



August 24, 2020

Families,

We hope this letter finds you well! We have been diligently preparing for the upcoming school year, and we are excited to share some important information with you!

As always, the safety of our scholars is our number one priority. The governor's office released a back to school roadmap with requirements and recommendations to allow scholars to safely return to the school building. We are following all recommendations that are pertinent to our scholars, plus implementing additional safety measures to protect our scholars, staff, and families. See the attached letter from our Facilities Director, Nick Zilz, for more information on these additional measures.

You should have received a call from a member of our administrative team regarding our back to school plans. **If you did not get a call, please call the main office at (810) 768-3860 to update your contact information.**

Attached, you will find a calendar for the coming school year. You are able to select either our Blended Learning Model or Fully Virtual Model for your scholar. Your decision may be re-evaluated at the end of each marking period, and you can adjust your choice by contacting our office. Our learning program is designed so that you may transition to the fully virtual model at any time if the need arises. ***Please make your selection on the attached Attendance Policies and Virtual Permission Slips and return at the time of tech distribution (8/31-9/1).**

For the Blended Learning Model, your child/ren will be assigned to either a Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday in-person instructional schedule. Scholars will attend all of their learning sessions virtually on the three days they are not on campus. If you have multiple children, they will follow the same in-person schedule to minimize required arrangements on your end. **Our first day of school for M/T schedules will be Tuesday, September 8th. Our first day of school for TR/F schedules will be Thursday, September 10th.** Scheduling in this fashion allows us to maintain a 6' distance between all scholars in the classroom.

Each scholar will be receiving an electronic device for the coming school year. Kindergarteners will receive an iPad, and 1st through 6th graders will receive a Chromebook. These resources will allow scholars to access their educational program virtually when they are not on campus. It

will also ensure that the instructional program continues without disruption if the school building ever needs to close for illness, incimate weather, etc.

Some important information pertaining to technology:

- Technology distribution will occur on August 31st from 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and September 1st from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please pull into the dismissal lanes, and stay in your car until directed to come into the building. Only one person per family will be allowed inside to collect the devices.
- Insurance for the devices is \$20 per device. This fee will be collected at the time of distribution, if not paid for ahead of time. **Please be prepared to provide \$20 per scholar when the devices are picked up on 8/31 and 9/1. Payment can be made with cash or credit card.** To pay ahead of time, please reference the One2One attachment.
- Scholars will be working on their devices both in school and at home. Please make sure your child charges their device each night. (A charging cable and protective case will be provided with each device.)
- All online instruction will be housed through Blackboard, creating a consistent platform for our learners and families from kindergarten through 6th grade.
- We will have virtual Blackboard training for both scholars and parents/guardians. Additionally, we will have two in-person training sessions for families who need additional assistance. These training sessions will occur on September 9th and September 11th. Please contact the office to sign up for a training session.

New Safety Procedures and Policies:

- To keep our school community safe, absolutely no visitors will be allowed in the building until further notice. This includes parents, non-scholar siblings, staff relatives, community members, etc.
- Scholars will be provided cloth masks for wear during the school day. They will be labeled and will be collected and washed on-site daily. Scholars will also be receiving face shields. They may remove their mask only at their desk if they wear their face shield instead. They will be allowed to remove their face coverings for recess and anytime they're outdoors.
- Classrooms will be arranged with 6' of space in between all scholar desks. Scholars will be provided individual materials to support their instruction, eliminating the need to share items. All classrooms, desks, and materials will be sanitized daily and as needed.
- Bathroom capacity is limited, and signs are posted for adherence.
- Temperature checks will be conducted each morning and as needed throughout the day. Any scholar with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will not be permitted to ride the bus or exit their car at drop-off.
- Entrances have been labeled by class for scholars.
 - West entrance (pickup lanes): Mrs. Roark's Class and Ms. Merlo's Class
 - East entrance (end of building, opposite the gym): Mr. Chapman's Class
 - Main entrance: Mrs. Cook's Class and Ms. Prawdzik's Class

- The following scholars will enter through their outside classroom doors:
 - Ms. Hill's Kindergarteners
 - Mr. Teer's 3rd Graders
 - Ms. Paynter's 4th Graders
 - Ms. Thomas's 4th and 5th Graders
 - Ms. Crane's 6th Graders
- We encourage parents to provide transportation whenever possible to eliminate unnecessary exposure students may have to each other.
- If scholars are sent home with inexplicable symptoms of COVID, they may be asked to stay home for observation and attend classes virtually for 14 days unless a negative COVID test is provided. Siblings of such scholars may also be asked to refrain from coming to school for a 14-day waiting period.

Other Items:

- Our uniform policy is consistent with last year.
 - Shirts: Solid shades of blue, yellow, white, or black; collared (polo-style)
 - Bottoms: Khaki, navy blue, or black
 - NO yoga or athletic pants, tank tops, chains, or tattoos
 - For the dress code in its entirety, please visit our website
- Communication
 - We are transitioning from Class Dojo to Kickboard this year. Teachers will be sending sign-up information to families the first week of school.
 - Please make sure we have a working phone number and email address on file. We will be sending our school newsletters electronically this year!

Please find the additional documents attached to this letter:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholar Information Card | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Entrance Map for Scholars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Calendar | <input type="checkbox"/> Meal Package Request Form |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance Policies and Virtual Permission Slips- Due by 9/1 | <input type="checkbox"/> EDP (Educational Development Plan)- Due by 9/8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Protocols Letter | <input type="checkbox"/> One2One Attachment |

We are so excited to see you all, whether it's online or on site! Thank you for trusting GHA to provide a safe and rewarding educational experience for your scholar.

All my love,

Tia Doyle
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