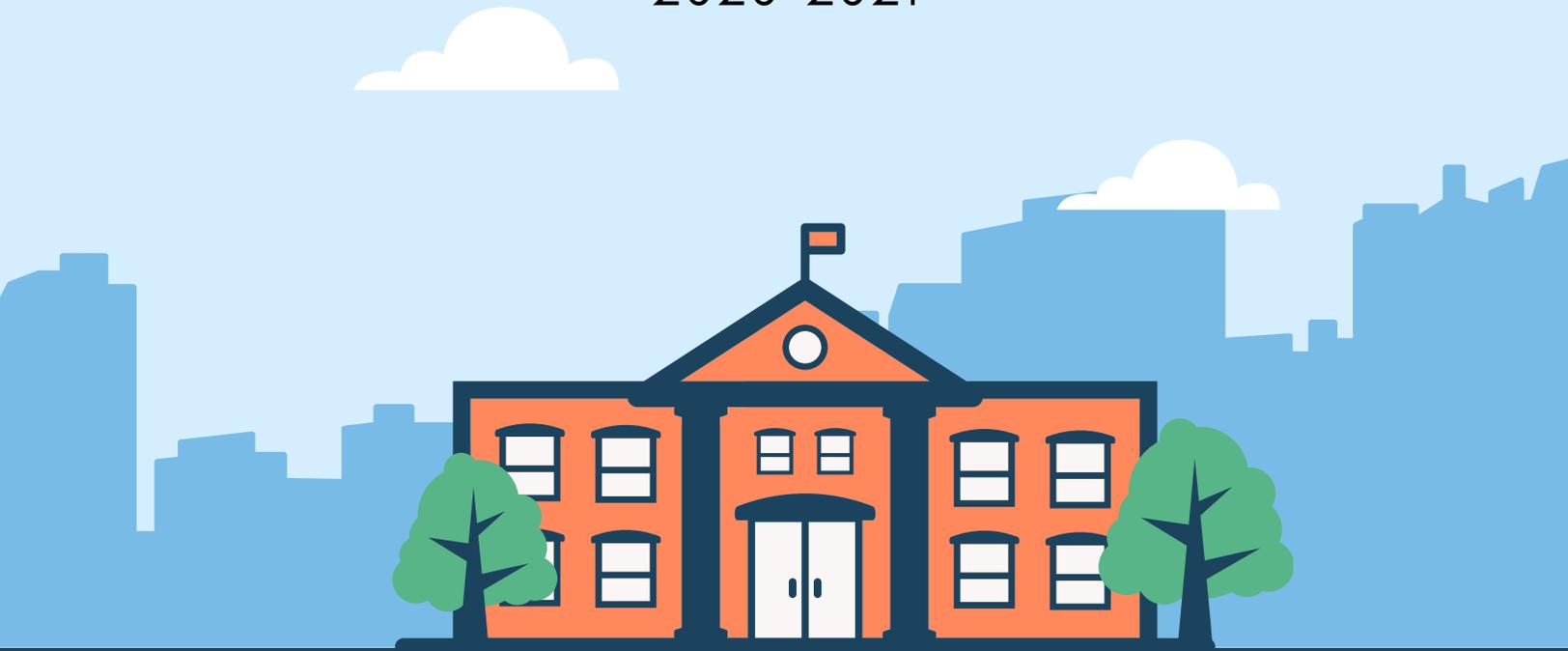




GRANVILLE
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

Back To School

2020-2021





GRANVILLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Back-to-school planning is no small task during a typical year. This summer is especially challenging as we prepare for the extra health concerns during a global pandemic. We understand the concerns many parents have about the upcoming school year, and our desire is to help communicate and clarify our approach to the upcoming school year. **The safety and security of our students and staff is always a top priority.**

While the COVID-19 pandemic is an evolving situation, our desire is for each GCA student to enter a safe environment while also getting to experience as many of the normal joys of a Christian Education as possible. Many of the statements listed throughout this plan highlight our desire to be cautious as we return to the “new normal” during the 20-21 school year.

Scripture gives guidance to many of the issues we are facing as a school and a nation. We know there is a place for trusting God while also putting aside the fear that easily distracts us and for creating a plan that ensures the safety of God’s people. **It is our belief that the reasonable and safe approach contained in this plan will allow us to begin school in person on our regularly scheduled first day of school, August 19.** At this time, we do not plan to make any changes to the school calendar.

While this plan is in depth, we understand that it is not exhaustive and that it does not address every aspect of the school day. Additionally, this plan may change as we evaluate positive or negative reactions to the outbreak. While the school will be extremely vigilant in following this plan and will ask for the cooperation of all students and families, there can be no guarantees that complete mitigation of risk will take place. The virus is not going away any time soon, so this is GCA’s plan to continue the vital work of Christian education in an environment that recognizes the real need for precautions. The valuable work of Christian education needs to continue in a world desperate for the Gospel.

We covet your prayers as we embark on this year ahead. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions you may have. We look forward to partnering with you this year in the education and spiritual development of your student.

Sincerely,



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How we plan to ensure a safe campus:



Screening

All students, faculty, staff, and volunteers must self-screen for the following symptoms, with the help of parents or a caregiver, when appropriate, before leaving home each school day. A person shall not come to school under any circumstances if he/she displays any one of the following:

- A body temperature of 100.0° or higher any time in the previous 24 hours;
- Persistent cough;
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea;
- Chills; or
- Loss of taste or smell.

If any two of the following are present, students, faculty, staff and volunteers are asked to remain home:

- Body ache
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Runny nose or congestion

Any person determined by a staff person to meet these criteria during the school day will be immediately sent to the nurse. Students will be sent home or placed in a designated area at school until they can be picked up. It is required that parents make immediate arrangements for the pick-up of a child presenting any of these symptoms.

A student must be clear of all symptoms for 24 hours before returning to school. If COVID symptoms are present, students should present evidence of clearance from a doctor before being permitted back to school. While this is a best practice at all times, it is especially vital to follow this procedure during the current COVID-19 outbreak.





Drop-off and Pick-up of Students

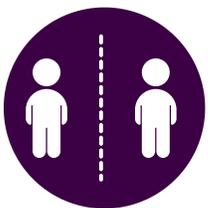
While school doors will open for the supervision of students 20 minutes before the start of class, we are requesting that, as much as possible, parents limit the amount of time their child arrives before the start of school. Likewise, we are asking that all students depart the campus, except for those with after school activities, within 25 minutes of the end of the day.

MS/ HS DROP-OFF 7:40- 7:55 AM

ELEMENTARY DROP-OFF 7:55- 8:10 AM

One of the unique community opportunities for parents at GCA is student pick-up time. It is an opportunity to see other parents and students and connect with a teacher. However, to limit the number of people in the building, until the COVID-19 outbreak passes, parents will need to remain outside of the building during arrival and dismissal times.

- Appointments may be scheduled with individual teachers or administrative staff beginning at 3:30 PM. No parents will be allowed in the building between 2:45 – 3:30 PM.
- During the school day, visitors must wear a mask or face shield as required by governmental mandate.
- After School Care will still be provided; however, there will be special requirements that will be announced prior to the beginning of the school year.



Physical Distancing

All classrooms will follow these guidelines:

- Following the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines, student seating will be spaced equally distanced apart throughout the classroom. Current class sizes do not allow for a 6-foot separation to occur in every classroom. However, we will adhere to these guidelines throughout the building wherever we are able.
- All desks will face the same direction. Seating will not be arranged to form tables in which students face each other, unless a barrier is placed between the desks.
- When possible, the sharing of supplies among students will be avoided. When supplies are shared, they will be disinfected between uses.



- Six feet of distancing between adults will be maintained when possible. The nature of the teacher to student relationship makes absolute adherence to this impractical, and, perhaps, undesirable. However, teachers will use common sense when applying distancing practices between themselves and their students.
- Students will be encouraged to maintain distancing at appropriate times. However, the recommendations from the AAP indicate that this is not only impractical to maintain at all times but also undesirable since it affects important social interactions for students.
- During classroom transitions, we will utilize one direction on the stairs to limit face-to-face contact between students and staff. Our Back Stairwell will only be used to go up and Front Stairwell will only be used to go down. If you arrive at a stairwell while someone is coming the other way, please wait and avoid passing in opposite directions in the stairwell.
- Bell Schedule adjustment: We may need to make adjustments to the MS/HS bell schedule to help limit the number of MS/HS student in the hall at one time. If this becomes necessary, we will announce the change to the students.

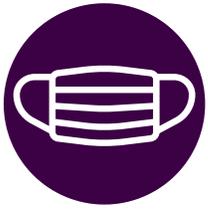


Hand Hygiene

Regular hand washing and sanitizing are among the most effective ways to control viral spread. Students will have regular access to soap and water and alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

- All classrooms and common spaces will have hand sanitizer available to students and staff. Students will be encouraged to use these regularly.
- Sinks are in every elementary classroom.
- Students will be expected to wash their hands upon arriving at school, before and after lunch, before and after recess, and after using the restroom.
- Instruction and reminders on handwashing will be provided by staff. Signs, announcements, and other methods will be used to reinforce the importance of hand hygiene.





Face Covering: Masking/ Shielding

The Ohio Department of Education has strongly recommended that students in grades 3-12 wear a facial mask. However, there are recommendations from others that strongly discourage masks, and several that span everything in between. The following procedure will be implemented in accordance with our intention to balance the best possible educational environment with the safest working environment:

- Per the state of Ohio mandate for schools, **all faculty and staff will be required to wear a mask or shield during the school day, except when alone in their assigned workspace.**
- **While students are not required to wear masks, they may voluntarily wear a mask or shield at any time.** However, we recommended they wear one at arrival and dismissal times and in the hallways during class changes. The nature of arrival and dismissal times limit our ability to maintain distancing, especially with those outside of their grade level.
- On the rare occasion of a gathering in which distancing cannot be maintained, we recommend they wear a mask for the duration of that activity.
- **Students may be asked to wear a mask when in a classroom with a teacher who has been identified as high risk for COVID-19, and is, therefore, in need of special protections.**
- **Any K-12 student visiting the Nurse's clinic will be required to wear a mask while in the Nurse's clinic.**
- **Afterschool gatherings, such as but not limited to sporting events and other school sponsored events, fall under the Licking County Health Department's mass gathering mandate.** At any mass gathering, everyone 10 years old and above, is required to wear face coverings (with the exception of participants or unless updated by the health department.)
- Students who plan to wear a mask should provide their own. We recommend all students bring a fresh, clean mask with them to school in each day, even if they do not plan to wear it except in an unusual circumstance such as a visit to the health clinic. Masks and face coverings should be appropriate, not overly distracting, and in accordance with the GCA Parent/Student Handbook.
- Appropriate instruction will be given to students so that no one is made to feel uncomfortable because they decided to wear or not to wear a face covering. Students will be taught to honor and respect the decisions of other people.
- Temporary Plexiglas barriers will be placed in school offices where physical distancing may be impractical.



7.5 Exponential Decay 2.4.20

$$y = a \cdot b^x \quad 0 < b < 1$$

Ex 1

x	-1	0	1	2
y	-72	-12	-2	$-\frac{1}{3}$





Elementary Recess

Movement and play is an essential component of a child's development. Recess is an important time for our students to release positive energy and to develop socially. We also know that the risk of viral spread is significantly lower outside. Therefore, recess will be taken with as little intervention as possible.

- Recess will be outdoors whenever the weather allows for it.
- Distancing requirements will not be enforced, although the recess supervisors will apply common sense.
- Students will be required to wash/sanitize hands before and after recess.
- Recess times and group sizes may change when weather requires students to stay indoors.



Chapels/ Assemblies

- Elementary chapels will be moved into the Worship Center to allow for distancing between each grade.
- MS/HS chapels will be divided into two sections (Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12) that will meet weekly. Chapel will take place in the Worship Center to allow for distancing between classes and students.
- Morning Elementary Assembly & additional assemblies will be temporarily suspended.



Field Trips and Special Events

We understand the importance of the cultural events that make up part of our curriculum and the culture of our school. If possible, we would like to offer grade-specific field trips, but we will continue to monitor state and local recommendations. At this time many fall trips will be moved to the spring or next school year. Special events are being planned for the late fall, but may need to be moved to later dates.

- Elementary: We are working to provide opportunities to bring "field trip-like" activities into the building to supplement learning.



- All MS/HS Field Trips have been moved to the spring:
 - OCC is still being evaluated as a viable option for this fall.
 - Washington DC Trip has been postponed until next fall.
 - 5th and 6th grade camp trip will be evaluated later this fall.
 - Fall Formal & other special events typically scheduled for the fall will be announced later in the school year.



Transportation

- Local school districts will dictate policies for transporting students to and from school. Parents should contact their local school district for individual policies.
- Should GCA provide bus transportation, students will sit one per seat. Students may converse with the student on the other side of the aisle.



Specials and Electives

Music, Art, Library, Technology and other electives are an essential component of the curriculum at GCA. We will make every effort to provide instruction and, eventually, performances that we have grown accustomed to.

- At times, Elementary Specials will take place in their classrooms. However, we do understand the need for students to move, and they will not be staying in their classrooms all day.
- Special's teachers will ensure extra cleaning is performed between classes.
- School library resources will be available for checking out. The recommendation from Battelle research is that materials undergo a 72-hour quarantine prior to materials be made available to students again.
- The technology lab will be thoroughly cleaned after each student use.





Cleaning and Sanitizing Practices

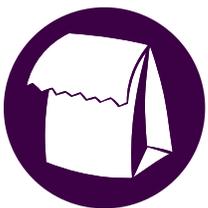
Although the primary method of COVID-19 transmission is through respiratory means, clean surfaces and environments also play an important role.

- Daily cleaning and sanitizing by the school's custodians will take place with safe disinfectants labeled for use against SARS-CoV-2, paying particular attention to high-touch surfaces like door handles, desks, and shared materials.
- All classrooms and common spaces will have access to cleaning supplies.
- Classrooms will be disinfected at mid-day, end of day, and throughout the day as needed.
- Interior doors will be propped open during class changeovers and whenever else it is practical, to avoid significant touching by multiple people.



Athletics

As an Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) member, GCA is required to abide by the direction of the OHSAA. As of now, The OHSAA is allowing the start of interscholastic athletics for the fall season. Nevertheless, our athletic director, coaches, and athletic trainers are prepared to implement appropriate or mandated protocols for the safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and fans.



Food Service and Cafeteria

GCA will continue to provide lunch options to students daily. The cafeteria staff will follow all recommended safety precautions offered by the local health department regarding food service. The lunch schedule will be announced at the beginning of August.

Elementary students will be eating with their classes in the cafeteria, in a similar manner as that in the past. MS / HS students will be seated in the cafeteria by grade. Senior Lunch students will be permitted to leave campus, eat in the cafeteria, or eat in the SHBC café patio (as weather allows). At this time, the SHBC café is not available for student use. Social distancing during lunch will be encouraged.





Symptoms, Exposure, & Positive Test Protocol

A student or staff person who is sent home or stays home with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be symptom-free for 24 hours and must present evidence of clearance from a doctor to the school nurse before returning to school.

A student or staff person who tests positive for COVID-19 must do the following before returning to school:

- Remain out of school for at least 10 calendar days from the onset of symptoms.
 - Remain fever-free for 72 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication.
 - Demonstrate improved respiratory function.
 - Receive clearance to return to school from his/her doctor.
- A student or staff person exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must remain out of school for 14 calendar days from the date of exposure before returning to school. Clearance to return to school does not necessarily require a visit to the doctor, but the student will need to present evidence of clearance to the school health office.
 - “Exposure” is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for more than 15 minutes. Under this definition an entire classroom would likely not be considered exposed to an infected person. Exposure may be limited only to those in immediate proximity of an infected person. The school nurse and administrators have the authority to determine whether a student or staff person has been exposed while at school.
 - GCA will communicate with the Licking County Health Department if a student or staff person has tested positive for COVID-19 and will fully cooperate with their guidance.



Instructional Provisions for Those Out of School

All teachers will set up classrooms with access to Google Classroom **from the first day of school**. Assignments, videos, etc. will be posted to Google Classroom throughout the year. If a student is out of school for an extended period, teachers will continue to provide instruction to that student through Google Classroom.



- K-3rd grades- videos and assignments will be posted when students are absent from the classroom.
- 4-12th grades- daily live videos for students for core content will be provided and will follow the regular posted school schedule.
- Videos for non-core content will not be immediately available. We will evaluate the potential need for these courses for those who are forced to learn from home at any point in the school year.
- Lesson expectations in Google will be limited to a brief overview of the daily objective and goal.
- Assignments can be submitted online.

If a child must be absent for a personal illness or because of the risk of infection, he/she will have access to the curriculum being taught through a combination of video-recorded lessons and live-streaming. The classroom teacher will make arrangements for quizzes, tests, projects and other means of assessment. Even though a student is absent from school, they are still responsible for mastering the content and meeting the due dates, unless they are personally ill, in which case our make-up policy would apply. This may require parents to provide some level of oversight.

We want our students to progress as if they were physically present every day at school and have access to every part of the educational experience at GCA. However, students who are absent from school are not eligible to participate in extracurricular activities on the days they are absent from school.





Distance Learning

In the event that we are not able to offer on-campus learning due to governmental mandates, we will transition to distance learning utilizing the Google Classrooms that have already been setup. As a school, we recognized the need to reformulate our distance learning approach to maximize each learning opportunity and to ensure that we continue to prepare strong servant leaders who are equipped to succeed in college and beyond.

