

Dear GCS Parents,

We are looking forward to being able to have school in person for the 2020-2021 school year. After many hours of meetings and research, we would like to present the following guidelines for reopening school this fall. We have full support of the board and a majority of parents and staff to reopen in full, with a number of precautions. We recognize that we may need to alter our plan as the year moves forward and we appreciate your grace and understanding.

This has to be a team effort. Obviously this is unlike anything anyone has ever experienced and it will take full cooperation of parents, staff, teachers and the board to make this school year successful. It starts at home. Your home is the most important part of our plan. You must be proactive, observant, and aware if your child exhibits any symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19 and keep them at home. Please work with your children, encouraging good hygiene and keeping an eye on their health at all times.

Arrival:

- We will be taking each student's temperature as they arrive at school. We will be using a **NO touch, one second** thermometer to scan temps before each student exits their vehicle. If temps are under **100.4**, they will be allowed to enter school as normal. If their temperature is 100.4 or above, we will ask you to park your vehicle. We will come back to check the temperature in a few minutes and ask about other symptoms.
- As of now we are limiting the amount of parents in and out of the building. Preschool parents are welcome to walk their children in after having their own temperature checked.
- If you need to speak with a teacher or staff member please make an appointment ahead of time.

In class:

- Face Coverings - All entrances to Grant Christian School (GCS) will display a CDC information poster that GCS is a "Mask Recommended Zone". We believe that masks or face coverings are a family decision. Face coverings have been purchased and will be provided to all students from preschool through 8th grade as a courtesy. Bullying will not be tolerated for family mask choice.
- Cleaning -
- Spacing - Students will face in the same direction to limit exposure. There will be maximum spacing between desks depending on room size and layout. There will be no groups or islands of desks.
- Supplies - Students will have individual supplies, and will be encouraged not to share their materials with others. Students will use their own headphones when using computers in the classroom and for computer class.
- Lunch - Hot lunch will still be available to order Monday/Wednesday/Friday. Students will go to the gym to pick up their hot lunch at staggered times and bring their lunch back to the classroom. Lunch will be eaten in our classrooms as normal. Students will be responsible for wiping their desks. Students will have their own Norwex Cloth (non toxic/non chemical) to wipe their space and help keep the classroom clean. Students will be required to wipe their desks after snack, lunch, and the end of the day. Teachers will be

using disinfectant to wipe down surfaces at the end of each day. All Norwex Cloths will be washed each weekend. pots with their Norwex Cloth after eating.

- Trash - Trash will be taken out daily. Teachers will empty their classroom trash and set it outside the back of the building for our middle school students to dispose of. Students will be required to wash their hands after helping with trash pick up.

Specials Classes:

- STEM/Computers - The STEM teacher will come into the classrooms to teach STEM and Computers as much as possible. This will help stop cross contamination with our space and supplies.
- PE - Students will wash their hands when entering and exiting the gym. We will alter equipment use as much as possible (may not all play floor hockey in one day) and rotate activities. We will wipe down and disinfect equipment as needed.
- Art - Art will continue to be held in the Art room, as many different supplies are needed. The 5th-8th graders will use the exterior door. Our Art teacher will distribute supplies as needed and will disinfect supplies and surfaces between classes.

Recess:

- We will do our best to keep Preschool, K-2nd, 3rd-4th, and 5th-8th separated at recess. We will rotate where the groups play each day so that they are able to experience all of the different activities our property offers. The playground will be monitored by two staff members or adult volunteers at each recess.

Middle School Sports:

- At GCS we intend to participate in our usual sports, pending the availability of other schools in our league.
- At this time we are coordinating with our league to set sports schedules. Rules for games will be determined collectively by our league.

Cases of COVID:

- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, he/she needs to be quarantined immediately for a minimum of 10 days from the 1st day of the onset of symptoms. Please inform the school office immediately of a positive test.
- In order for a student who tested positive for COVID-19 to return to school, they must have quarantined for a minimum of 10 days from the 1st day of symptoms AND be fever free for 24 hours after the 10 day quarantine.
- If your child has a fever of 100.4 or above, they may only return to school after they have been fever free for 48 hours AND any other symptoms have improved.
- If your child is absent due to COVID-19 or a temperature of 100.4 or above, you can pick up work for your child at the end of each day, or have it sent home with a sibling.
- Response to positive COVID-19 tests among staff and students.
 - Cooperate with local public health department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and in particular, collect the contact information for any close contacts of the affect individual from 2 days before he/she was last present at the school
 - Families will be notified of the presence of any GCS positive COVID-19 cases to encourage parents to watch more closely for COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Extra sanitization measures will be implemented for impacted classrooms.

***COVID-19 Symptoms include (District 10 Health Department): temperature of 100.4 or higher, sore throat, new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing, diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain, new onset of severe headache, especially with a fever. ***

Extras:

- The bathrooms will be cleaned every day after school.
- We will continue to have Chapel each Wednesday. We will not have chapel groups at this time. Students will stay with their own class and will be spread throughout the gym for the duration of Chapel.
- We will not be having buddies at this time. We hope to reevaluate this as the year goes along, however at this time we feel that we need to limit the direct contact between classes.
- We have added hand hygiene stations throughout the building. We will have two hygiene stations at every building entry/exit and by the doorway of each classroom. We will encourage staff and students to use these stations as they enter and exit any room or building.
- Our drinking fountain will ONLY be used for filling water bottles. We encourage students to bring their own water bottles.
- Extra hooks for backpacks/coats have been added to the hallways to help with congestion in the classroom closets.
- Volunteers are still welcome to help out in classrooms as requested by the classroom teacher. However, when entering the building, they will need to have their temperature taken by the office staff.
- If we discover our area is developing into a hot spot for a COVID-19 outbreak, we will take decisive action to implement our distance learning plan.

Remote Learning

- Short term closure (up to 5 days)
 - Work packets distributed via printed packets or Google Classroom.
- Long Term Closure (5 days or over)
 - Chrome books distributed to families in need. This will happen 1-2 days post closure
 - Work packets will be available ASAP
 - Teachers will prepare for remote virtual learning for the first two days. On the third school day remote instruction will commence.
 - Google Classrooms will be the remote learning platform utilized.

We understand that after reading our reopening plan, you may have questions. If you have any questions or concerns, please email the office with the subject line COVID-19 Questions. Visit the frequently asked questions on our website for more information.

Our teachers and staff are ready and excited to be back in the classroom. We have missed all our students and families! We are all ready to have our halls, rooms, and hearts filled with

learning, laughter, and community. We look forward to seeing you at our “Back to School Cookout” on August 24th and for the first day of school August 26th!

With God’s help, we are looking forward to another great year at Grant Christian School!

Prayers and Blessings,

David VanderZanden, Principal

Melissa DeVries, Assistant Principal & Kindergarten Teacher