



Frequently Asked Questions

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GPS COVID Response Liaison - Hans Peter Metzger, Head of School

Is GPS open for on-campus instruction?

Based on the most recent LA County guidelines, our Preschool through sixth grade classes are able to have in person instruction. Students in grades 7 and 8 are permitted to have in-person classes under the “special needs” category which allows up to 25% of the school enrollment to be on campus.

Is there a distance learning program?

Students who choose to be in the distance learning program will meet online with their teacher for synchronous instructional time and will be assigned work to be completed as a class or independently. Work will be given as a class, small groups, or independently to be submitted online.

What if my student needs additional help/individual help?

Teachers will be available to meet in person or online with students during designated times throughout the day. For Lower School students, parents should reach out to the teacher for assistance. Middle School students are encouraged to reach out to the individual teacher during class time or scheduled study hall or flex block periods.

How do we receive materials needed for school?

Pick up days will be scheduled for on-line students to pick up workbooks, class materials, and equipment that will be needed for instruction. We will coordinate with teachers and specialists whenever possible to limit the number of pick up days needed. Materials will be picked up from the office between 8:00 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.

The following information is subject to change based on information released by local health authorities.

When will school reopen?

GPS is currently open for students in grades Preschool through eight.

What if my student is not able to attend in person?

Families may choose to continue with the distance learning program even after we have re-opened. Classes will be live-streamed and the student will receive the same instruction, work and supplemental materials as those who are attending in person. Teachers will be able to engage with students online and give them opportunities to participate in class activities. Arrangements will be made on a case by case basis.

Can we switch to in person or distance learning during the year?

Families will be able to choose if they would like to attend in person or online. Changes will be allowed during the year based on individual needs. Arrangements will need to be made with the teacher and the school principal.

What protocols will be taken when school re-opens?

- Face coverings for anyone 2 years and older must be worn while on campus
- Scheduled and thorough hand washing for students and staff throughout the day
- Physical distancing in the classroom whenever possible
- Temperature and symptom screening before entering campus
- *Cohort groups limited to a size that allows for six foot distancing between individuals when indoors*
- Signage and markings around campus for one way walkways, mask requirements, social distancing, and proper handwashing
- Staggered drop off and pick up times for Preschool, Lower School and Middle School
- Use of outdoor learning spaces when possible
- Daily cleaning of classrooms, offices, and play structures
- Frequent cleaning of shared sports equipment, toys and high touch areas such as door handles, keyboards and desks throughout the day
- Designated play and lunch areas
- Non-essential visitor restrictions on campus
- COVID-19 testing - We encourage every family to be tested before returning to school. Faculty will be tested on an ongoing basis once classes resume

What is a cohort or stable group?

A cohort (sometimes called a stable group) consists of a designated group of students and adults that stay together throughout the day. Cohorts will be limited in their interactions with other students and adults while on campus and will remain together for all activities including specialists, recess, and lunch.

What is the cleaning schedule for classrooms, toys and sports equipment?

Classrooms, offices, bathrooms and play areas will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized at the end of each school day. Toys in the preschool will be cleaned throughout the day and will be alternated. Sports equipment will be limited to one to two students at a time and will be cleaned between uses.

Will students, teachers and staff be required to wear masks?

Based on the CDC guidelines, students 2 years and up will be required to wear a mask while they are at school. Masks may be taken off during snack and lunch while the students are seated or if an activity precludes the use of a mask. Teachers, staff and any adults on campus are required to wear a mask while on campus. A face shield is available to every faculty member for additional safety but must be worn with a mask.

Has the staff been trained?

Faculty and staff have received training through our Safe Schools programs. Additional training will be provided throughout the year. Information is provided to all faculty and staff from the LA County Health Department and updates made to GPS's protocols and guidelines. Staff are required to do a COVID-19 health screening prior to arriving at school, including a temperature check, and have been doing so since we opened in the summer.

Can visitors come on campus?

Non-essential visitors will be limited on campus to help us limit exposure to students and staff. All deliveries, early pick-ups and late drop offs will be handled through the main office. If you need to meet with a teacher or come on campus you will need to have an appointment and have a health screening, including temperature, before entering. Masks will be required for all visitors.

Will you offer Extended Day Care?

Extended Day Care (EDC) will not be available for grades K-8.

What is the protocol if a student or staff member shows symptoms while on campus?

Our health screening guidelines are in place to limit the risk of infection on our campus. We will have a strict policy for any signs of illness while on campus. In the case a student develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while on campus, they will be accompanied to a designated space on campus where they will remain until they can be picked up by a parent or authorized adult, and will be instructed to self-isolate and get tested. Parents of students who have been in close contact with a suspected case of COVID-19 will be informed. Once the status of the suspected case is confirmed as COVID-19 or not, close contacts will be instructed to quarantine and get tested (if the case is confirmed), or will be informed that the suspected case has tested negative.

What are the protocols for returning to campus after showing symptoms or testing positive for the virus or for those who have been exposed to someone confirmed of having the virus?

GPS will follow the guidelines from the CDC and LA County Department of Public Health Exposure Management Plan for K-12 schools. Students that have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be required to isolate for 10 days from the time initial symptoms developed and be fever-free for at least 24 hours without medication. Students who have tested positive for the virus must isolate for 10 days after taking a test unless symptoms develop during that time which will require isolation from the time symptoms develop. Anyone who has been in contact with someone confirmed to have the virus will have to self-quarantine for 10 days from the last

date of contact and be symptom free before they can return to school. Families are strongly encouraged to seek advice from a physician before returning to school.

What responsibility do families have once we return to campus?

Our primary goal is to provide a safe learning environment for students, faculty and staff. GPS will take every precaution to ensure that guidelines and procedures are adhered to while on campus. We ask the same of our families. Here's what you can do:

- Encourage your student to follow the guidelines while they are at school, which include wearing a face mask, keeping social distance, and proper and frequent handwashing.
- Keep your student home and notify the school if they are showing symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Keep your student home and contact the school if they have been exposed to someone suspected of having COVID-19 or tested positive for the virus.
- We ask that families take all necessary precautions when they are outside of school, including limiting exposure to themselves and their students.
- Do a self-check at home, including temperature check, *before* heading to school in the morning.

The well-being of the GPS community will be a team effort and we need all members of the community to cooperate in order to have a successful and healthy school year. Any sign of illness with COVID-19 like symptoms reported at school will require your child's cohort group to quarantine. Any questions about your student's health should be taken with serious precaution.

How will you notify families if there has been a confirmed case of COVID?

If a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms consistent with the virus, GPS will inform the cohort group to quarantine and monitor for symptoms and be tested. A notification will also be sent to the school community with the precautions taken to limit the spread. If multiple cases are confirmed within the same cohort or in the school community within 14 days of each other, the school will notify the school community of additional infection control measures that will be taken. All cases of COVID-19 among the school community will be reported to the LA Dept. of Public Health for contact tracing.

What should we have ready for school re-opening?

- A thermometer for temperature checks before heading to school. Temperature will also be taken at school. Temperature above 100 will not be allowed to enter campus.
- A clean mask for every day. We recommend sending a second mask with your student should their mask need to be replaced during the day.
- Hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes and tissue to be kept in backpacks
- A reusable water bottle labeled with the student's name. Drinking fountains will not be available. Water filling stations will be located around campus.
- Lunch bag or box.
- Make sure your emergency contact information is up-to-date in RenWeb. Include multiple parent or authorized adult contact information should the student need to be picked up from school right away.

- If you are arranging for a carpool with another family from GPS be aware that any quarantine requirements will affect both families.

What additional information can you provide?

- Updated announcements on The Compass Newsletter sent out every Friday
- COVID-19 Information Page of the GPS Website
- Local Testing Centers - Where can you get tested?
- Proper use of masks
- Reopening Protocols for Schools - LA County Health Department
- CDC Guidelines for Re-opening Schools
- Resources for children's social and emotional well being