

## **GEORGIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL RETURN TO CAMPUS 2020-21 GUIDELINES**

### **WE'RE SO GLAD TO SAFELY WELCOME YOU BACK!**

We understand that these are unusual times, and it is our mission to alleviate anxiety by promoting transparency in our plans and practices. Georgia Christian School is committed to ensuring the safety and health of all who step foot onto our campus.

### **GCS STANDARDS**

- Create a safe and healthy environment for all students, faculty, and staff
- Ensure high-quality education that promotes student learning
- Comply with governmental standards and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the South Health District-Public Health.
- Speak candidly about expectations from us and all members of the GCS community

### **ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

Georgia Christian will begin the 2020-2021 academic year on **Friday, August 7, 2020**. We intend to observe the Labor Day Holiday as well as Fall Break as scheduled.

Our planned end date for the 2020-2021 academic year is **May 21, 2021**. Keep in mind, we may undergo unforeseen interruptions to our school year that will require appropriate adjustments. Additionally, this plan is flexible and subject to change based on the most current health conditions/information.

### **MAINTAINING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY**

Georgia Christian School is committed to maintaining a healthy community for all of our stakeholders. Our main strategy for mitigating the spread/outbreak of COVID-19 is to have students move in cohorts throughout the day, maintain social distance when possible and to wear masks when appropriate. However, this is absolutely a team effort, and we are depending on you to keep your children home if they are sick and abide by the COVID-19 policies. By doing so, we hope to avoid having to move to distance learning for the entire school.

## FACE COVERING/MASK POLICY

All students will be required to wear cloth face coverings, disposable masks or neck gaiters appropriately (covering the mouth and nose) upon entering and exiting the buildings and when social distancing is not possible (i.e. halls, cafeteria line). Student masks should have no words or inappropriate graphics. Acceptable ideas for prints are official college logos, official military logos, and fun, friendly designs.

## INCREASED SANITIZING & CLEANING

**WE ARE DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING A CLEAN & SAFE CAMPUS**

## GENERAL DISINFECTION MEASURES

Category	Area	Frequency
Workspaces	Classrooms, offices	At the end of each use/day
Appliances	Refrigerators, microwaves, coffee machines	Daily
Electronic Equipment	Copier machines, shared computer monitors, telephones, keyboards	At the end of each use/day and/or between use
General Used Objects	Handles, light switches, sinks, restrooms	Multiple times a day
Buses	Bus seats, handles/railing, belts, window controls	At the end of each use/day
Common Areas	Cafeteria, library, conference rooms	At the end of each use/day; between groups

## **PRIORITIZING STUDENT HEALTH**

### **WE ARE DEDICATED TO KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE & HEALTHY**

#### **FACE COVERINGS**

- The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings, especially in areas where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Cloth face coverings provide an additional barrier to respiratory droplets that may easily travel in the air and infect others.
- Cloth face coverings may keep those who are unaware that they have the virus from spreading it to others.
- All faculty/staff & students are required to wear face coverings while in community spaces such as hallways, J.P. Prevatt Cafeteria, Lacy. H. Elrod Gymnasium, and traveling from class to class, including outside. Students are NOT required to wear them while playing on the playground. Face coverings may be removed once students are seated at their desk and while eating lunch. Students may be required to wear their face covering if working in a small group setting or closely with a faculty member.
- Since the Elementary does not change classes, minimal mask wearing will be required.
- Faculty will wear face coverings or a clear face shield while teaching if unable to distance 3-6 feet from students.
- Face coverings may not have words or inappropriate graphics.
- For a guide to make your own cloth face covering, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html>
- If disposable masks are worn, they need to be replaced daily.
- It is important to wear face coverings properly. It is necessary to cover the nose and mouth. Also keep hands away from face and face coverings.

#### **THE SCHOOL DAY**

### **WE ARE DEDICATED TO FULFILLING OUR MISSION IN A RARE & SPECIAL WAY**

#### **DROP-OFF & PICK-UP**

- All students will have their temperature taken before the student gets out of the car. If a temperature of 100.4 is detected, the student is not allowed to come to school and must follow the appropriate temperature policy.
- Students that drive to school will have their temperatures checked by the GCS staff member monitoring the parking lot.
- Those that ride the van must have their temperature taken before they get on the van.
- PreSchool - 2nd grade pick-up and drop-off will remain much the same at the Elementary building. K-5 - 2nd grade students will go directly to their classroom and the PreSchool students will position, physically distanced, in the halls.

- 3rd - 8th grades will Pick-up and Drop off at the Middle School building. 3rd - 5th students will then go directly to their classroom. 6th- 8th will go directly to their 1st period classroom.
- 9th – 12<sup>th</sup> drop-off will be at the Dasher Church building (more details about this as school gets closer).
- 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> pick-up will be the same as last year (in front of HS building).
- **No visitors (parents, siblings, etc.)** may enter the buildings.
- All students must wear a face covering upon arrival and departure.
- If you are coming outside of normal hours for late drop-off or early check-out, please check-in at the appropriate building. Elementary and PreK will need to call the office to check in.
- **Further guidelines will be communicated by your building Lead Teachers.**

## LUNCH / SNACK

We have created an additional lunch period to accommodate for social distancing. Students will be assigned seats in the cafeteria. They will sit in every other seat with their specific class to adhere to social distancing guidelines. There will also be opportunities to sit outside on the Alumni Porch. Middle School and High School will have a snack break and the same protocols will be followed.

## OFF-CAMPUS LEARNING

- We are working hard to keep our school environment safe. In an effort to keep our students' safety first, we believe it best to forego field trip opportunities.
- We look forward to resuming off-campus learning opportunities just as soon as we can.

## PRIORITIZING STUDENT SUCCESS

### WE ARE DEDICATED TO PROMOTING ACADEMIC RIGOR AND GROWTH

## ACADEMICS

As we begin a new year at GCS, the administration is making great strides to make all of the necessary changes to the physical classroom to provide safety for our students while continuing to offer a continuum of academic services that meet the needs of our students, maintaining the credits that students need to move to the next level. GCS believes that learning is strengthened by the personal interactions our teachers have with our students. For this and many other reasons, in August of 2020, we plan to welcome students back to classrooms and continue challenging them with extensive learning opportunities for our youngest to our oldest learners.

During the 2020-21 school year, if we need to seamlessly pivot to the Digital Learning Platform, GCS teachers will continue to provide meaningful learning opportunities that keep students engaged and moving forward academically. We are hopeful that, should this be necessary, it would be for a very limited time. Our teachers highly value the element of having students physically present in the classroom to provide meaningful and engaging lessons that require critical thinking and collaboration with one another; this is our ultimate goal.

- For students who are absent due to illness, remote learning will be an option whenever the student feels well enough to engage virtually.
- Teachers will be available to provide academic support if a student finds themselves unable to attend class in person due to illness.
- GCS faculty is equipped for online learning, should it become necessary.
- Students will not share school supplies. Supply Lists will be available on the school website under the “Admissions” tab.

#### PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Students will sit in the same desks, in each classroom, each day. Desks will remain staggered in arrangement and remain stationary.
- Students will be grouped into cohorts as much as possible. Cohorts allow for a small group of students to be quarantined when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- All students should wear a face covering to school each day, in all community spaces, and when physical distancing is not possible.

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Should students be required to miss school due to illness or exposure to illness, all instruction will be delivered to students through the digital learning platform. The administration will coordinate with parents in determining the safest re-entry date for the student. Absences incurred during a time of quarantine or mandated absence will not count against the total absences for students. Students should continue their studies unless unable due to COVID-19. Teachers will work with students on a case-by-case basis. As long as the student is working as expected in the digital platform, they will not be counted as absent.

#### **MODIFYING PROGRAMS & EVENTS**

#### **RESPONDING APPROPRIATELY AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPS**

#### CHAPEL

Our Bible Department is working hard to creatively plan chapels for each area of school. We are excited about the unique possibilities of small group chapels and new ways of sharing God's word and worshipping together while social distancing.

## AFTER SCHOOL CARE

GCS will continue to offer After School Care for our Elementary and under aged students. Guidelines will be communicated from staff regarding details.

## ATHLETICS

Our full athletic plan is currently being developed in concert with the GAPPS. We will distribute this plan later in the summer before school starts. Athletic events may include limits on crowd sizes & physical distancing measures.

## POTENTIAL INTERRUPTIONS

It is possible that outbreaks of COVID-19 could occur and hinder our ability to meet together on campus. In the event of such an occurrence, Georgia Christian will follow government restrictions and continue to comply with CDC guidelines. If need be, we will close campus and be prepared to provide quality education to our students remotely. Additionally, if at any time you, as parents, become uncomfortable with sending your child/children to school due to COVID concerns, you should contact the Dean, Connie Guthrie at [cguthrie@georgiachristian.org](mailto:cguthrie@georgiachristian.org) to coordinate a digital learning plan for your student/s.

## SUMMARY OF LIFE ON CAMPUS

- Arrive on campus wearing appropriate masks.
- Limited campus access for visitors and parents; no lunch guests, only scheduled parent meetings.
- Institution of capacity limits to allow for physical distancing in spaces such as J.P. Prevatt Cafeteria and the Lacy H. Elrod Gymnasium.
- Requirements of face coverings for all faculty & students while changing classes and in community spaces.
- Modification of programs and events in compliance with limits on crowd sizes and physical distancing measures.
- Increased sanitizing and cleaning procedures.
- Water fountains only to be used to fill water bottles and not for personal drinking.
- Health screening requirements for students, faculty, staff, and vendors
- Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing.

## **MAINTAINING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER, WE SUCCEED**

What makes Georgia Christian rare and special is our family atmosphere. As with any family, we commit to caring for one another. During these trying times, caring for each other means some new things, such as practicing healthy community living.

### **WORKING TOGETHER COMMITMENT**

GCS families are expected to commit to working towards the overall health and well-being of our community. This commitment means that families will keep children home when they feel unwell or display COVID-19 symptoms. We have confidence that each family will comply with requirements involved in making a safe return to campus.

### **REMOTE LEARNING**

If a student or staff member is ineligible to attend school, but still finds themselves feeling well enough to virtually interact, they may participate in remote learning until they are able to return to campus.

### **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

Students and employees agree to practice physical distancing and wear face coverings as necessary.

### **TEMPERATURE CHECKS**

Temperature checks will be done daily.

## **EMOTIONAL HEALTH ASSESSING BOTH PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING**

### **KEEPING CHILDREN EMOTIONALLY SAFE**

Students feel stressed, isolated, and fatigued. They need emotional support as they work through their feelings about what has happened around them. Our faculty, counselor, and coaches are discussing ways to support students' social-emotional health. Here are some things you can do:

- Ask how they are feeling and provide them space to ask questions and express themselves without judgment.

- Answer questions without volunteering copious amounts of information, as this can be overwhelming.
- Maintain a routine at home to promote stability.
- Reassure them that the grown-ups in their life are there to support them and ensure their safety.
- Reach out to our counselor, faculty and coaches; we don't want you to feel like you're doing this alone.

## **COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

### **WITHOUT SYMPTOMS WITH A POSITIVE TEST:**

If a student tests positive without symptoms, they must stay home in isolation for ten days. They may not return to school until the mandatory ten day isolation period elapses. If a student is positive with no symptoms, they may return ten days after the day of testing with a required doctor's release.

### **COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS WITH OR WITHOUT A POSITIVE TEST:**

Students may not return to school until they are fever-free for three days and respiratory symptoms have improved, and ten days since the first onset of the symptoms. We require a doctor's release verifying a return to school after the aforementioned criteria are met.

### **IF A PARENT OR SOMEONE ELSE IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF A GCS STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 OR IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING TESTED:**

Student(s) should quarantine for 14 days. The student may return after 14 days unless they become symptomatic with COVID-19 symptoms. Please see the above requirements in the COVID POSITIVE TEST criteria. If the household member tests negative, the student is eligible to return to school.

### **IF A FACULTY MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE:**

Students in their class would only need to be quarantined if they have been in close contact (inside six feet for more than fifteen minutes) with the teacher. Teachers will be instructed to wear their face covering/shield while communicating in close proximity (less than six feet for more than fifteen minutes) with students.

### **GUIDELINES FOR MANDATORY QUARANTINE:**

If your student has a classmate that tests positive for COVID-19, they may need to be quarantined if they were in close contact as defined by the CDC (less than six feet for more than fifteen minutes). In this scenario, not every student may require quarantine; however, any student that had close contact would be expected to stay home for fourteen days. Parents have the option to keep



students home for the 14 day quarantine. In this situation, your student will be able to continue their schooling through our digital platform.