [NYS Education Department: Recovering, Rebuilding and Renewing: The Spirit of New York's Schools - Reopening Guidance](#)
- [Center for Disease Control: Preparing K-12 School Administrators for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020](#)