



2020-2021 SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDELINES

July 2020

Dear Parents:

Thank you for your patience and support as we have been hard at work planning for our reopening this Fall. We look forward to having our Crusaders back on campus on August 10. We are extremely excited to be together again soon.

After hours of research, reviewing multiple reopening plans, and, ultimately, preparing for our own reopening plan, I desire to provide you with the following information regarding our reopening. Please know that, even with all our work and research, I anticipate ongoing and ever-evolving challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. For that reason, flexibility from our teachers and student families is imperative as we move forward with the school year ahead.

As noted above, our desire is to be together in August - SAFELY. As a result, the entirety of our reopening plan is focused on keeping our students, faculty, and staff safe and keeping our campus clean and sanitized. A successful reopening and sustaining of school activities during this time is our top priority. Other priorities include providing timely, meaningful communication with parents, students, and the school community concerning the status of school operations and conditions, communicating any modifications made to our plan, and addressing inaccurate or misleading information.

Our reopening plan is based on certain current understandings about COVID-19 and our desire to maintain the most effective learning environment for all students. As a result, we will adapt our plan as more information about this disease becomes available and/or government mandates are modified. Most recent available data suggests that the main mode of COVID-19 spread is from person to person, primarily via droplet transmission. For this reason, our strategies for infection prevention and control will center around this form of spread and will emphasize physical distancing where feasible, optional face coverings, minimization of use of high contact surfaces, increased sanitation in classrooms and other common areas, and hand hygiene among students, faculty, and staff.

Finally, it is important that you review the following information as some things have been changed since the publication of our Parent/Student Handbook. We recognize that some families may feel uncomfortable sending their students back to campus. We are providing an option that will allow for students to continue education from home. This plan is called GCS Mobile and is further explained at the end of this document.

We know that this has already been a difficult situation for many. While things will be different, we are planning for a wonderful school year, our 42nd year of operation! We will continue to monitor state and local guidelines and, if necessary, will make changes to our plan based on the spread of the virus. Our goal is to provide a safe and healthy campus for our Crusader family. Please know that we are consistently praying. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bryan McDonald
School Administrator

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GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN

Even with a full return to Campus on August 10, certain things will be different for this school year. Here are the details for what you can expect with this reopening plan. As noted above, some of these specific guidelines could change at any time, depending on state or local mandates.

1. Student and Faculty Health and Safety Guidelines

- We will be performing in-car screenings of temperatures and symptoms each morning.
- Students with temperatures of 100.4° F or above, or who fail the symptom screening will be denied entrance into the school. Any student with a temperature of 100.4° F will be required to be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to School. Any student with a temperature of 100.4° F, who also shows another active symptom of COVID-19, may not return to School until, (1) obtaining a negative COVID-19 test, or (2) having self-quarantined for 14 days following the cessation of symptoms.
- Any student that is already on campus and begins to show symptoms of COVID-19 or begins a fever will be removed from the classroom and parents will be called for immediate pickup.
- Face coverings will be optional, unless mandated on private property by governmental authorities.
- All students and faculty will have ready access to hand sanitizer in each classroom and common area and will be encouraged to use them regularly.
- The school will be sanitized on a regular basis. The school will maintain frequent sanitization efforts before, during, and after the school day.
- Student use of high touch surfaces such as door handles and water fountains will be minimized as much as is feasible or eliminated. For example, teachers will be primarily responsible for opening and closing doors, and bottle filling stations have been installed in both floors of the education facilities.
- Teachers will also remind and encourage students to wash their hands, use hand sanitizer, cover any coughs or sneezes with a forearm, and refrain from touching their face.
- **PRIORITY:** Any student who has a fever or who is showing COVID-19 symptoms should not come to the school. This single factor is KEY to preventing and/or stopping the spread of the virus on our campus.

2. Parent/Teacher Orientation

- To reduce the number of individuals simultaneously on campus, parents will be assigned one of two nights of orientation. Each night, social distance guidelines will be followed inside the auditorium.

3. Arrival

- Parents arriving between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. will be screened outside the cafeteria for early care.
- Parents arriving after 7:30 a.m. will need to follow directions to one of two locations for in-car screenings.
- Parents of K3-K5 students may drop off their child at the classroom door until the child is ready to enter alone. All other parents/students should familiarize themselves with the classroom setting during orientation.
- More details regarding arrival will be provided at Parent/Student Orientation.

4. Morning Extended Care

- Morning extended care will be available from 7:00 a.m. to 7:35 a.m. in our cafeteria. Each student will sit distanced from other students.

5. Classroom Mitigation

- Our classroom settings do not provide the possibility of constant social distancing. As much distance as is feasible will be placed between students within a classroom. Close teacher interaction and use of high touch surfaces will be minimized; and regular cleaning/disinfecting of classrooms and any common areas adjacent to classrooms.
- Tissues and hand sanitizers will be available in all classrooms, and students will be regularly encouraged to wash their hands.
- When feasible, windows may be kept open to increase air circulation.
- Due to the nature of library/computer time as well as the nature of student proximity, elementary students' access to the library and computer lab will be temporarily canceled. Projects requiring its use will be edited to include student-accessible resources only.

6. Outside Visitors

- Visitors to the school will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19. Parents of K3-K5 students may drop their students off at the classroom door but may not enter the classroom. Each parent will require screening if entering a building.

7. Large Group Gatherings

- We will continue to monitor State and local guidelines for large group gatherings. Under current guidelines, only groups of 50 or fewer can gather in a single space, if social distancing cannot be implemented. In any areas that would exceed 50, we are able to implement social distancing.
- We will continue to have elementary and secondary chapel each week as explained below.
- We have further divided our lunch schedule to reduce the number of students in any one lunch location to below fifty. Our daily lunch gatherings are explained below.

8. Lunch

- We will continue to require lunches be provided from home. No food from the school (including senior pizza day sales and senior snack cart) will be available.
- Each lunchroom location will be sanitized before and after use.
- Lunch schedules are subject to change based upon administrative evaluation during the first days/weeks of school.
- K3 – K5 Lunch
 - Students in our half-day program will have a 15-minute snack period in the morning, but only those staying in extended care after 12 p.m. will eat lunch on campus. This will reduce the number of students in the early learning center cafeteria.
- 1st – 3rd Lunch
 - Students will eat in the cafeteria from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Lunchroom spacing will keep maximum distance in between class levels and at least one chair's distance between students within the same class.
- 3rd – 6th Lunch
 - Students will eat in the cafeteria from 11:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. Lunchroom spacing will keep maximum distance in between class levels and at least one chair's distance between students within the same class.
- 7th-12th Lunch
 - Students will eat in the cafeteria from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Secondary students are treated as “one class”

and therefore will have at least one chair's distance between each student. Grade levels will not be separated.

9. Chapel

- Elementary chapel will be on Fridays beginning at 8:15 a.m. Each grade will enter and exit one by one. Within each class, there will be increased distance between students. Each class group will be divided by at least two pews.
- Because secondary is considered "one class", secondary students will report for chapel as normal; however, we will have increased distance between students.

10. Field Trips and Assemblies

- All off-campus field trips are canceled for the first quarter of the school year. We will re-analyze this policy at the conclusion of the first quarter.
- All parents needing entry into the school building will be screened for a fever and COVID-19 symptoms.
- On-campus, educational visits are still allowed (i.e. first responders, farm animals, etc.), but each representative will be cleared through our screening process. No one with a temperature above 100.4 F will be permitted on campus. If temperature checks are cleared, displays may set up outside and/or in our large indoor assembly area where class levels may enter and exit one at a time. Necessary sanitization will take place in between classroom visits.
- Class parties will not permit any visitors, including parents until further notice.
- Only store-bought, packaged goods will be allowed at class parties. No homemade food items allowed.
- All chapels will be held in our auditorium which is capable of handling distancing between students and class levels.

11. Dismissal

- Students will proceed to their regular pick-up locations. Teachers will maintain distance between students as well as class levels.

12. Afternoon Extended Care

- All after-school-care activities will follow the applicable guidelines and protocols that will be followed throughout the school day.

13. Athletics

- All athletic teams, practices, and competitions will be governed by the Georgia Christian Athletic Association. The school will comply with all guidelines and requirements. As of right now, the association is leaving the designing of requirements for athletic programs to individual schools.
 - Our basketball team will consist of secondary students only. Because secondary students are considered "one class", we will move forward with the regular basketball season. Students are permitted to wear face coverings while traveling to away basketball games.
 - Our 3rd-6th cheer squad consists of elementary students that are on different grade levels. It is, however, a non-contact sport and will move forward as normally planned with distancing between each cheerleader. Each parent should use their discretion in allowing their child to cheer.
 - Spectators at these competitions are encouraged to wear face coverings. Each spectator will have his temperature taken. Distancing and capacity guidelines will be observed at each home basketball game.

14. Other Extracurricular Activities

- All other extracurricular activities at the school will follow the applicable guidelines and protocols that will be followed throughout the school day.
- Individual coaches, directors, or supervisors may implement additional safety guidelines that will apply to their particular group of students.

15. Positive COVID-19 Cases

- Each grade will maintain distanced separation from other grades and when in common areas such as lunch or chapel, will distance far enough to minimize/eliminate contact. By doing this, if a student or teacher presents with a confirmed COVID-19 case, that class level will immediately be shut down for five school days and a weekend. All parents of those students will be required to monitor student(s) for symptoms. The student or teacher with a confirmed COVID-19 case will only be allowed back into the classroom after satisfying 1 of the following 3 requirements: 1) 14 days of quarantine, 2) negative test result for COVID-19 dated after the original date of confirmation, 3) clearance from doctor to return.
- All common areas will be immediately sanitized and disinfected before use by other students.
- If multiple students or faculty members test positive, then the shut-down could be broader across campus, and for a longer period of time.
- If such a shutdown is necessary, we will temporarily switch students to GCS Mobile, our distance learning program.

16. Contact Tracing

- GCS will support tracing efforts by the Muscogee County Health Department in efforts of mitigating the spread of the virus.

17. GCS Mobile

- We recognize that some families may not feel comfortable sending their child back to classrooms for instruction. Accordingly, we are prepared to provide the option for parents to lead the education for their child in any grade from home. This decision would commit that child for a minimum of three weeks of enrollment in GCS Mobile with an option to reenter the classroom at the end of each three-week period. School personnel will reach out to parents toward the end of each three-week period. Teachers will communicate with parents and students at least one time per week, but parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers if questions arise during the at-home education process. In the event of a grade level closure, a mandated full-scale closure, or a parent's choice of caution, Grace Christian School is prepared to initiate distance education called GCS Mobile:
 - Each family must secure an internet-capable device and an internet connection.
 - Elementary students will use the Abeka Proteach video platform for daily lesson instruction as well as Facebook Groups for class contact and communication. All account setup, monitoring, and grading will be provided by GCS. The daily curriculum and teaching in the videos will directly correspond with the daily lesson plans used in the classroom. Students participating in GCS Mobile may not participate in any in-person activities, including sports and extracurricular activities.
 - Secondary students will use a mixture of the Abeka Proteach video platform and YouTube Live streaming for specific classes. All account setup, monitoring, and grading will be provided by GCS. The daily curriculum and teaching in the Abeka Proteach videos will directly correspond with the daily lesson plans used in the classroom. YouTube Live streaming will stream our own classroom instruction for specific secondary classes. Students participating in GCS Mobile may not participate in any in-person activities, including sports and extracurricular activities.
 - Students who participate daily in their video streaming and complete their assignments will be counted present.

Students who do not participate will receive excused absences but may be required to make up the work upon return. No refunds will be issued during any use of GCS Mobile or any school closures due to COVID-19.