



GEORGIA ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL  
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**Date: August 10, 2020**

**To: Georgia Families and Community**

**From: Julie Conrad and Steve Emery**

**Re: School Reopening Update #4**

As we get closer to our start of the school year on September 8th, we want to remind you that our reopening plans are based on science and the data from Vermont. It is easy to be pulled into worrisome news headlines from around the country but it is important to remember that Vermont is in a unique position and our data has been carefully and continually monitored by state and local officials. We are lucky to have a positive collaboration between our Governor's office and the Health Department. Vermont's contact tracing and response system have been hugely attributed to the successful mitigation of COVID. We firmly believe that our hybrid model will provide us with a safe and smart start.

### **Classroom Placements:**

We are working hard to accommodate all families' requests and place students appropriately to support individual needs. This entails planning for all students selected for our remote learning opportunity, switching Mon/Tues and Thurs/Fri groups student requests, and finalizing classroom placements with teacher names attached. There has been a lot of movement due to the high volume of requests. We understand your needs and appreciate your flexibility throughout this process.

### **Family Hybrid Schedules:**

You should have received an email from us last Wednesday evening providing you the information about the placement of your student's in-person schedule in our hybrid schedule for this fall. We are working incredibly hard to accommodate all family requests and needs. **If you have flexibility in your schedule and could potentially switch the days of your child's in-person school days, please let us know by completing this short [form](#).** This will allow us to make final decisions, move students while creating balanced classrooms.

### **Virtual Schooling Option:**

We are continuing to work on the process/partnership of the virtual school collaboration with the VTVC to support our students and families that are medically vulnerable to COVID complications. We will be reaching out soon to those who indicated their need shortly.

### **Preparation for first student day, September 8th, 2020**

- All students and staff will be required to wear a mask throughout the day when inside. We recommend that students bring three (3) clean masks per day.

- All students and staff will be required to pass a health check before entering our building each day.
- The first days of in-person learning will be focused on establishing connections with students and introducing the new routines for their classroom for this year. There will be no Step Up day as discussed in the spring.
- Middle school students will bring their personal belongings into their classroom, therefore there will be no lockers this year for grades 5 - 8.

### **Safety and Wellbeing Resources:**

1. We highly recommend that you review the Vermont Department of Health's pdf, [Face Coverings for Children](#). In this resource, you will find information on how to help support your child's mask-wearing practices. As a reminder, the state requires that all students MUST wear a mask while they are in school unless they are outside and safely distanced from others. We will be working to maximize outside class time to give students a needed break but this requirement is mandated.
2. UVM Health Network YouTube Videos are a great resource to help you to better prepare your students with the health practices we are all working to build into our routines.
  - a. [How Do I explain COVID-19 to my child?](#) (corrected link)
  - b. [Wearing a mask the right way](#)
  - c. [Challenges with masks](#)
  - d. [Taking care of masks](#)
  - e. AOE's Social Story: [Getting My Temperature Taken](#)
3. [COVID Support VT](#) is an important website designed to provide tips, resources, and a way to connect to existing mental health and community services.

We will continue to provide weekly updates. Again, we know that all of this information is overwhelming and you likely have many questions. Please understand that we are continuing to pursue ways to accommodate families and are seeking flexible solutions and supports. Please use this survey form, [Weekly Update: Family Feedback Form](#), to share your questions with us.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we navigate through this unique time. We hope that as we communicate new information each week, it will allow you to build in the excitement with your students for a healthy and safe return to school this fall.

Respectfully,

Julie Conrad and Steve Emery  
Georgia Elementary Middle School Principals