



Grand Rapids Christian Schools

RETURN TO SCHOOL
PREPAREDNESS AND
RESPONSE PLAN



GRAND RAPIDS
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

Dear Grand Rapids Christian Schools families,

COVID-19 and the global health pandemic has presented the most severe public health crisis the world has experienced in many years. Grand Rapids Christian Schools believes in-person, on-campus instruction is in the overall best interest of students and seeks to do all it can to safely reopen schools and welcome students, staff, and members of the community back on August 19, 2020.

Grand Rapids Christian Schools' **Preparedness and Response Plan**, aligned with Executive Order 2020-142 and Governor Whitmer's Return to School Roadmap, is a comprehensive plan that includes a detailed summary of the:

- Health and safety protocols we will institute to protect the health and safety of students and staff, and
- In-person and virtual instructional platforms and strategies which will be implemented and will be available to students when we reopen school and welcome students back in August.

The plan reflects input received from four designated task forces composed of administrators, teachers, and staff. It was further developed and has been carefully analyzed by Grand Rapids Christian Schools' building principals and administrative department heads throughout the summer months. The initial recommendations were reviewed by the members of GRCS' Board of Trustees for their discussion on June 29, 2020, and was approved by the board's Executive Committee on July 30, 2020.

Based on guidance from federal, state, and local health officials, Grand Rapids Christian Schools' reopening plan is rooted in the following **guiding principles**:

- Students returning to full-time in-person instruction provided by caring, well trained, and dedicated teachers and staff — consistent with state and local health guidelines and requirements — is essential to ensure students flourish and learning is maximized; it is our highest priority.
- Importance of providing a high-quality online learning option for students unable to attend school or whose parents are uncomfortable with their children's return to campus.
- Importance of providing staff with robust training opportunities in virtual instructional models.
- Recognizing that a hybrid option — a mix of face-to-face and online learning — is an essential school option for students who are unable to return to school, during times of school closure, and as mandated by state executive order.
- Face-to-face instruction for students who are differently-abled and our youngest students is a priority if school attendance is limited by state and health officials.
- Importance of providing resources, tools, assessments of student academic levels, and services to address academic learning gaps and social-emotional needs for students due to the Spring 2020 state-mandated school closure.
- Value of coordinating and communicating with schools across our region to ensure continuity of county-wide programs and equitable access to professional development for teachers and staff.

Grand Rapids Christian Schools is prepared to flexibly respond to future federal and state mandates; the plan reflects our ability to adjust and initiate hybrid models of instruction as may be necessary to comply with state mandates and health officials.

Thank you for your continued prayers, partnership and cooperation.



Tom DeJonge
Superintendent

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Based on guidance from federal, state, and local health officials, Grand Rapids Christian Schools' reopening plan is rooted in the following guiding principles:

Instruction

Students return to full-time face-to-face instruction, consistent with state and local health guidelines and requirements.

Face-to-face instruction for students who are differently-abled and our youngest students is a priority if school attendance is limited by state and health officials.

Hybrid

A hybrid option is an essential option for students who are unable to return to school, during times of school closure, and as mandated by state executive order.

Resources

Resources, tools, assessments of student academic levels, and services to address academic learning gaps and social-emotional needs.

Online Learning

Provide a high-quality online learning option for students unable to attend school and during periods of school closure.

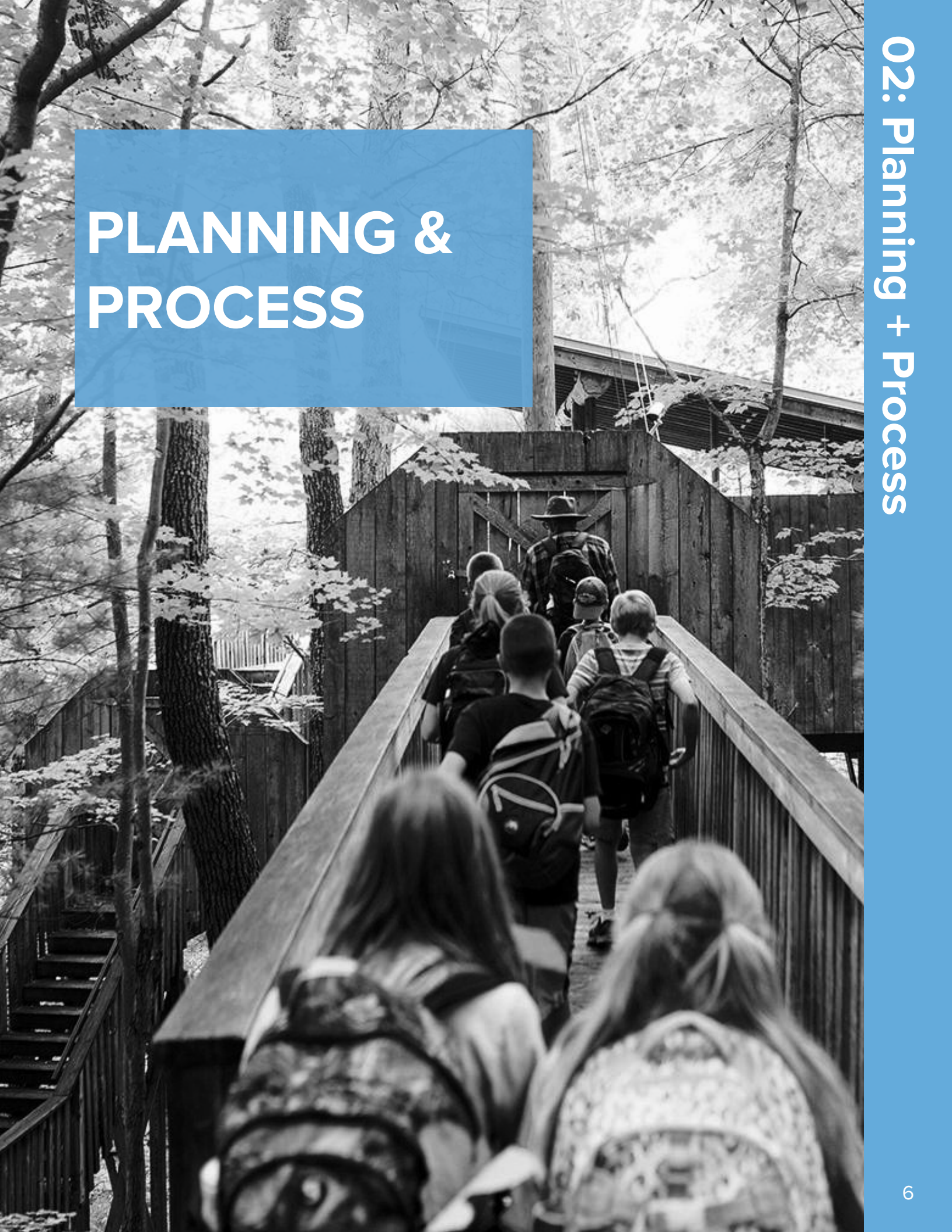
Staff Training

Provide staff with robust training opportunities in virtual instructional models.

Communication

Coordinating and communicating with schools across our region to ensure continuity of county-wide programs and equitable access to professional development for teachers and staff.

PLANNING & PROCESS



PLANNING & PROCESS

02: Planning & Process

Given the uncertainties associated with restrictions that may exist at the time school starts, Grand Rapids Schools' administrative team, in conjunction with staff members from each of the five campuses and in close consultation with local health department officials, was charged with developing a back-to-school plan that considers factors associated with multiple scenarios. The recommendations, protocols, school schedules, and instructional platform and strategies that have been established are presented to Grand Rapids Christian Schools parents, students, and members of the community in our **Preparedness and Response Plan**.

CHARGE: To identify the challenges, possibilities, uncertainties, professional development needs, potential costs, and recommendations pertaining to each of the reopening phases for Grand Rapids Christian Schools.

Grand Rapids Christian High School

Principal: Brad Mockabee, *Chair*

Admin: Nick DeKoster, Elizabeth Hoving

Facilities: Jeremy Pyper, Kevin Klaasen

Technology: Sheila VanderWoude, Nate VanderZee, Dan Hoekstra

Student Support: Amy Crow, Trisha Wallace

Teaching Staff: Rebecca Polet, Lisa Rozema

Grand Rapids Christian Elementary Schools

Evergreen Principal: Ann Bakker, *Co-Chair*

Iroquois Principal: John Barkel, *Co-Chair*

Facilities: Dave Zondag

Technology: Sheila VanderWoude

Student Support: Kim Primus

Counselor/Social Worker: Grace Boyle

Teaching Staff/SI: Vanessa Abreu, Corey Visker

Secretary: Carrie Doezeema

Grand Rapids Christian Middle School

Principal: Sara Seth, *Chair*

Facilities: Dave Zondag

Technology: Sheila VanderWoude

Student Support: Meghan Eames

Counselor/Social Worker: Casey McMahon

Curriculum: Lynnette Kooienga

Spiritual Life: Jim Vos

Spanish Immersion: Sara Seth

Teaching Staff: Chad Drenth

Secretary: Kristi Elzinga

Rockford Christian School

Principal: Ben Buursma, *Chair*

Facilities: Rich Bakker

Technology: Sheila VanderWoude

Student Support: Anna Zokoe

Teaching Staff: Julie Barrett, Kate Faber



RETURNING TO SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

03: Returning to School at a Glance

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

03: Returning to School at a Glance



On-Campus Learning

Students' return to full-time in-person instruction provided by caring, well trained, and dedicated teachers and staff — consistent with state and local health guidelines and requirements — is essential to ensure students flourish and learning is maximized; it is our highest priority.



Virtual Learning

Students unable to attend school or whose parents are uncomfortable with their return to school for in-person instruction will be able to select a high-quality online learning option taught by their assigned or another Grand Rapids Christian Schools teacher.



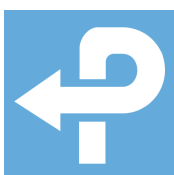
Following Guidelines

Critically important health and safety guidelines established by local, state, and federal health officials will be instituted to protect students, staff, and members of our community. Required and the majority of Strongly Recommended protocols will be instituted and monitored on a regularly scheduled basis.



Students and Staff are Equipped

Staff have been and will continue to be provided with robust training opportunities for both in-person and virtual instructional models. They will be provided with the resources, tools, assessment data of student academic levels, and educational supports necessary to address academic learning gaps and social-emotional needs so that all students are equipped to flourish.



Ready to Adapt

When schools were closed for in-person instruction on March 16, 2020, Grand Rapids Christian Schools was prepared to launch its high-quality off-campus learning platform for pre-K-12 students, which we implemented on March 17, 2020. As a result of ongoing staff review throughout the spring and parent input we received through two distinct parent surveys conducted in April and June 2020, Grand Rapids Christian Schools worked to strengthen students' learning experiences to ensure student learning would be maximized. Our faculty and staff learned a great deal from the period of school closure. As we launch the 2020-21 school year, our teachers and staff are prepared to further strengthen students' educational programs through the application of best practices in both in-person and age-appropriate virtual instructional strategies.

COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY



COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY

In considering the resumption of school this fall, it is critical to balance the risk of direct infection and transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent of COVID-19.

While school closures may have been reasonable as part of the early pandemic response, current evidence and health officials' experience support the concept that students may return in a manner that maximizes students' health and minimizes risks from a public health perspective. While it is not possible to remove all risk of infection and disease, mitigation of risk while easing restrictions will be necessary for the foreseeable future.

The summary below provides guidance and clarifies expectations surrounding the reopening of school in August 2020. The risks of infection and transmission in students need to be balanced with the harms of school closure, which impacts learning and students' physical and mental health.

The following summaries attempt to articulate the rationale for specified guidelines in order to protect the safety of students and staff and help reduce any fear and anxiety they and parents may be experiencing.

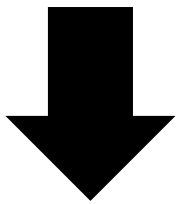
COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY



Quarantine Protocols, Scenarios and Contact Tracing

- Grand Rapids Christian Schools will be adhering to all contact tracing and quarantine protocols have been established by the Kent County Health Department.
- These protocols and procedures are available to review as part of the KCHD School Toolkit.
- The Toolkit is a fluid document based on the most current information available. This document is subject to change and will be updated weekly to reflect revisions.

Click below to see the
KCHD School Toolkit



**KCHD
School Toolkit**



COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY



Screening to prevent symptomatic individuals from entering school.

- Students must remain home if exhibiting COVID and other illness symptoms.
- Students experiencing COVID-like symptoms at school will be sent home. Parents are asked to monitor their child's health and contact their doctor to determine if COVID is present. If a student tests positive for COVID, parents are required to contact the school office immediately. The Kent County Health Department has provided a toolkit for staff to utilize to determine if isolation or quarantine is necessary.
- Grand Rapids Christian Schools will adhere to Kent County Health Department's guidelines, notify affected students' parents if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID, assist the health department with contact tracing, and implement the health department's required isolation, quarantine protocols as is appropriate.
- Parents and childcare providers are responsible for screening and shall be provided with a checklist to assist them in daily screening.
- On-site temperature testing will be provided on a limited basis due to schools' ability to complete that check unless mandated by state and local health officials.

COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY



Hand hygiene

Viruses such as COVID and other respiratory illnesses are almost exclusively spread by respiratory droplets. As a result, and because virus shedding may occur prior to symptom onset or in the presence of symptoms, routine and frequent handwashing is critical to limit transmission.

- Students shall be taught how to properly wash their hands by their teachers and other staff.
- Age-appropriate signage shall be placed in visible places throughout classrooms and in publicly-used restrooms.
- Scheduled times for hand hygiene will be instituted.
- Hand hygiene sanitizers and dispensers shall be made available to all students and in consideration to ensure accessibility for students with disabilities.

COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY



Non-medical face masks

Face masks will be required for students and staff consistent with the requirements for Phases 4, 5, and 6 of Executive Order 2020-142.

- **PreK — 5th grade students** will be cohorted so that they will spend the entirety of their day with their homeroom class, including while on the playground at recess.
 - They will be required to wear face masks during all passing times and while on a school bus and during other times when they are with other students.
 - They will be allowed to remove their masks while in their homeroom classroom.
 - Students should bring a labeled storage bag (paper, plastic, or reusable) to store their masks when not in use.
- **Students in grades 6 — 12** will be required to wear masks at all times.
 - Students should bring a labeled storage bag (paper, plastic, or reusable) to store their masks when not in use
- **PreK — 12th grade students** who are medically unable to wear face masks due to health issues or unable to put them on or take them off will be granted permission to not wear a mask; a doctor's statement is required and must be submitted to the school office prior to the start of the year.
- **Faculty and staff will be required to wear face masks at all times.**

COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY



Physical distancing

Strict enforcement of social and physical distancing, though important, is not always possible within a school setting. However, social distancing guidelines and protocols will be instituted in each of Grand Rapids Christian Schools' five school campuses and auxiliary locations.

- **Classrooms**
 - To the extent possible, furniture will be arranged to leave a six-foot distance between students during instructional time.
- **Large Gatherings**
 - Assemblies, chapel, and other large group gatherings shall be canceled or rescheduled in ways that support small cohort groups of students whenever possible.
 - Choir, band, orchestra, and vocal music may pose a higher level of risk, and special consideration shall be given to how they are held; they shall occur in contained areas and, whenever possible, may be held in the student's homeroom in order to reduce cross exposure.
- **Lunch Breaks**
 - Lunches shall be staggered when served in a corporate setting; PreK — 8 students will eat in their classrooms as has been our practice for many years.
 - Hand hygiene shall be performed prior to and after lunch periods. Students will be taught proper handwashing techniques, and regularly scheduled times for hand hygiene will occur for all grades.
- **Outdoors**
 - Consideration of effective ways to allow student breaks and recesses that minimize cross exposure in order to reduce the number of individuals exposed and potentially at risk of virus exposure is important. Outdoor instruction and increased opportunities for students to spend time outdoors will be instituted.
 - Hand hygiene shall be performed prior to and after recess and student breaks.

COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY



Cohorting

- Cohorting limits the mixing of students and staff so that, if a child develops infection, the number of exposures is reduced; it is not intended to limit or alter the curriculum available to students in any way.
- Cohorting classes shall be implemented for students in pre-K-5th grade and considered and implemented as possible for students in grades 6-12.



Ventilation

Adequately ventilated classroom environments are associated with less likelihood of transmission compared to poorly ventilated settings. Opening windows when possible and improved airflow through HVAC systems will be instituted.

COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY



Cleaning

Phase 4 Cleaning Standards

- Frequently touched surfaces, including light switches, doors, benches, and bathrooms, will be cleaned at least every four hours with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- Libraries, computer labs, arts, and other hands-on classrooms will undergo cleaning after every class period with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- Student desks will be wiped down with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution after every class period.
- Playground structures will continue to undergo normal routine cleaning, but using an EPA-approved disinfectant is unnecessary.
- We will safely and correctly use and store cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children, and with adequate ventilation when staff use products.
- Staff shall wear gloves, surgical masks, and face shields when performing all cleaning activities.
- There will be weekly fogging or similar disinfecting procedures of classrooms, busses, and other spaces utilized by students, staff, and guests.

Environmental Cleaning

Regular and ongoing cleaning schedules shall be instituted with particular attention being given to frequent disinfecting of high-touch surfaces. Student desks and workspaces shall be disinfected after each class period at the middle and high school level and throughout the day at the elementary level.

- Efforts will be made to reduce the need to touch objects/doors.
- Instituting a “no sharing” of food policy will occur.
- Classroom doors will be kept open to maximize air circulation. Classroom windows that open will be opened as weather permits.
- Students will be required to bring a labeled water bottle to school.

COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY



Mitigation of risk for students at higher risk of severe disease

Some children may be at higher risk of adverse outcomes from COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions. Parents shall work with their healthcare professionals so that informed decisions may be made, and a doctor's statement is required to be submitted to the school office in the event special considerations and accommodations are required to protect their health and safety.



Special considerations for children with medical and/or behavioral complexities

Return to school presents unique challenges to children with medical and/or behavioral complexities (respiratory and other health supports) within the classroom and their families.

- School shall provide remote learning opportunities for students whose parents must keep them home due to their child's medical conditions.
- Liaise with parents to accommodate a more individualized return to school to ensure smoother transitions.
- Provide environmental and classroom supports for the affected students.



Protection of staff and at-risk persons or families

The safety of school staff is critically important, and risk mitigation for teachers and other staff shall be similar to those recommended for other public settings.

- Physical distancing of school staff from students and other staff shall be emphasized.
- Face masks are required; clear masks will be provided to staff as appropriate as facial expressions are an important part of communication and the instructional process.

COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY



Mental health awareness and support for all children

A proactive approach is important to minimize the mental health impact of school closures upon students' return to school. When foreseeable, schools shall make every effort to address known sources of distress, extend flexibility, and work closely with parents and medical professionals.

- Children can be anticipated to return to school at diverse academic levels and assessment in order to identify learning levels and academic supports to ensure students neither become overwhelmed nor bored at school is critically important.
- It can be anticipated that children may experience increased stress and anxiety, leading to schools instituting additional academic and emotional support for students impacted in these ways.

COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY



Communication about COVID-19 to students, parents, and other caregivers

Clear, age-appropriate communication about COVID-19 and what to expect when students return to school shall occur in advance of school reopening. Regular updates shall be provided throughout the course of the school year.



Responding to Positive Cases

All contact tracing and quarantine protocols have been established by the Kent County Health Department and are available to review as part of the Kent County Health Department School Toolkit available on our website at grcs.org/reopening.

The Kent County Health Department continues to update this toolkit. Parents should refer to it periodically in order to review any further revisions or updates.



THE ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

05: The On-Campus Experience

THE ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCE



Schedules

Elementary, Rockford Christian & GRCMS

- No significant schedule changes have been made at Grand Rapids Christian Elementary School (Evergreen & Iroquois), Rockford Christian School, or Grand Rapids Christian Middle School.

Grand Rapids Christian High School

- Each day will start with a “**late start**” at 8:35 to encourage a staggered arrival.
- We will run **two lunches** to reduce the number of students in the lunchroom together.
- **Passing time** will be only five minutes, and the hallways will have directional tape to control traffic.
- **Chapel** will be broadcast into classrooms and/or run in small groups during Focus Period.
- A “chime” will sound with five minutes remaining in each period signaling students and staff to go through cleaning procedures where they disinfect their hands and workspace.
- **Wednesdays will be off-campus learning days** for all students where teachers may choose synchronous or asynchronous instruction.
 - Our **first day, Wednesday, August 19**, will have on-campus instruction.
 - We will build upon successes from last spring to make this a valuable part of students’ learning experience.
 - There may be unique circumstances where some students benefit from being on campus on Wednesdays. Counselors or program coordinators are available to explore this option.
- The building will be **deeply cleaned** both on Wednesdays and over the weekend.
- Students will be asked to **exit the building by 3:00 pm**. Students with after school activities must report to their designated areas.

THE ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCE



Schedules

Grand Rapids Christian High School

<div>  GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL DAILY SCHEDULE FALL 2020 </div>				
MONDAY (75)	TUESDAY (75)	WEDNESDAY VIRTUAL DAY (40)	THURSDAY (75)	FRIDAY (75)
LATE START 7:55 - 8:30	LATE START 7:55 - 8:30	DEVOTIONS 1st Period 7:55 - 8:40 (45)	LATE START 7:55 - 8:30	LATE START 7:55 - 8:30
DEVOTIONS	DEVOTIONS	PASSING	DEVOTIONS	DEVOTIONS
1st Period 8:35 - 9:55 (80)	2nd Period 8:35 - 9:55 (80)	2nd Period 8:45 - 9:25 (40)	1st Period 8:35 - 9:55 (80)	2nd Period 8:35 - 9:55 (80)
PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING
3rd Period 10:00 - 11:20 (80)	4th Period 10:00 - 11:20 (80)	3rd Period 9:30 - 10:10 (40)	3rd Period 10:00 - 11:20 (80)	4th Period 10:00 - 11:20 (80)
PASSING	PASSING	BREAK	PASSING	PASSING
LUNCH A/FOCUS 11:25 - 11:45 (20)	LUNCH A/FOCUS 11:25 - 11:45 (20)	4th Period 10:20 - 11:00 (40)	LUNCH A/FOCUS 11:25 - 11:45 (20)	LUNCH A/FOCUS 11:25 - 11:45 (20)
PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING
LUNCH B/FOCUS 11:50-12:10 (20)	LUNCH B/FOCUS 11:50-12:10 (20)	5th Period 11:05 - 11:45 (40)	LUNCH B/FOCUS 11:50-12:10 (20)	LUNCH B/FOCUS 11:50-12:10 (20)
PASSING	PASSING	LUNCH	PASSING	PASSING
5th Period 12:15 - 1:30 (75)	6th Period 12:15 - 1:30 (75)	6th Period 12:40 - 1:20 (40)	5th Period 12:15 - 1:30 (75)	6th Period 12:15 - 1:30 (75)
PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING
7th Period 1:35 - 2:50 (75)	8th Period 1:35 - 2:50 (75)	7th Period 1:25 - 2:05 (40)	7th Period 1:35 - 2:50 (75)	8th Period 1:35 - 2:50 (75)
PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING
		8th Period 2:10 - 2:50 (40)		
PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING

THE ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

05: The On-Campus Experience



Masks

Phase 4

- Facial coverings shall always be worn by staff except for meals. Facial coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks. Any staff member who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any staff member that is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance must not wear a facial covering.
 - PreK-5 and special education teachers shall consider wearing clear masks or surgical masks as necessary and appropriate.
 - Cloth facial coverings shall be washed daily.
 - Disposable facial coverings shall be disposed of at the end of each day.
- Facial coverings shall be worn by PreK-12 students, staff, and bus drivers during school transportation. Any staff or student that is unable to medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any staff or student that is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance must not wear one. Facial coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks.
- Facial coverings shall always be worn in hallways and common areas by PreK-12 students in the building except for during meals. Any student that is unable to medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any student that is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance must not wear one. Facial coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks.
 - Cloth facial coverings shall be washed daily.
 - Disposable facing coverings shall be disposed of at the end of each day.
 - Students with significant disabilities preventing the use of facial coverings are referred to forthcoming guidance from MDE.

THE ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCE



Masks

Phase 4

- Facial coverings shall be worn in classrooms by all students in grades 6-12. Any student who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering shall not wear one. Any student who is incapacitated, or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, shall not wear one.
- All students in grades K-5 shall wear facial coverings unless students remain with their classes throughout the school day and do not come into close contact with students in another class.
- At GRCS, PreK — 5th grade students will be cohorted so that they will spend the entirety of their day with their homeroom class, including while on the playground at recess, and will not be required to wear masks during instruction time.
- Students or staff members who cannot medically tolerate a face covering, or who are incapacitated and unable to remove a face covering without assistance, shall be required to provide a note from their health care provider to the building Principal.
- Facial coverings may be worn by PreK-5 students and students with special needs in classrooms at a parent's request.
- Facial coverings are not recommended for use in classrooms by children ages 3 and 4.

THE ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCE



Masks

Phase 5

- In Phase 5, students are strongly recommended rather than required to wear masks.
- In the event our Region is moved to Phase 5, a decision on whether to require students and staff to wear masks or make wearing masks optional will be made in consultation with health officials and following the administration's review of the health conditions and infection rate within our Region at that time.

Phase 6

- Masks are not required or recommended in Phase 6

THE ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

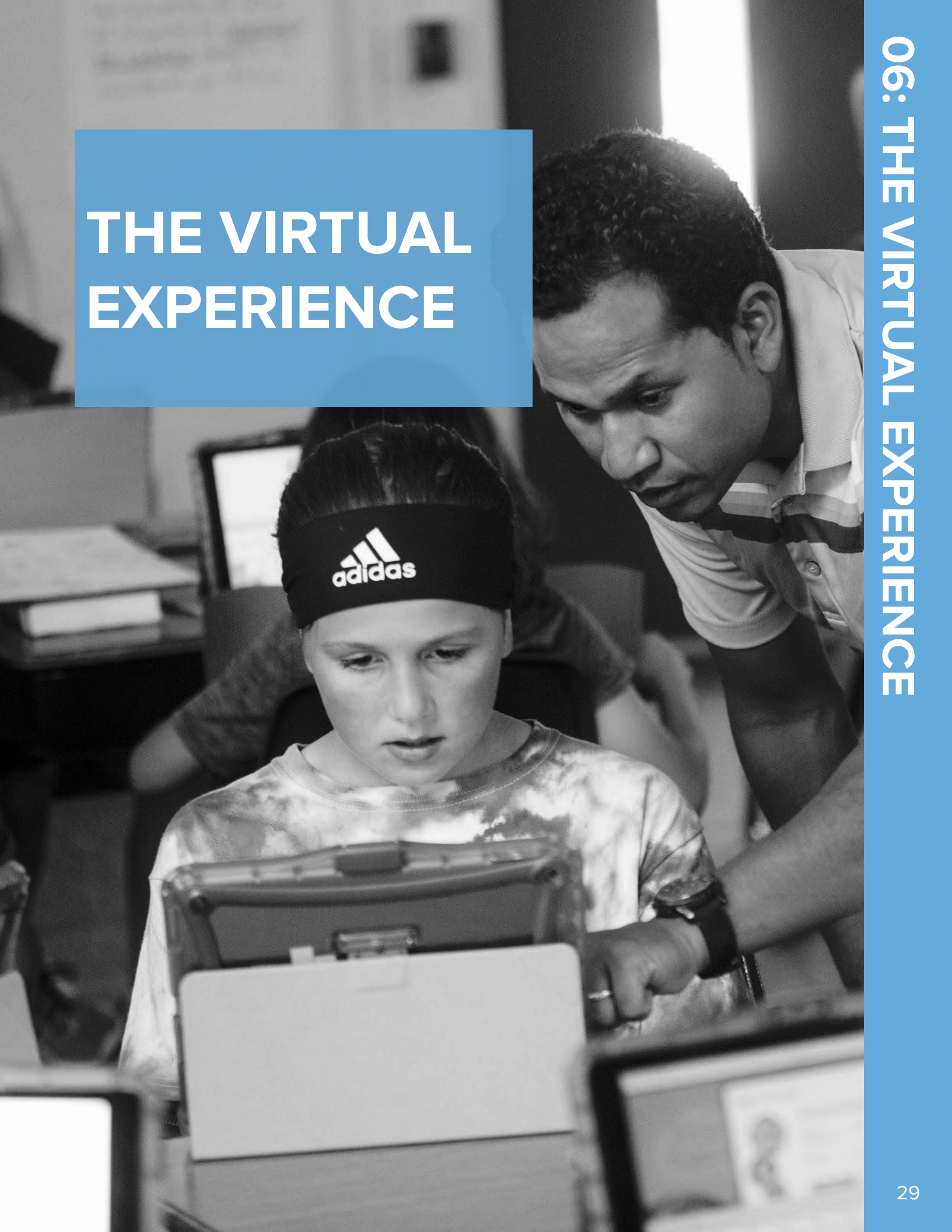


Cohorts

- Cohorting limits the mixing of students and staff so that, if a child develops infection, the number of exposures is reduced; it is not intended to limit or alter the curriculum available to students in any way.
- The goal of this plan is to minimize risk exposure as much as possible.
- Elementary age students will stay with their class, with the same staff, throughout the day.
- For middle school age students, this will be done to the extent possible.

THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

06: THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE



THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

Parents will have the option to enroll their children in Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Virtual Learning 2020.

Virtual Learning will be taught in “real-time,” students will be required to log in, and attendance will be taken.

Virtual learning will be available for students throughout the year; parents will be allowed to transition their children between in-person and virtual learning with a three-day notice.

Families can learn more about and sign up for the Virtual Learning experience by visiting grcs.org/virtual.

THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE



Virtual Learning

Elementary Levels

- Students will join the classroom via Zoom each morning at the beginning of the school day and participate in lessons throughout the school day.
- Students will follow the school schedule including breaks for recess, lunch, etc.
- Teachers will provide a weekly schedule to families so that they know when instruction will take place throughout the school day.
- Teachers will use Zoom to provide real-time lessons and instruction during each school day Monday through Friday.
- Zoom will be turned off during student work times and during outdoor instruction time.
- The Zoom lessons will be recorded, and the links will be uploaded onto the classroom blog by 12:00 pm the following day.

Middle School Levels

- Teachers will livestream via Zoom. Students will watch teachers teach lessons and will also be given time to do assignments while the rest of the class is doing the same.
- Recording may also be available to those who cannot participate live.
- Teachers will check with Virtual Learning students at the same time they check for understanding with students in the classroom.
- We encourage students to participate live with the classroom.

High School Level

- All classes will be available via livestream. Students will be watching instruction over Zoom.
- Virtual students are expected to attend each class via Zoom.
- These classes will also be recorded and available on Google Classroom later in the day.
- Each teacher will work with virtual students to find the best time to answer their questions.
- Students can ask questions at the appropriate time during class. They can also sign up for a Focus session where they can ask questions.



FOOD SERVICE, GATHERINGS, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

FOOD SERVICE, GATHERINGS, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Food Service

- Students, teachers, and food service staff shall wash hands before and after every meal.
- Students may not share food.
- PreK — 8th grade students will eat in their homerooms.
- High school students will eat in the All City Gym, lobby, and Town Square at staggered times in order to reduce the number of high school students at lunch at a given time.



Phase 4 Gatherings

- Indoor assemblies that bring together students from more than one classroom are prohibited. Large scale assemblies of more than 50 students shall be suspended.
- Off-site field trips that require bus transportation to an indoor location shall be suspended.
- If possible, schools shall offer telecasting of assemblies, chapels, and other school-sanctioned events.
- Extracurricular activities shall continue with the use of facial coverings.



Phase 5 Gatherings

- All gatherings, including those that occur outdoors (e.g., graduations), shall comply with current and future executive orders that set caps on congregations of people.
- If field trips occur, they shall comply with transportation guidelines within this document, including mandatory facial coverings.
- Schools may offer telecasting of assemblies and other school-sanctioned events if able.
- After-school programs may continue with the use of facial coverings.

ATHLETICS



ATHLETICS



As a member school of MHSAA, Grand Rapids Christian Schools adheres to all regulations and guidelines provided by MHSAA. The guidelines are specific for each sport, and all health and safety protocols will be followed. As MHSAA updates or provides further clarity of its guidelines, we will adjust and revise as required.

Phase 4 Athletics

- Large scale indoor spectator events shall be suspended.
- Large scale outdoor spectator or stadium events are limited to the number of people specified by MHSAA in conjunction with state required guidelines and executive orders, and people not part of the same household shall maintain six feet of distance from one another.
- Spectators are allowed provided that facial coverings are used by observers, and six feet of social distancing can be maintained at all times. Attention shall be given to entry and exit points to prevent crowding.
- Students, teachers, and staff must use proper hand hygiene techniques before and after every practice, event, or other gatherings.
- All participants shall confirm that they are healthy and without any symptoms prior to any event.

Phase 5 Athletics

- Indoor spectator events shall be limited to 50 people.
- Large scale outdoor spectator or stadium events shall be limited to 250 people.
- Spectators not part of the same household must always maintain six feet of distance from one another.
- Students, teachers, and staff shall use proper hand hygiene techniques before and after every practice, event, or other gatherings.
- All participants should confirm that they are healthy and without any symptoms prior to any event.

MUSIC



MUSIC



Elementary Music, Choral, and Instrumental Music

Choral and Instrumental Music is an integral part of Grand Rapids Christian Schools' co-curricular program. Due to the unique challenges associated with the health and safety of students, Grand Rapids Christian Music faculty have studied procedures and protocols to implement as recommended by federal and state choral and instrumental music organizations, which are found below:

Protocols Common to Elementary Music, Choral Music, Band, and Orchestra

- K-5 students will wear masks in music class if/when they are singing.
- A decision on playing recorders will be made once findings and recommendations from a Performing Arts Aerosol Study have been released from the University of Colorado and partnering organizations.
- At this time, we are recommending K-4th students have masks available for music time.
- We are monitoring current research and will provide an update if and when research leads us to a different procedure.
- Class seating shall be organized in straight rows, with six feet spacing, and all will be facing the front of the room.
- Students will not share sheet music, so each student will be given their own folder, set of books, and sheet music. If necessary, music will be projected.
- Common surface areas and relevant course equipment shall be disinfected prior to students entering the classroom.
- Traffic flow shall be controlled as students enter the classroom.
- Students shall enter the room using proper social distancing.
- Once in their assigned seats, students shall remain there for the duration of the class.

MUSIC



Elementary Music, Choral, and Instrumental Music

Protocols Specific to Band and Orchestra

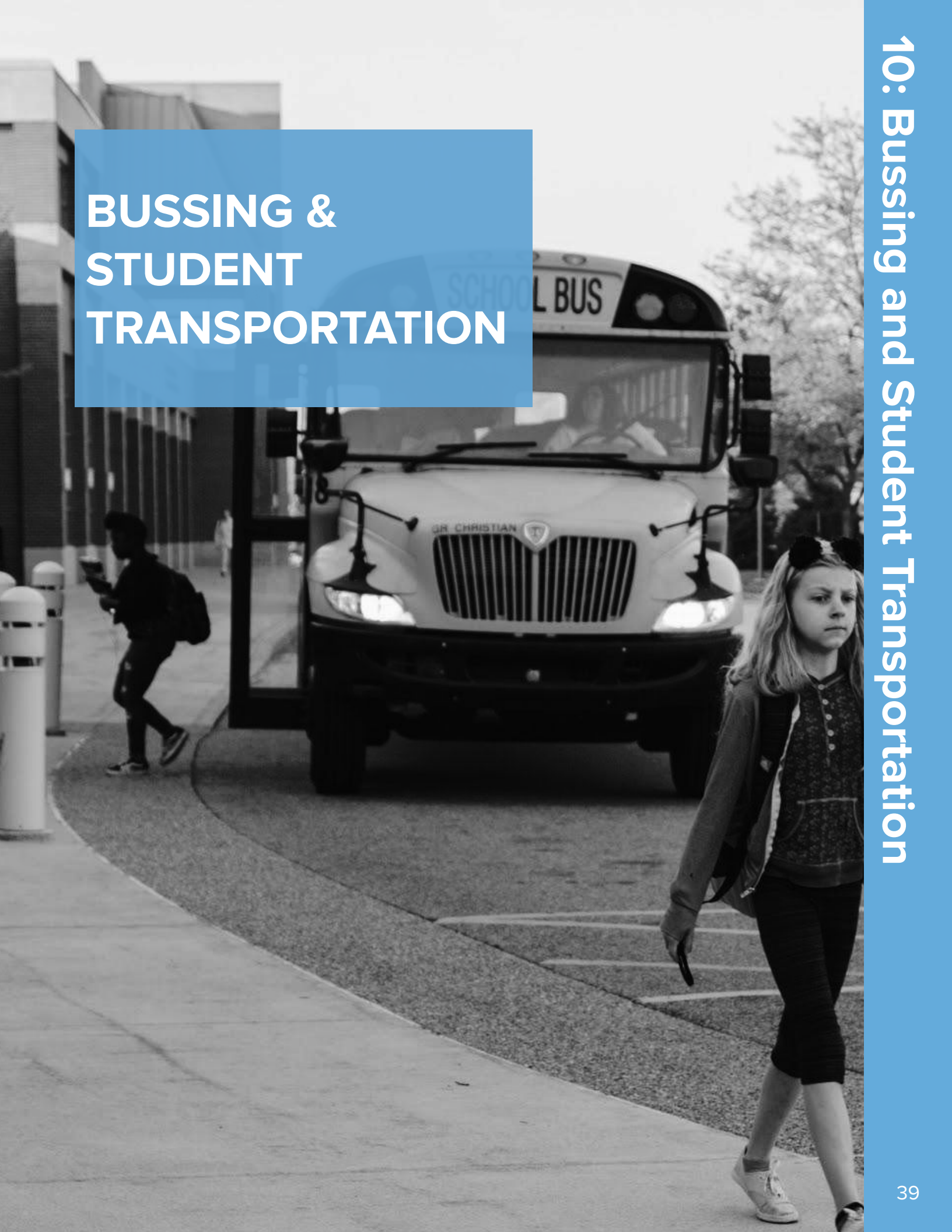
- Students in a given music class must not share music stands.
- Cyndi Betts, 5th — 8th Grade Orchestra Director, has ordered enough music stands so that each student should be able to have their own metal stand at each building.
- Each student will have their own music stand, and stands will be cleaned between classes.
- Whenever possible, instruments shall not be shared. If shared, proper and thorough disinfecting will occur between each use.
- Special precautions will be followed when tuning instruments.

Protocols Specific to Band

- Masks with a slit for the mouthpiece will be provided for students to wear during instruction.
- A nylon covering for the bell of the instrument will be provided for students.
- Students who play brass instruments will be instructed on the appropriate procedures to empty their water key.

BUSSING & STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

10: Bussing and Student Transportation



BUSSING & STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

10: Bussing and Student Transportation



Grand Rapids Christian Schools is pleased to be able to continue to offer student transportation to families who request it and live outside of a 2 mile radius of 2400 Plymouth Ave. SE.

GRPS will not be transporting students for at least the first 9 weeks of school and for as long as their schools remain online. Parents whose students ride GRPS busses will need to provide transportation to and from school for their children during this time.

Phase 4 Transportation Procedures

- Before entering the bus, hand sanitizer shall be used. Hand sanitizer shall be supplied on the bus.
- The bus driver, staff, and all students in grades PreK-12, if medically feasible, must wear facial coverings while on the bus. *Note: there may be situations where it is not safe for the bus driver to wear a facial covering. Decisions about these situations shall be made on a case-by-case basis with local public health officials.*
- Transportation vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected before and after every transit route, while children are not present.
- Frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle (e.g., surfaces in the driver's cockpit, hard seats, armrests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors, and windows, and grab handles) shall be cleaned and disinfected prior to morning routes and prior to afternoon routes.
- Equipment including items such as car seats, wheelchairs, walkers, and adaptive equipment being transported to schools will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily.
- We have created a plan for getting students home safely if they are not allowed to board the vehicle, which will be shared with staff and families outside of this Preparedness Plan.
- If a student becomes sick during the day, they shall not be allowed to use group transportation to return home and must follow the transportation protocols. If a driver becomes sick during the day, they must follow protocols for sick staff and cannot return to drive students.
- Weather permitting, doors and windows will be kept open when cleaning the vehicle and between trips to let the vehicles thoroughly air out.
- Weather permitting, windows will be kept open while the vehicle is in motion to help reduce the spread of the virus by increasing air circulation, if appropriate and safe.

PRESCHOOL



PRESCHOOL



Drop-Off and Pick-Up

- The procedures for preschool drop-off and pick-up will look different this year at most of our campuses. There will be designated outside areas and specific times at each of our locations for your preschooler to be dropped off and picked up.
- Preschool teachers will be greeting each child outside as they are being dropped off, and we will have a staff member walking small groups into school escorting them to their classroom where their preschool aides will be waiting for them.
- Preschool teachers and aides will be waiting with students to be picked up at their designated pick up location.
- Preschool teachers will be communicating directly with a “Welcome to Preschool” letter containing specific location information and times for drop-off and pick-up.



Teacher Communication

- Teachers will be communicating classroom information through their weekly classroom blogs/newsletters.
- If a teacher or parent needs to relay specific information about individual students, it will be done through either email or phone calls.
- Direct classroom phone numbers and emails will be provided for parents in the “Welcome to Preschool” letter as well as in the Preschool Handbook.

PRESCHOOL



Possible School Closures

- During the school closure of the 2019-2020 school year, Grand Rapids Christian Schools provided the option of receiving a refund or tuition credit for preschool families.
- At this point, we are not able to say for sure if this will happen again this year if schools were indeed required to close again.
- If school is closed again this year, a decision about refunding or crediting tuition for preschool will be made once the extent of a school closure has been determined.
- If Michigan, or the Grand Rapids Region, is moved back to Phase 3 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan and schools are required to close, there will be clarity if certain aspects of the early childhood program may remain open.
- At this time, the Governor's office has stated that licensed preschools within a K-12 school may remain open for essential workers only.

PRESCHOOL



Preschool Classroom Environment

We recognize that preschool will look different in some areas this year, but we want to assure you that many things will still be the same. Our teachers will continue to provide excellent opportunities for learning and exploring God's amazing world.

We have always looked at each of our preschool classrooms as an extension of your family, and that will be the same this year. We will continue to emphasize the importance of being a caring and loving family in our classrooms.

During the first weeks of preschool, our teachers have always emphasized to our students that our number one job is to "Keep Kids Safe."

Our teachers will continue to provide a warm, caring, and safe environment for our children and work with them on how they can also help keep each other safe.

Following are some of the ways that preschool will look different this year.

PRESCHOOL



Preschool Classroom Environment

Toys and Shared Items

- Preschool teachers have been meeting to ensure that if items are used, they are sanitized appropriately, rotated in and out of use for a time for germs to be eliminated, or for toys to be assigned to kids and to be stored in their own container.
- Many things have been eliminated from use, as we are not able to sanitize them.
- By doing these things, we feel we can provide students with a fun and enjoyable learning experience, while also being safe.

Cohort Groups

- Preschool classrooms will be broken up into cohort groups for things like lunch, visiting lockers, bathroom breaks, and other times when kids are typically in closer proximity to each other.
- The goal is to reduce the number of kids moving in a group so social distancing will be easier to maintain.
- We recognize this will be a challenge, but with two adults in the classroom at all times, and through intentional planning, we feel kids will be safe proximity away from each other.

Face Coverings

- Teachers will be wearing masks at all times.
- Preschool students will only be wearing masks/face coverings when entering and exiting the school building, in the hallways, and in the hallway bathrooms.

Outdoor Play

- We have always valued outdoor play, but will work to increase outdoor instruction as well as play.
- We will limit only one preschool classroom at a time to be on the playground and will be taking advantage of some of our other beautiful outdoor areas on each campus.

Social Distancing

- Preschoolers, like all kids, need connections with peers and adults. Unlike older students, however, we don't think it is realistic for them to be able to self-monitor 6 feet of distance.
- We want to do what we can to help limit proximity in the classroom — things like assigned rug spots on the carpet or smaller groups in defined areas of the classroom.
- Preschool teachers will be spending lots of time setting new routines and expectations in developmentally appropriate ways.
- We are confident our teachers will be able to remind students of best practices, while not becoming the distance police. We want school to not only be safe but feel warm and nurturing as well.

TUITION & FEES

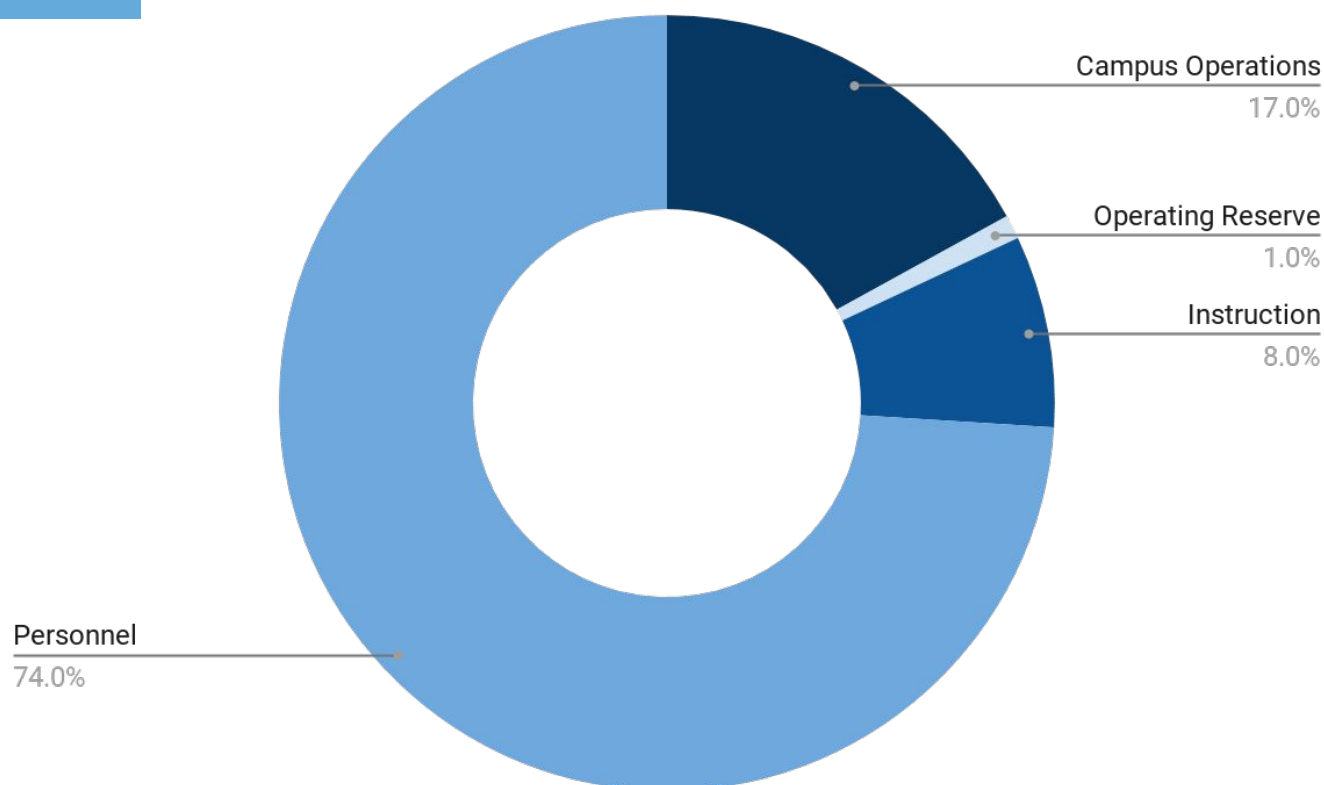


TUITION & FEES

Tuition covers the continuity of learning and community, which exist on or off campus. We have been fortunate to be able to provide a robust off-campus and Virtual Learning experience during this time of crisis.



What does your tuition pay for?



Campus Operations — 17%

- These expenses remain even when campuses are closed.

Operating Reserve — 1%

Instruction — 8%

- Learning platforms
- Communications
- Technology
- Instructional materials
- Professional development
- Assessments
- Fine arts
- Athletics
- Career and college preparation
- Leadership
- Consultation with content experts
- *Winterim*
- International Student Program

Personnel — 74%

Teachers and staff to support and implement the development and delivery of curriculum

- Instruction methodology
- School accreditation
- Evaluation of skills
- Social-emotional development
- Learning specialists
- Other related services

TUITION & FEES



Off-Campus Learning / School Closures

Grand Rapids Christian Schools' expenses continue during school closure periods. There is no plan to discount tuition if GRCS is required to transition to off-campus learning for any period of time.

School Fees

- Decisions on refunding or crediting a portion of the fee associated with transportation will be made at the time when schools are closed.
- Factors such as the length of the period of school closure will be considered.
- Any partial refund or credit of the fee assessed to high school students will be also determined once we know the duration of a school closure period.

Winterim and iXplore

- The cost of *Winterim* and iXplore are built into the cost of tuition. A reduction of tuition in the event *Winterim* and/or iXplore are not offered due to school closure will be determined at that time.
- *Winterin*: Factors such as faculty and staff wages and the possibility of adding days to the 2nd semester, beginning as early as Monday, January 4, 2021, will be considered when making a final decision on whether or not tuition will be reduced and credited back to parents.

Preschool

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TUITION & FEES



Virtual Learning

- Grand Rapids Christian Schools' expenses are not reduced for students enrolled in Virtual Learning; students' full participation in our co-curricular and extra-curricular programs is both available and encouraged for students enrolled in that option.
- Costs associated with providing Virtual Learning are actually greater than costs for in-person learning due to expenses associated with providing needed technology and other online student support.
- However, we are pleased to offer Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Virtual Learning platform at no additional cost to parents whose children are unable to attend in-person learning during a period of isolation or quarantine or who are uncomfortable with sending their children to school due to COVID-19.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

13: Frequently Asked Questions

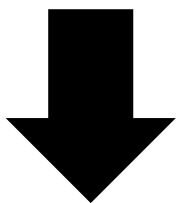
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Got questions?

Grand Rapids Christian Schools has compiled answers to Frequently Asked Questions. As additional information becomes available we will update these questions and answers.

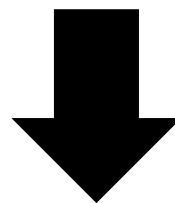
Click below to see the
Frequently Asked
Questions.



**Frequently Asked
Questions**



If you have any additional
questions, please email
reopen@grcs.org.



**Email Questions:
Reopen@grcs.org**

