

August 31, 2020

Dear GCS Families:

Welcome to the start of a new but different school year! Thank you to all of our stakeholders who provided input during our planning for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Your participation and feedback was outstanding with over 1000 responses to our initial parent survey and over 550 follow-up questions. Several themes emerged as we worked on our opening plans: keep everyone safe, there are challenges associated with learning from home, and relationships between students and adults are important. We listened and evaluated all comments, which impacted decisions that were made. The following four items continue to be our major guiding principles for all of our planning work:

1. To follow guidelines to ensure the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff.
2. To support the social-emotional and mental well-being of students and establish positive relationships with students.
3. To maximize learning opportunities for all students by utilizing a variety of instructional models and to prioritize in-person instruction for our youngest learners and those who need additional assistance.
4. To plan with flexibility in mind as we know additional information and changing conditions will require us to continually evaluate and adjust our plans.

Greenville CSD has highly dedicated educators and support staff who will provide the guidance and support needed as we navigate through this school year. Starting in September, approximately 80% of our students will be returning to the in-person or hybrid instructional model, with the remaining 20% participating remotely. Regardless of the chosen instructional model, it is important that we provide what is needed for our students to thrive. The start of a school year represents a new beginning and a fresh start for all students. Please encourage your child(ren) to reflect on how he/she can be prepared and work hard to have a successful year. There will be different ways to build relationships and grow as learners.

While summer is always a busy time of year, this year has been like no other as we plan for a new school year. As I have said many times, the [Preliminary Reopening Plan](#) is a living document that will continue to evolve as we receive additional guidance, and evaluate what is working and/or not working once school begins. What has not changed is the important work that is related to our school mission: to be a place where everyone learns, everyone teaches, and everyone belongs.

All stakeholders identified the health and safety of all (reducing the risk and spread of COVID-19) as the highest priority. I know as a small close knit community we will band together, to protect all of our children, employees and greater community. This is specifically true for home screenings and following guidelines which include social distancing and the use of face coverings.

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Below are the highlighted portions of our plan that speak to screenings, face coverings and other general information. Additional building specific information will be sent next week by your child's building principal.

Screening:

As parents you are the first line of defense to keep the student body, employees and the greater community healthy. The District will require parents/caregivers to be responsible to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day. Students who are sick should not attend school in-person. Parents will conduct screening measures using a web based application prior to their child boarding the bus and or being transported to school. Staff will complete screenings prior to reporting to work. This process is in place to ensure that ill students and/or staff do not come on campus. This screening will include:

- Daily temperature checks at home for students and staff
- Daily screening questionnaires

If parents are unable to screen at home they should contact their building principal so the child can be screened at school. The District will also complete random screenings at rotating entry points.

Additional information will be sent out regarding the symptoms of COVID-19, the screening process and the web based application that will be used to monitor students and staff.

Face Covering:

For the safety of all, the reopening plan is designed to start more restrictive and allow for continuous evaluation.

Face coverings will be expected to be worn at all times including prior to entering the school district, during the school day, on the school bus, when entering or exiting the school building, moving through the hallways or classroom, at any time that adequate and appropriate social distancing cannot be maintained, and any other time as directed by administration. Students will be provided mask breaks during each instructional period. Mask breaks will require all individuals to be seated with appropriate social distance and will have a duration of 5-10 minutes under the guidance of a teacher with no movement and talking. Students will not be required to wear face coverings while eating their lunch.

- The District will encourage all employees and students to provide their own face covering and to keep a replacement mask(s) at the school in case their initial mask fails or becomes soiled throughout the school day.
- The District will also continue to maintain an adequate stock of disposable and cloth face coverings for emergency use or by request.
- Face coverings will also be available on each of the school buses for students who have forgotten, broken, or soiled their face coverings.

Hand Hygiene:

A key component of staying healthy is hand washing. To assist us in this effort, please encourage frequent and efficient hand washing with your child. Sanitizer stations will be located in all classrooms as

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well as other areas of the school campus. Along with teachers and other employees, please encourage your child to sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting the classroom.

2020-2021 School Calendar REVISED:

Greenville will start the school year with three Superintendent Conference Days to provide faculty and staff with resources and time to prepare for the school year. To prioritize safety and monitor the reopening plan, there will be a phased three day in-person opening at the Elementary School.

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| September 8-10 | Superintendent Conference Days |
| September 11 | In-person classes begin for Kindergarten and Grade 1 Grades 2-5 Remote Grades 6-12 - Hybrid - <i>Spartan</i> Group In-person/ Strong Group Remote |
| September 14 | In-person classes Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2 and 3 Grades 4-5 Remote Grades 6-12 - Hybrid - <i>Spartan</i> Group In-person/ Strong Group Remote |
| September 15 | In-person classes Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Grades 6-12 - Hybrid - Strong Group In-person/ <i>Spartan</i> Group Remote |

Attendance:

While we will begin this year with students in all three instructional models, in-person, hybrid and fully remote, attendance and on-time arrival is required and important. Daily attendance will be recorded in the SchoolTool student management system. Elementary students' attendance will be recorded upon arrival in their classroom or upon signing on remotely. Middle school and high school students will have attendance recorded whether participating in-person or remotely. Students who are remote will have their camera on to verify attendance. Regular school attendance continues to be one of the most powerful ways you can help prepare your child for success, both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades and develop healthy life habits. Even once-monthly absences have a profound impact on student outcomes. Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most impactful ways that you can bolster the work that occurs in the classroom.

Visitors/Volunteers:

Unfortunately at this point, we will not be allowing visitors or volunteers to come into the buildings. We will continue to plan parent forums and additional communication methods to provide the support that our families need. We need your help to stay connected. Next week you will be receiving a contact card, please take time to review it and make sure the information is up-to-date.

Teaching Students About COVID-19:

This summer 30 members of our K-12 faculty and staff participated in a workshop with a Questar III Science Professional Development Specialist, working on developing lessons on COVID-19. Teachers

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worked in grade bands of K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 identifying critical concepts that all grade levels should understand on COVID. This turned into three essential questions that will be utilized at all levels.

1. What is a virus and what makes COVID unique?
2. How does coronavirus spread/transmit from one person to another?
3. How do we protect ourselves, our friends/families, and our community?

These lessons will be reviewed with our student body within the first two weeks of school. If you have not already done so please take the time to review the [Preliminary Reopening Plan](#) and talk to you children in advance, so that they are prepared for the changes they will experience as they return to school.

District Goals:

While a significant amount of time this summer has been dedicated to developing our opening plans, we also developed our 2020-2021 [District Goals](#), which were approved by the Board of Education at their August Board meeting.

Capital Project Update

On a positive note, our capital project is nearing completion and it is great to see our employees and community members using our new track and tennis courts. These facilities will continue to be open for employee and community use.

I wish everyone a safe remainder of the summer. After 34 years with the District, it continues to be an honor and privilege to serve this community. I will continue to work hard as part of our Greenville team that cares about the safety of all, builds and nurtures relationships, expands educational opportunities and experiences, while providing support so that each child meets their maximum potential. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to do our very best for our community's children. They deserve it, and we simply cannot do this important work without you.

Sincerely,



Tammy J. Sutherland
Superintendent of Schools

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