



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

September 2020

**GPS Covid Response Liaison - Hans Peter Metzger, Head of School**

### **Is GPS open for on campus instruction?**

Based on LA County guidelines, our Preschool through Junior Kindergarten classes are able to have in person classes. Students enrolled in Kindergarten through 8th grade began the year with our distance learning program.

### **What does the distance learning program look like?**

Students in the Primary Years Program (Kindergarten through 5th grade) will meet online with their teacher for synchronous instructional time and will be assigned work to be completed as a class or independently. Students in the Middle Years Program (6th through 8th grade) will have synchronous instruction online throughout the day and meet with teachers in every subject as scheduled during the week. Work will be given as a class, small groups or independently to be submitted online. Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade will meet with specialist teachers in Art, Music, Physical Education, Spanish and Technology during their regularly scheduled time.

### **What if my student needs additional help/ individual help?**

Teachers will be available to meet 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 classes 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.

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

**When will school reopen?**

GPS's administration is participating in weekly telebriefings with local county and state health officials for updates on reopening K-12 schools. According to the latest information from the LA County Health Department, schools must apply for a waiver in order to open for on-campus instruction. At this time, LA County has not made the waiver application available to any schools. We will keep families informed of any updates as they become available and will notify families when a reopening date for our school has been set.

**What if my student is not able to attend in person when campus reopens?**

Families may choose to continue with the distance learning program once we have reopened the campus. 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 and sanitizing for students and staff throughout the day
- Physical distancing in the classroom whenever possible
- Temperature and symptom screening before entering campus
- *Cohort groups of no more than 12 students and 2 supervising adults per classroom*
- 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 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?**

A Cohort 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 sanitized 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 to 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 be available. Sign ups will be on a monthly basis only. No hourly/drop in EDC will be available.

**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. But 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. Students who have been in close contact with an individual who has screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms will remain in an isolated area until they can be picked up from

school. Faculty, staff or any adult on campus that reports symptoms or has been in close contact with someone who has screened positive for symptoms while on campus will be instructed to return home and self isolate.

**What are the protocols for returning to campus after showing symptoms or testing positive for the virus or for those who may have been exposed to someone suspected 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 suspected of having the virus will have to self quarantine for 14 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 self isolate and monitor for symptoms or 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.

**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 everyday. 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 social and emotional well being