



# Gill St. Bernard's School Reentry Plan 2020



# Gill St. Bernard's School Returning to Campus





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## REENTRY PLAN

We look forward to resuming on-campus teaching and learning this fall. Since suspending normal operations in March, our guiding principles have been prioritizing the health and safety of our school community, while providing students with a comprehensive, rigorous, and engaging educational program.

After several months of planning, and in accordance with the guidelines established by NJ Governor Murphy, here are important updates about the upcoming academic year.

July 15 – Reentry Plan Announced

August 4 - Reentry Update

August 15 – Reentry Final Plan

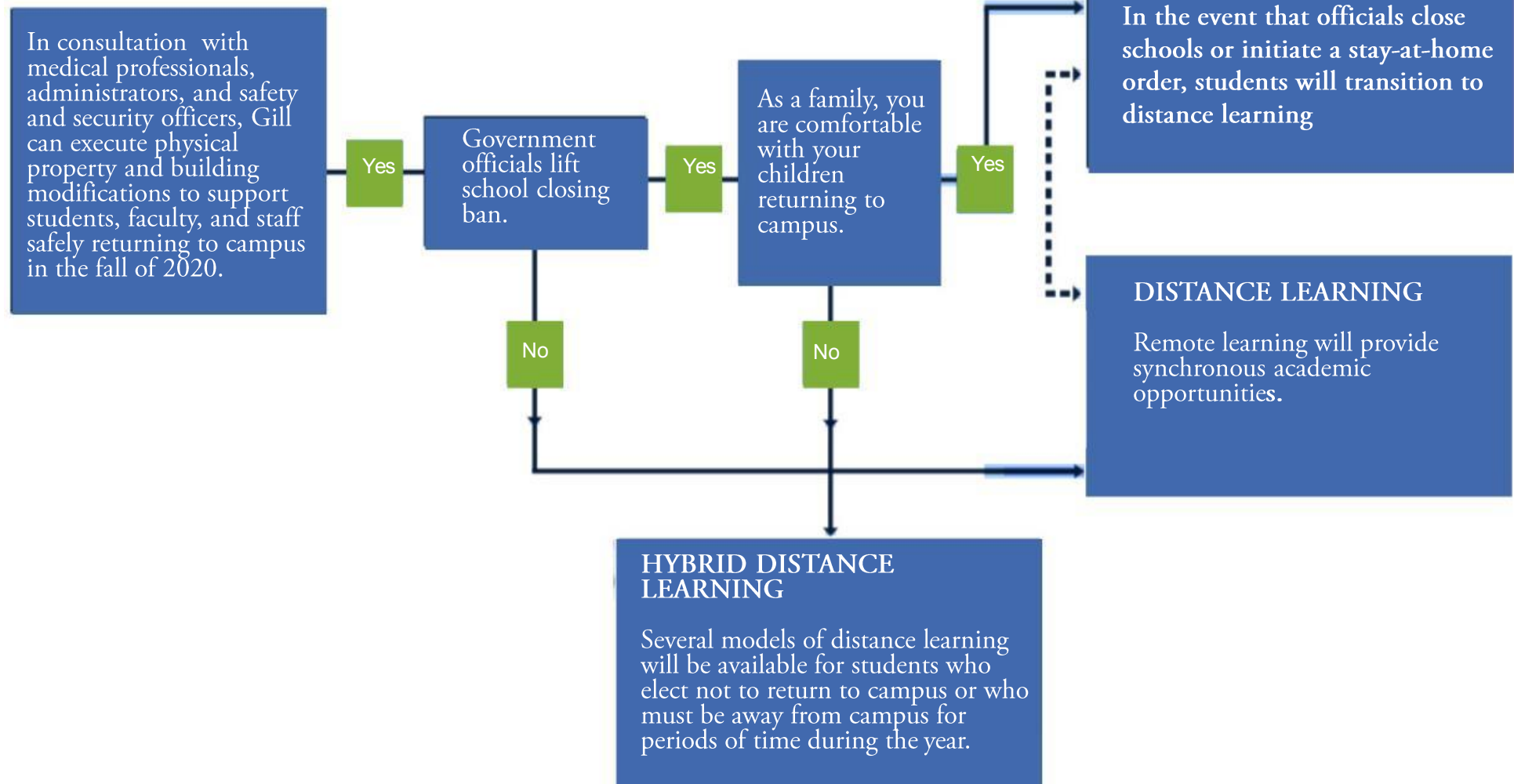
September 2 – First Day of Classes for All Students





# Gill St. Bernard's School Reentry Plan 2020

## PARENTAL DECISION PATH





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## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

We are excited to resume on-campus teaching and learning, and we also recognize that there are several reasons to maintain our ability to teach and learn online for the 2020–21 academic year. Some students may not be able to return to campus, and any student or adult who exhibits symptoms of illness will need to stay away from classrooms and other shared spaces until they are healthy.

We are hosting a robust hybrid academic program for the year, so that in-person classes can happen on campus and distance learning is available for students who elect not to return to campus or must be away from campus for intermittent periods of time during the year.

For September's opening, students will either return to "normal" operations with health and safety protocols in place, or they will engage in distance learning. Parents have the option in which program their children will engage.







## NEW & ENHANCED PROCEDURES

### Health & Safety

To ensure the safest possible campus requires making changes. To enhance safety, reduce group sizes, and limit the number of contacts each student has, we are implementing the following procedures.

- Health screening protocols will be administered for students, faculty, and staff before entering buildings.
- All students, faculty, and staff will wear masks on campus, except for [athletic teams, as outlined in these guidelines.](#)
- At least six feet of social distance in classrooms and on campus will be observed.
- If needed, contact tracing and quarantining will be implemented. This will be done in consultation with the local health board.
- Before school starts, there will be mandatory safety training for all students, faculty and staff.
- Parents will be provided with safety training information.
- Enhanced sanitizing and cleaning protocols will be used, including EPA registered cleaners.





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## NEW & ENHANCED PROCEDURES

### Indoor Air Quality

Operations personnel received EPA certification on using ventilation practices to promote healthy indoor air quality (IAQ). They were trained to oversee HVAC systems in providing clean and healthy air in the buildings, which includes applying findings from scientific research and guidance on ventilation to reduce the spread of viruses and bacteria by using comprehensive IAQ plans and practices.

The plan includes regular inspections and maintenance of HVAC systems, as well as providing outdoor air in buildings in accordance with ASHRAE standards.







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## NEW & ENHANCED PROCEDURES

### Transportation

Mendham Township and Belair Transport are following federal, state and local guidelines, including temperature checks of drivers when they arrive at the terminals, driver's wearing face masks, and disinfecting buses with EPA-approved products after each run.

Students will be asked to have their temperature taken at home. They are not to ride the bus if they have any of the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

Students will load the bus from the back to the front. Siblings will sit in the same seat and, when possible, one student to a seat. All students are required to have their masks on when they get on the bus and during the entire ride. Once students arrive, they will have temperature checked by a GSB staff member.





## NEW & ENHANCED PROCEDURES

### School Operations

- Student physicals must be completed through Magnus before the school year begins.
- We will ask families to track symptoms and travel of the students through an online survey.
- Lower School students will remain in pods throughout the day to limit cross-group interactions.
- All large gatherings will be virtual or outdoor with social distancing in place.
- School trips will be virtual through speaker engagements, virtual tours, and other immersive experiences.
- Parent and teacher meetings will be held online.







## NEW & ENHANCED PROCEDURES

### Dining Program

Lunch at Gill is an important part of our community, and we are partnering with our food vendor on options beyond simply offering boxed lunches, while retaining key elements of our lunch program and upholding health and safety guidelines.





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## P.E. & ATHLETICS

### Physical Education

In the Lower and Middle School, physical education will occur on a regular basis. Classes will be outside as much as possible, the groups will be smaller, and the locker rooms will not be used.

### Athletics

Middle School athletics are currently set to be optional and after school, as we await guidance from NJSIAA. We continue to receive guidance from NJSIAA regarding athletics, and the latest information is that fall sports may begin on October 1. We will, of course, continue to monitor and share those guidelines as they are made available.







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## LEADING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

GSB is investing in enhanced technological infrastructure hardware and software, through tools, applications, hardware devices, and professional support.

High-quality audio, video, and screen-sharing functions are accessible in the classroom and remotely.

Distance learning students will be visible to their teachers and classmates, even as the classroom is visible to them.





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## EMAIL & APPLICATIONS



GSB uses **Microsoft 365/Azure** for user accounts. This account provides all students with access to Microsoft Office applications and single sign on to school applications, including Google Apps. In addition, students in grades 5-12, as well as faculty, have access to Microsoft 365 email.

"**KnightSite**" is our Learning Management System (LMS). This is a cloud-based system from Blackbaud. This is how students will know their academic schedule, keep track of and hand in assignments, and access resources and the school directory.

GSB provides several other software tools and apps to support learning. In our evolving distance learning environment, we are updating this list of tools with an eye towards safety and data security, as well as community building. A few standard tools include:

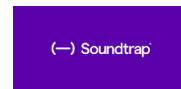
- Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides and Jamboard
- SeeSaw (Preschool – 4)
- Zoom and Microsoft Teams are used for synchronous learning sessions





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## DIGITAL PLATFORMS





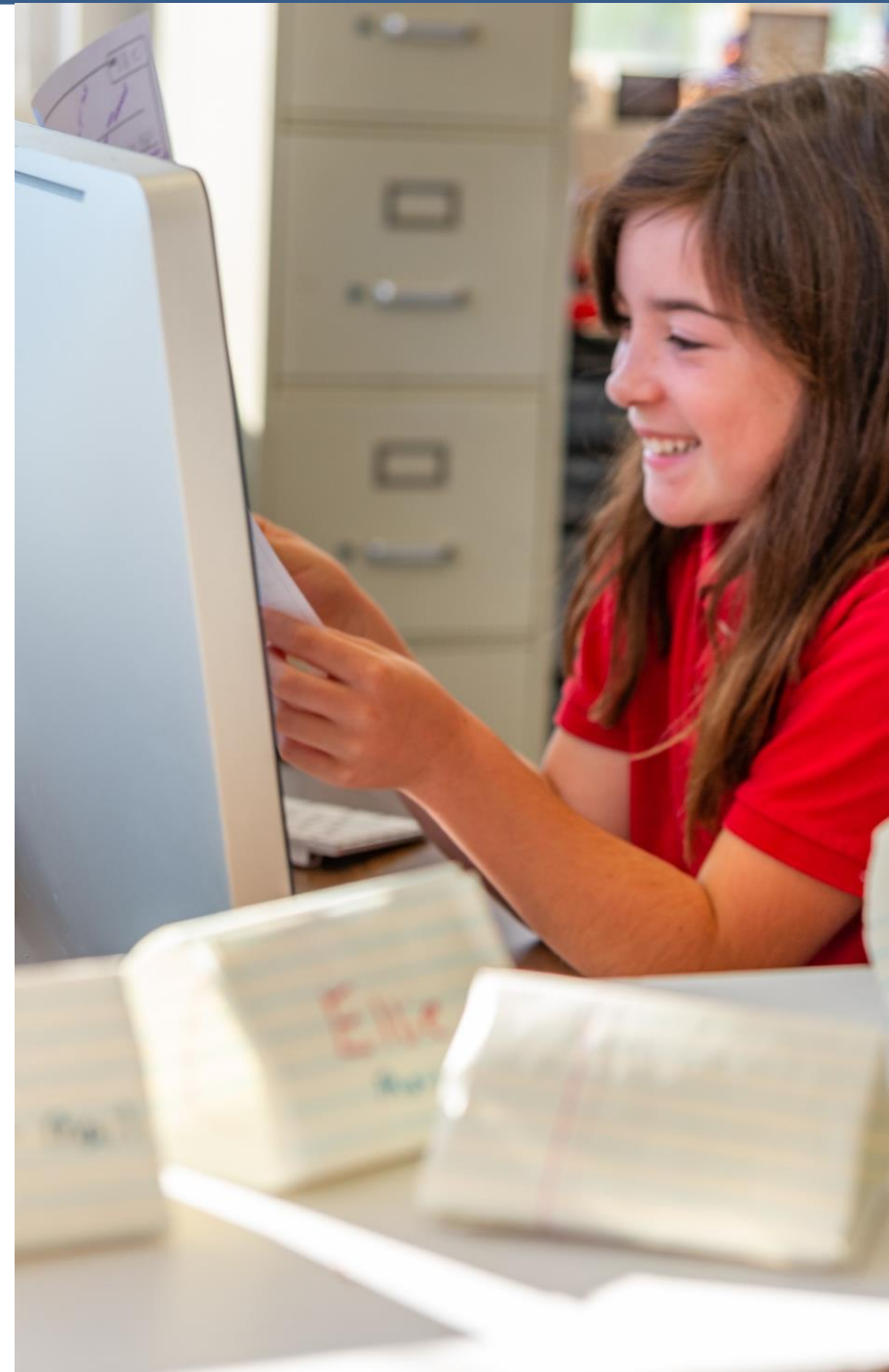
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## TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

GSB is a BYOD (bring your own device) school. However, Lower School students do not need to bring them, as we have iPads and Chromebooks available on site. We will closely monitor use and distribution. Due to hygiene considerations, we ask that Middle School students bring their own devices. For individual work and home use, our Tech Department recommends the following devices:

- **Preschool – 2:** iPad running iOS 12 or later, Chromebook running version 81 or higher, PC-compatible laptop with Windows 10 at a minimum, or Apple laptop with Macintosh OS X High Sierra at a minimum
- **Grades 3 – 8:** Chromebook running version 81 or higher, PC-compatible laptop with Windows 10 at a minimum, or Apple laptop with Macintosh OS X High Sierra at a minimum
- **Grades 9 – 12** – PC-compatible laptops with Windows 10 at a minimum or Apple laptop with Macintosh OS X High Sierra at a minimum.

*NOTE: Chromebooks and tablets are not recommended in the Upper School, as they often cannot support applications used at this level.*







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## FACULTY PREPARATION

The GSB faculty and staff are actively engaged in professional development programs to enhance teaching strategies, with sessions by Global Online Academy (GOA), Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community (DEIC) awareness training, Advanced Placement workshops, classes provided by the GSB Technology Department, and learning opportunities from NJAIS and other professional organizations.

**"The summer work that our faculty and staff are doing to enhance their skills and understanding is really impressive. When our students return in September, they will be the beneficiaries of this major professional commitment."**

**Sid Rowell, Head of School**





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## COMMUNITY

### Mental Health and Social & Emotional Support

As we continue helping students build connections with each other and their teachers, orientation programs will take place in each division. Our school counselors and school nurses are on staff to assist.

Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Tracey Goodson Barrett, and our DEIC team members, continue to oversee the implementation of Gill's [DEIC Action Plan](#) for enhancing our school community by actively supporting all constituencies.







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## COMMUNITY

### Visitors & Volunteers

For everyone's safety, campus access for visitors is limited. On-campus and in-classroom volunteer opportunities will not yet begin. All essential guests will be by appointment only, and they must follow our protocols through security check-ins. All visitors over the age of two must wear a face covering.

### Calendar

Large-group events this fall, and perhaps for the entire academic year, will be modified based on the applicable guidelines. Our school calendar will be adjusted to indicate which events may have to change. We remain hopeful that we will be able to reinstitute on-campus, in-person events when it is safe to do so.







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## WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU

As we continue preparing for the new academic year, please know how eager we are to be together again on campus. We are doing everything we can to make you feel safe, welcome, and ready to begin again.

Until we return, enjoy your summer!

