



GEORGIA ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL
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Date: August 3, 2020

To: Georgia Families and Community

From: Julie Conrad and Steve Emery

Re: School Reopening Update

We want to ensure that with Governor Scott's announcement that our first day of school will now be on September 8th. We will share any further information we have about the school calendar as soon as we have that information.

Family Hybrid Schedules:

You will be receiving an email on Wednesday from our school that will let you know which cohort your student(s) will be attending for the school year while we are in a hybrid model. As a reminder, your child will either have in-person schooling on Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. Those families who have requested an all virtual schooling option will still receive these emails as we are continuing to work on finalizing the details of the virtual schooling partnership with the VTVLC. As always, we will try hard to accommodate any requests that you have regarding the days that work for your family and we will be looking for information from families that may be flexible to allow us to maintain balance in our numbers.

Virtual Schooling Option:

We are continuing to work on the process/partnership of the virtual school collaboration with the VTVLC. We believe that we will be in a position to share much more information by the end of the week. We appreciate your thoughtful questions and patience as we are learning throughout the process. We will communicate with all families that expressed interest in this option when we have solid information to share.

Safety and Wellbeing:

Home health checks will be a part of our regular school day. More details will be coming forward but we will be asking parents and caregivers to screen all students prior to leaving for school. This collective action will be incredibly important to maintain a healthy school environment.

Family/Community Advisory Group:

We want to thank the many parents that have volunteered to be a part of this advisory group. We will be sending an agenda and link to a Zoom meeting for our first meeting later this week to those that indicated they would like to be a part of this work. We will be meeting on Monday, August 10th from 6 - 7:30 pm.

FAQs

- **What will the in-person days look like for students?**
 - Students will arrive at school and after passing the health screening will go straight to their classrooms where they will wash their hands. Students will spend most of their day in their classroom and/or outdoors. They will have their class lessons with their teachers, unified arts teachers will come to their classrooms for those lessons (with the exception of pe). We will utilize outdoor spaces for play and breaks as much as we can as well as encourage outdoor learning activities when appropriate and safe.
- **What kind of facial coverings should I get my child?**
 - All students will be required to wear a face-covering each day while in school and outside if physical distancing is not possible. We ask that each child come to school with three clean masks each day.
 - Masks should be worn so that it covers their nose and chin and secured to minimize gaps between the mask and face.
 - Face shields are also allowed. The state recommends that those face shields go from ear to ear, below the chin and there is no gap between the top of the face shield and the hat/band that secures it to their head.
- **What can I be doing now to prepare my child for the safety/health processes now?**
 - We highly encourage that you work on two things between now and the start of school to help your child be prepared for school:
 - **Mask Stamina:** Students will need to wear masks for a period of time. We highly encourage that you try different masks to find ones that are comfortable and then work to increase the amount of time they wear them.
 - **Hand washing practice:** Proper handwashing has always been important but now we know it's even more important during this pandemic. This video, [Purple Paint](#), is a great way to show and share with your student to support proper handwashing.

We will continue to provide 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