

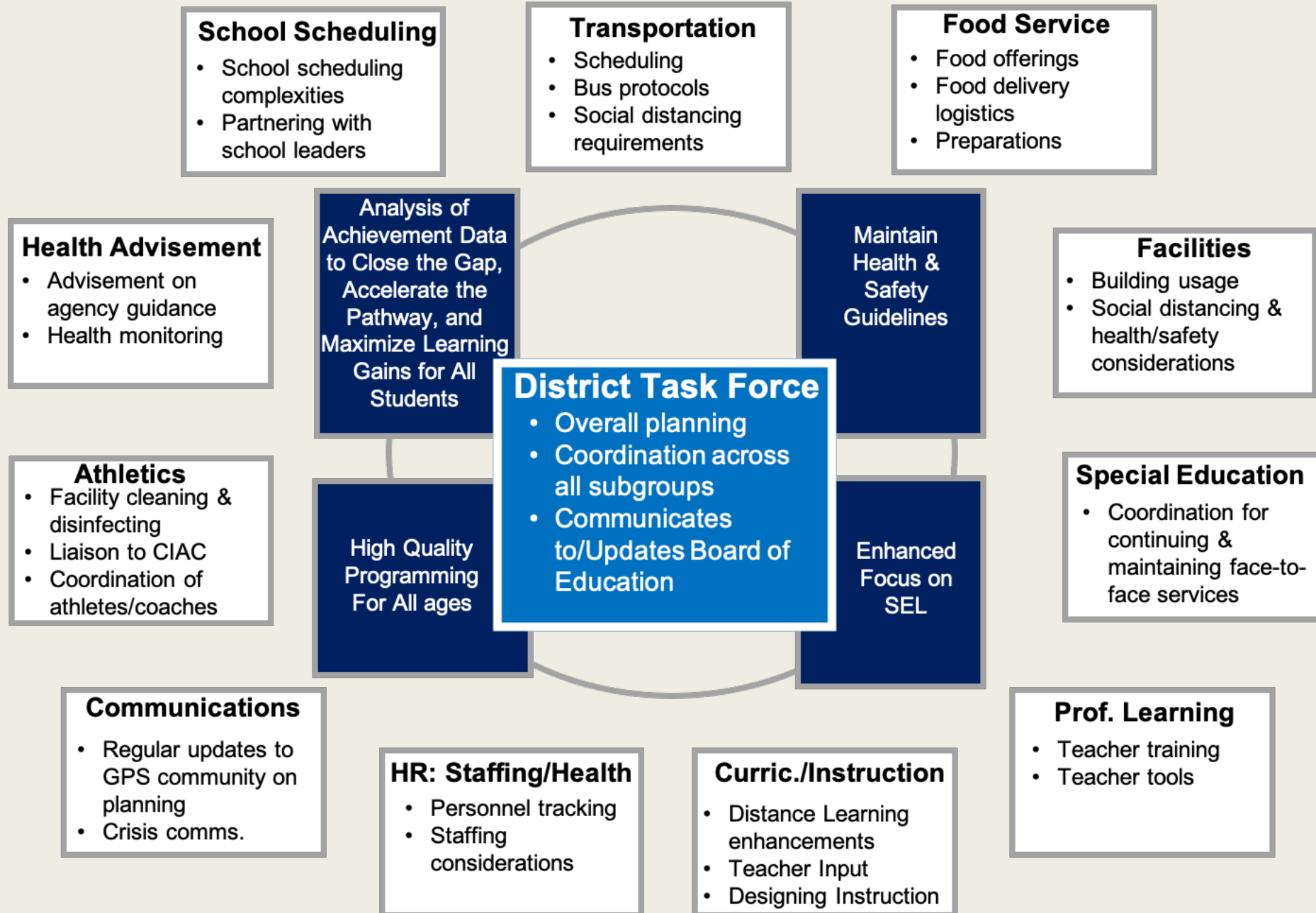


GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RETURN TO SCHOOL
STAFF TOWN HALL

July 30, 2020

6:00PM

Greenwich Public Schools: 2020 Return to School Planning Team



Important Resources & Upcoming Dates

Resources:

- [GPS Return to School Planning website](#)
 - Return to School Plans
 - Video Resources
 - District Communications
 - FAQ Document
- Human Resources
 - Contact Human Resources for questions and concerns about your return to school status and options available to you

Dates:

- August 7, 2020: Complete online form to determine “Return to School” Status
- August 27, 2020: First day for Teachers (Professional Development)
- September 8, 2020: Orientation Day
- September 9, 2020: First Day for All Students
 - *GHS will have a modified schedule the first week*

Latest Update from CSDE

- Governor Lamont met with Superintendents this past Monday
- Discussion included the need for flexibility with Districts to pursue hybrid models where they felt they could not adequately address social distancing requirements
- For GPS, we are requesting a hybrid model for Greenwich High School
- Connected with Commissioner Cardona via email to get clarity on hybrid models
- Commissioner Cardona has confirmed today that Districts will be allowed to pursue hybrid models for high schools
- *We will share additional details based on this newest information.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Cleaning & Facilities
- Curriculum & Learning
- Health & Safety Protocols
- Remote Learning & School Scheduling
- Teaching & Personnel

FAQ: Cleaning & Facilities

What and who will ensure that our classrooms, hallways, chairs, tables, doorknobs, and bathrooms be cleaned and sanitized? Will lids be added to toilets? Paper towels instead of the moldy air dryers that just blow germs all over the room?

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- The building is disinfected each evening with a product considered safe and non-toxic, while also being proactive in eradicating evidence of the virus.
- Hand sanitizing will be available at entry/exit points, and within all classrooms.
- Restrooms:
 - *Hand blow dryers have been turned off and instead there are no-touch paper towel dispensers.*
 - *Tissue grabs are available outside of each restroom so that no-touch entry is available for students; tissue grabs can then be deposited in a trash receptacle outside the bathroom door.*
- 13 temporary custodial positions being hired to assist with vigilant disinfecting throughout the day.

FAQ: Cleaning & Facilities

What is the protection plan/protocol with safety measures?

Are you making appropriate considerations with: PPE with masks, gloves, hand washing schedules throughout the school day, plexiglass/acrylic screens for every student/faculty desks?

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- GPS has ordered adequate masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer.
- Screens/clear dividers on desks are being applied where needed depending on social distancing needs and unique spaces.
- Directional signage will be used on the floor to help staff & students move about the building safely.



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- Intense cleaning and disinfecting happens each evening by the custodial staff.
- Although chemicals are safe and non-toxic, we do not want the disinfectant being sprayed constantly where our students are sitting, breathing, and learning.
 - This level of cleaning in between every class would be excessive and cause possible build up of the product on desks and other surfaces.
- Staff will need to be cognizant of any allergies in a classroom setting and make sure that all safety mechanisms are in place. *(Same as our usual cafeteria protocols with allergies)*

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- The social distancing expectation is 3 feet given that all students and staff are wearing masks.
- There will be some centers and groups which can occur with safe practices, including clear dividers.



FAQ: Curriculum & Learning

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- Students who qualify in one area will remain in ALP for Humanities, Math and Science instruction.
- They will still be assigned a homeroom teacher for ancillary activities.
- Leave the grade level cohort to travel to a secondary ALP cohort.
- All safety protocols remain in place regardless of setting (masks, social distancing, wash/disinfect hands, no materials sharing)
- Larger setting such as the media center may be used for instruction to provide additional spacing for students and instructors.
- ALP will be provided to remote learners.

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How will teaching children with learning differences be handled? Will these students be going back to school fully? How can accommodations be put in place for hearing impaired students who depend upon lip reading in order to interpret language?

- All students with support needs (special education, ALP, Section 504, ESL) will receive services although the format may not look exactly as it did pre-pandemic.
- The first consideration will be safety and following the guidelines from the State.
- Individual arrangements will be made for students with the most unique learning needs.
- All Connecticut district staff have been meeting and sharing their plans and strategies, given the strict guidelines for returning to school, there is not much variation in the way in which districts are planning to return.
- Hearing impaired/Speech services: We ordered and used a variety of masks during the summer program including shields and masks with plastic inserts (so you can see the mouth). There are some articles saying that masks can degrade some high-frequency sounds (IE: s, sh) which can affect comprehension of speech, but it will amplify as best as possible. Coupling the FM with a face shield or clear mask for the visual cues will help with better speech comprehension.

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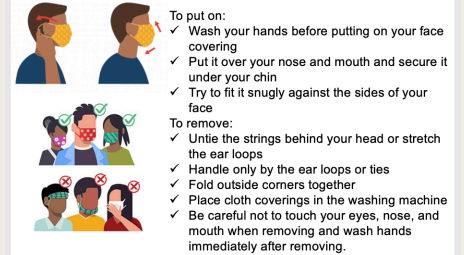
- Currently, the CSDE is requiring that masks be worn while inside the school building and while riding the bus.
- Mask breaks will be provided throughout the day and those opportunities will be instructed by teachers.
- If students are willfully not adhering to health and safety protocols, they will be referred to their school administration, similar to any other behavior infraction.
- The District is obligated under the law to enforce the wearing of masks as a health and safety risk.
- On July 29, the CSDE provided additional guidance that preschool can be exempt, if necessary; GPS is still requiring masks for preschool for highest safety standard
- Students may opt not to wear a mask with a medical reason from their doctor.
- GPS will have masks available if students or teachers happen to forget their mask.
- It is expected that families and teachers will be using their own masks.
 - This strategy is helpful for students to recognize his/her mask and mitigate students getting masks mixed up with one another.
 - If a family needs assistance in acquiring a mask for their child the district will provide one for them.

Information on Face Masks

Why is a mask required? When must I wear it?

- Face masks are required by the State of CT.
- Cloth face coverings and other face masks may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.
- The spread of the virus can be reduced when cloth face coverings are used along with other preventive measures, including social distancing, frequent handwashing, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.
- You must wear your face mask when you are inside the school including: entering the building, hallways, in the classroom and other places.
- You may remove your mask and store it safely when your teacher says it is safe to do so.

How do I properly wear and remove a face mask?



Information and imagery provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

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What is the protocol for a positive test in either a student or a teacher?

- A positive test would require a 14 day quarantine, for anyone exposed.
- The local health department is notified of every positive test in the community.
- We have also asked parents to notify us and we will work with the Department of Health to do the contact tracing.
- Health alerts of exposure will be sent when necessary.
- If symptoms develop during the day a student is isolated, excluded, and parents are asked to have the child seen by their health care provider.
- Students/staff will need a note from their doctor in order to return to school.
- The District will not be performing COVID-19 testing on students and staff. Tests need to be ordered and performed by personal physicians and/or medical professionals. The District cannot force students and/or staff to perform COVID-19 testing.

FAQ: Health & Safety Protocols

Greenwich Public Schools COVID-19 Decision Tree Partnering Together to Protect Staff, Students & Families

Students & Staff are not allowed in schools if they:

- Have a positive COVID-19 test
- Have symptoms of COVID-19
- Have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

General COVID-19 Symptoms

- Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Fever, Chills, Muscle pain, Sore throat, New loss of taste or smell. This list is not all inclusive. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

COVID-19 Symptoms in Children

- Similar to adults; however, children generally show mild symptoms, including cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported.

Determine if students or staff should be at school using this chart:

Do you have a positive COVID test, have symptoms of COVID and/or have been exposed to someone known to be positive?

YES

- Must notify school with status to determine necessity for cohort quarantine
 - Work with building administration for Remote Learning options
 - Consult with personal physician for any treatment and/or testing needs
- Infected:**
- Must stay home and quarantine per District's guidelines
 - Must have a note from their personal physician clearing them for return to school
- Exposed:**
- Must stay home and quarantine per District's guidelines

NO

Has the Daily At Home Health Monitoring Checklist been completed, are masks being worn & are all safety & health protocols being followed?

YES

- Student and/or staff should contact school administration for a discussion and any potential, approved exemptions from wearing a mask and/or following certain safety measures, etc.

YES

Student & staff are able to attend school!

COVID-19 Daily Self Checklist



Name: _____ Date: _____

2020 - 2021 School: _____ 2020 - 2021 Grade: _____

Complete this COVID-19 Daily Self Checklist before attending school each day
If you reply YES to any of the questions below STAY HOME

What is your temperature today without having taken fever reducing medications? _____ °F

Do you have a fever over 100°F? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Loss of Smell or Taste?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Muscle Aches?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Sore Throat?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Cough?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Shortness of Breath?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Chills?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Headache?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Fatigue?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Runny Nose?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Congestion?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Have you experienced any gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you, or anyone you have been in close contact with been diagnosed with COVID-19, or been placed on quarantine for possible contact with COVID-19?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by a medical professional or a local public health official?

☐ Yes ☐ No

FAQ: Health & Safety Protocols

Are you making appropriate considerations with enforcing social distanced learning?

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- Multiple points of entry and exit will be utilized to mitigate the number of people utilizing specific spaces.
- Main offices, Nurses' offices, GHS House Offices, and essential related face-to-face service provider spaces are equipped with a clear divider.
 - Clear dividers will also be available for related service providers in every building as well as for staff working with certain students in a 1:1 setting.
- Modifying the schedule to adapt for social distancing between 3-6 feet.
- Additional staff are being added in K-5 to assist with the grouping numbers during the day.
- Class sizes are being limited through a more balanced schedule in middle school by adapting the way electives are programmed.
- Principals will encourage outdoor activities and learning when possible.
 - Consideration must be given to heat alerts, stormy weather, availability for the full school to have equal access to outside learning, recess schedules and masks breaks.

FAQ: Remote Learning & School Scheduling

What is the process and procedure for remote learning?

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What is the process and procedure for remote learning?

- District has reached out to all families for their commitment to either return to school “live” or if you are choosing to go “remote.” (Decisions due August 7, 2020)
- Same curriculum is taught in either scenario.
- If a student should need to transition into or out of remote learning, there would be a conversation between a ‘sending teacher’ and a ‘receiving teacher’ so that instruction can continue with minimal disruption.
 - *There is up to a two-week notice period to move from remote learning to in-person learning*
- Striving for a minimum balance of 50/50 synchronous and asynchronous learning.
- Remote learning teacher will develop opportunities for social interaction with other students assigned to that particular class ie. morning meeting, read aloud, district norm activities etc.
- District compiled a list of digital tools that will be leveraged for daily use at each level (using feedback and survey data from staff and families)

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- District is working on a plan for a full return to school for elementary and middle schools; and a hybrid approach for GHS
 - **Should Health/Virus status change, this plan would be subject to change*
- Schedules are being modified to minimize cross-grade groupings.
- Electives are being scheduled differently to minimize teachers who move across all grades.
- At the elementary level the students' will cohort by homeroom unless there are 4 sections of a grade then two classes will be identified as a cohort with a target number of no more than 50 people as prescribed by the state reopening guidelines.
- At the middle school, the cohort will not exceed by approximately 100 students and the plan is to cohort by team.
- At GHS, we are working towards a hybrid approach as cohorting is not feasible due to scheduling.
 - More information is on the next page

FAQ: Remote Learning & School Scheduling

GHS Hybrid Approach Considerations

- At GHS, we are working towards a hybrid approach as cohorting is not feasible due to scheduling
- Current approach is to do two days in-school, Wednesday would be a full building disinfecting day, and then two days remote to allow for deep cleaning and less cross-contamination between cohorts of students.
- Two days a week, students will live stream into their classroom

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday *Building Disinfecting Day	Thursday	Friday
Red F/F	Red F/F	Full Remote Learning	White F/F	White F/F
White Streaming	White Streaming	Full Remote Learning	Red Streaming	Red Streaming

FAQ: Teaching & Personnel

Why isn't the health and safety of the entire GPS staff a higher priority than returning to school before it is safe to do so?

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Why isn't the health and safety of the entire GPS staff a higher priority then returning to school before it is safe to do so?

- Health and safety is a priority for all.
- Requirements are changing weekly including this current week; mandate for a full return to school has not been a District option.
- Advocated for a hybrid schedule at GHS for health and safety purposes, even though we were told it would not be in compliance.
- Teaching will need to look different, and the teacher may need to stay in the front of the room in his or her “safe zone” which maintains 6’ distancing. Although, 3’ is considered adequate if the masks are enforced.

FAQ: Teaching & Personnel

Will my sick days be impacted if I contract COVID-19? Will I be expected to teach remotely if I am home being quarantined and/or sick? How should I handle needing to take a leave of absence for family matters/childcare or illness?

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- Teachers have options under the Family First Coronavirus Response Act and the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- If an employee is of high risk they can request accommodations. The accommodations will determine how an employee completes the functions of their job if they are approved. This will vary on a case-by-case basis.
- The State is working on supports for teachers who are having childcare challenges across the State of Connecticut.
- Employees that contract COVID are entitled to two weeks or 80 hours of paid leave. If the leave should extend beyond two weeks, then the employee would utilize their sick leave just as if they would during flu season. Employees are not required to work when they are on an approved leave of absence.

Live Q&A

Please submit your question into the Q&A feature. We will answer as many as we can in the remaining time.

Thank you for joining!

<https://www.greenwichschools.org/district-information/return-to-school-planning-team-2020>