



7/31/20

Dear Grand Island School District Families:

I hope this letter finds everyone safe, healthy and well. The purpose of this letter is to let you know that the initial public draft of our GICSD school reopening plan has been submitted to the New York State Education Department and is available online for your review. [CLICK HERE.](#)

As you may know, we employed a multi-layered planning process that included over 100 stakeholders from across the district, working in teams to make sure that our plans are comprehensive and minimize health risks to students, staff and families. Our committees included students, parents, community leaders, teachers, staff, administrators and Board of Education members. These stakeholders met multiple times to discuss the safest way to reopen our schools.

Our reopening plan includes three instructional scenarios; fully on campus, hybrid and fully off-campus.

As we considered each of these scenarios, four key themes emerged:

- Safety for our students and staff
- Equity so that all children receive the benefit of outstanding learning experiences
- Adaptability to ensure that we can shift quickly from one learning scenario to another
- Compliance with the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department guidelines

Our reopening plan will require:

- cloth face coverings to be worn by students, staff and faculty;
- each student, faculty member and staff to be provided with cloth and disposable face coverings by the district;
- instructional staff to schedule mask breaks as appropriate;
- parents, guardians and employees to complete a temperature screening each morning prior to their child boarding a school bus or being dropped off at school or the employee arriving at work;
- employees to conduct a health screening and attest to their healthiness each day;
- parents and guardians to complete a digital health screening form each morning prior to their child boarding a bus or being dropped off at school;
- students to experience a teacher directed continuity of learning when they are home or on campus; and
- students to have access to utilize a mobile device such as a Chromebook or iPad when home or on campus.

To reduce density on school buses, whether we are fully on campus or following a hybrid model, we will have new start and end times for our schools.

MS/HS Notes	VCMS	HS	Elementary Notes	Huth	Kaegebein	Sidway
MS/HS buses begin unloading	7:05	7:48	Elementary buses begin unloading	8:28	8:28	9:05
HR/Class Begins	7:15	7:58	HR/Class Begins	8:43	8:43	9:25
Last Class Ends	1:25	2:18	Last Class Ends	2:53	2:53	3:35
Bus Leaves Campus	1:35	2:26	Bus Leaves Campus	3:06	3:06	3:45

It is our expectation that the Governor plans to announce the status of schools being opened or closed between August 1 and August 7. In the event that Governor Cuomo announces that schools are open, we will begin in September using our hybrid model.

In our Hybrid plan, students will attend school with an altered schedule to reduce student population within the building and each classroom to approximately 50%. Students would attend school in-person for two days a week following an A/B cohort model.

- A/B Cohorts of students are divided by the alphabet.
- Students with the last name beginning with the letters A-L attend school 2 days (Mon-Thurs) while the students with the last name beginning with the letters M-Z are home.
- The students with the last name beginning with the letters M-Z who previously were home, would come to school and attend for 2 days (Tues-Fri) while students with the last names beginning with A-L are home.
- Wednesday would be a day where all students are home but teacher directed instruction continues.
- When any student is home, there will be teacher directed instruction available everyday using Chromebooks and iPads.

It is important for everyone to know that according to the NYSED guidance, all school reopening plans are to be a work in progress. We will continue to engage our stakeholders and various committees in an effort to improve upon our plans.

Additionally, it is perfectly natural for families and children to experience anxiety around reopening of school in September. Please know that we will do everything we can to minimize health risk to students, staff and families, while ensuring equity. Our plans allow us to be flexible and adaptable to the changing circumstances regarding the pandemic, while intentionally complying with all of the state guidelines.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. I will continue to update all of you regarding our plan throughout the summer.

Sincerely,

Brian Graham, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools