

GARRISON FOREST SCHOOL

300 GARRISON FOREST ROAD • OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND 21117

Dear parents,

We know many families are making plans as we approach the holidays, and we wanted to provide a few reminders as you navigate a holiday season that may look different than others we have known.

Travel Protocols

Especially during the holiday season, we encourage families to revisit the expectations outlined in the [GFS Safe Community Agreement](#), as well as the [GFS Travel Protocols](#). Adhering to these guidelines will help us keep our community safe and keep our campus open throughout the holiday season—and beyond.

The school expects all families to AVOID:

- Attending or hosting large events where appropriate social distancing, mask wearing or other common sense prevention methods are not in place.
- Unnecessary travel. If travel is needed, appropriate state and school guidelines for reporting, testing and self-quarantine will be followed

We expect families to:

- Practice and reinforce hygiene measures at home, like handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Wear masks in accordance with state and local guidelines.
- Keep their child home at the first sign of any illness.

While we encourage families to avoid unnecessary travel, as per the Governor's Travel Advisory, if you do choose to travel over the holidays, please adhere to the following procedure:

- When returning from travel to an out-of-state area with a positive test rate over 10%
- OR**
- if you have used public transportation (plane, train, bus, etc) where you were within six feet of others for 15 minutes or more, *regardless of the state's positivity rate*,

then students should be tested (PCR test) for COVID-19 three to five days after their return **AND** they must quarantine until the results come back. (You can determine your destination's level of COVID-19 infections by going to the [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#) and clicking on the state you are planning to visit.) Please keep this in mind when making your holiday plans.

Thanksgiving Break

Thanksgiving break is planned from the end of the academic day on Tuesday, November 24, through Monday, November 30. We intend to reopen as planned on Tuesday, December 1. We urge any families who know there may have been a possible exposure to opt for virtual learning for their child upon return, and to err on the side of caution when making these decisions.

If, given your plans for the holidays, you already know that your child will be learning virtually for the week of December 1-4, please communicate that information to your Division Head now so they can properly plan. Or, if you

were not initially planning to choose virtual learning for your student but you encounter an unexpected exposure or your plans change over break, please let your Division Head know as soon as possible upon your return, and with at least 24 hours notice. All students opting for virtual learning after the break should plan to learn online through Friday, December 4, with a return to school on Monday, December 7 only if they remain symptom-free and can answer "no" to the Magnus Daily Health screening questions.

In addition to the information above, families of boarding students can expect a follow-up in the coming days from Jodi Blackburn, Director of Student Life, with more specifics for boarding students.

We encourage everyone to show the same responsibility over the break as you have so far this year. Your dedication and adherence to guidelines has allowed our school year to continue with relatively few interruptions and has kept our community safe. Our hope is to continue this trend through the holidays and into the new year. As always, the partnership between home and school is essential in ensuring a safe and healthy—and open—campus for everyone.

Best wishes,

Chris Hughes
Head of School

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Director, GFS Health Center



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