

GREAT MEADOWS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020-21 SCHOOL RE-ENTRY PLAN

RETURNING TO A NEW VERSION OF NORMAL

WHAT BROUGHT US HERE?

- COVID-19 outbreak begins early 2020.
- Preparations are made for potential two-week closure if spread continues. Teachers and administration consider best options for remote learning.
- March 13 – GMRSD calls emergency day for teachers to prepare schoolwork for anticipated closure through March 30.
- March 16 – GMRSD begins remote learning.
- March 16 – Gov. Murphy signs Executive Order 104 closing schools throughout New Jersey.
- Executive Order 104 is extended multiple times, eventually closing schools for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.
- June 26 – Gov. Murphy and DOE Commissioner Dr. Repollet announce “The Road Back,” a set of guidelines for a return to in-person school in September.

“THE ROAD BACK”

- **Conditions for learning must not only address students’ and educators’ basic physical safety needs, but also the social and emotional and environmental factors that can impact educators’ capacity to teach and students’ capacity to learn.**
- At a minimum, school districts must adopt a policy for screening students and employees for symptoms of COVID-19 and history of exposure and must strive for social distancing within classroom and on school buses. If schools are not able to maintain this physical distance, additional modifications should be in place, including physical barriers between desks and turning desks to face the same direction.
- Each school district must also adopt cleaning and disinfecting procedures.

“THE ROAD BACK”

- School staff and visitors are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the individual’s health or the individual is under two years of age.
- Students are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings and are required to do so when social distancing cannot be maintained, unless doing so would inhibit the student’s health. *It is also necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities.*

“THE ROAD BACK”

- The NJDOE has identified ten Critical Areas of Operation that schools must address in their restart plans:
 - 1) General Health and Safety Guidelines** – In all stages and phases of pandemic response and recovery, schools must comply with Center for Disease Control (CDC), state, and local guidelines. Schools must also provide reasonable accommodations for staff and students at higher risk for severe illness and promote behaviors that reduce spread, such as social distancing, frequent hand washing, and the use of face coverings.
 - 2) Classrooms, Testing, and Therapy Rooms** – Schools and districts must allow for social distancing to the maximum extent possible. When social distancing is difficult or impossible, face coverings are required, and face coverings are always required for visitors and staff unless it will inhibit the individual’s health. School districts must also minimize use of shared objects, ensure indoor facilities have adequate ventilation, prepare and maintain hand sanitizing stations, and ensure students wash hands frequently.
 - 3) Transportation** – If maintaining social distancing is not possible, all students who are able must wear face coverings while on busses.

“THE ROAD BACK”

4) Student Flow, Entry, Exit, and Common Areas – School district reopening plans should establish the process and location for student and staff health screenings. This should include providing physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to help ensure that staff and students remain at least six feet apart.

5) Screening, PPE, and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms – School districts must adopt a policy for safely and respectfully screening students and employees for symptoms of and history of exposure to COVID-19. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others. If a school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, district officials must immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.

6) Contact Tracing – Contact tracing is the process used to identify those who have come into contact with people who have tested positive for many contagious diseases, including COVID-19. School districts should collaborate with the local health department and engage their school nurses to develop contact tracing policies and procedures, as well as educate the broader school community on the importance of contact tracing.

“THE ROAD BACK”

- 7) Facilities Cleaning Practices** – School districts must continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise. School districts must also develop a schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfecting, especially of frequently touched surfaces and objects, and sanitize bathrooms daily and between use as much as possible.
- 8) Meals** – If cafeterias or other group dining areas are in use, school districts must stagger eating times to allow for social distancing and disinfecting of the area between groups. Additionally, districts must discontinue family-style, self-service, and buffet-style dining and maintain social distancing. Cafeteria staff must wash hands immediately after removing gloves and after directly handling used food service items.
- 9) Recess/Physical Education** – School districts must complete an inventory of outdoor spaces and mark off areas to ensure separation between students. Recess must be staggered by groups and staff must disinfect playground equipment and other shared equipment between uses.
- 10) Extracurricular Activities and Use of Facilities Outside of School Hours** – All extracurricular activities must comply with applicable social distancing requirements and hygiene protocol. External community organizations that use school facilities must follow district guidance on health and safety protocols.

FEEDBACK REQUESTED/RECEIVED

- Formation of GMRSD Reopening Committee
 - District administration
 - GMREA representatives
 - CST, Nurses and Counselors
 - GMRSD BOE representatives
 - Parent representatives
- Surveys of GMRSD community
- Surveys of GMRSD staff
- Utilization of data to formulate a Plan that puts safety first and provides the best education possible within the current parameters.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED IN THE FORTHCOMING PRESENTATION

- **What is the school schedule for 2020-21?**
- **How is the staff prepared?**
- **What are the plans for cleaning and sanitation?**
- **What are temperature screening procedures?**
- **What if someone in school tests positive (or is presumed positive) for COVID-19?**
- **What are mask requirements/procedures?**
- **What are social distancing requirements/procedures?**
- **What are busing requirements/procedures?**
- **What will lunch/recess be like?**
- **How will students catch up?**
- **What if we must close again?**
- **What can we do about child care?**

What is the school schedule for 2020-21?

DAY	IN-SCHOOL	FULLY REMOTE
MONDAY	Blue Group: IN SCHOOL Green Group: REMOTE; PM MEET WITH TEACHERS	LEARNING USING EDGENUITY PLATFORM (W/ GMRSD TEACHER SUPPORT)
TUESDAY	Blue Group: IN SCHOOL Green Group: REMOTE; PM MEET WITH TEACHERS	LEARNING USING EDGENUITY PLATFORM (W/ GMRSD TEACHER SUPPORT)
WEDNESDAY	Green Group: IN SCHOOL Blue Group: REMOTE; PM MEET WITH TEACHERS	LEARNING USING EDGENUITY PLATFORM (W/ GMRSD TEACHER SUPPORT)
THURSDAY	Green Group: IN SCHOOL Blue Group: REMOTE; PM MEET WITH TEACHERS	LEARNING USING EDGENUITY PLATFORM (W/ GMRSD TEACHER SUPPORT)
FRIDAY (ALL REMOTE)	AM: INDIVIDUALIZED STUDENT SUPPORT PM: TEACHER PREPARATION FOR BLENDED LEARNING MODEL	LEARNING USING EDGENUITY PLATFORM (W/ GMRSD TEACHER SUPPORT)

****ALL DAYS WILL BE EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS (1:10 FOR P-5; 12:15 FOR 6-8)****

What is the school schedule for 2020-21?

- **In-school – A/B Hybrid Model**

- Students returning to school be divided into two Groups (BLUE/GREEN).
- BLUE GROUP attends school Monday and Tuesday; GREEN GROUP attends school Wednesday and Thursday.
- Schools will operate on an early dismissal schedule.
- All students will be remote on Friday; teachers will provide support on early dismissal schedule.

- **Fully Remote**

- Fully Remote students will learn using the Edgenuity learning management system.
- GMRSD staff will be assigned to fully remote cohorts for daily check-ins and support.

- **What does “PM Meet with Teacher” mean for my child?**

- Students in the BLUE or GREEN group that is not in school will meet in small groups daily with teachers.
- These meetings will be mandatory and will occur between 1:50 and 3:15 for grades P-5 and between 1:00-2:25 for grades 6-8.

How is the staff prepared?

- All staff will be trained on Blended Learning August 31 and September 1.
- Select staff will receive thorough training on the Edgenuity platform.
- Schedules will be set and consistently followed.
- PPE will be provided for all staff.
- Staff will review all Covid-19-related protocols prior to the start of the school year.

What are the plans for cleaning and sanitation?

- Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected hourly.
- Only one student will be permitted in the restroom at a time. Custodians will clean after each use, whenever possible.
- Paraprofessionals will be utilized to monitor bathroom trips and communicate to custodial staff to clean after each use.
- Custodians will use disinfectant to clean and sanitize all “high-touch” areas throughout the day (doorknobs, handrails, office copiers, etc.)
- Custodians will thoroughly clean/sanitize all classrooms at the end of each day.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be accessible throughout all buildings.
- Paraprofessionals will assist custodial staff with wiping down outdoor recess equipment, when necessary.
- Water fountains will be shut down. Students will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles. Bottle refilling stations may be available in each building.

What are temperature screening procedures?

- Students will be screened daily either on the bus or in the main lobby, prior to going into class using contactless thermometers
- Students and Staff must also be certified healthy via daily survey on Real Time (Parent Portal)
- Students who register a temperature while in school will be sent immediately to the health office, respectfully quarantined, and parents notified for pickup.

What if someone in school tests positive (or is presumed positive) for COVID-19?

Definitions:

- Confirmed Case: A person with a lab test confirming COVID-19
- Probable Case: A person with clinical symptoms of COVID-19 with known exposure to a confirmed case
- Close Contact: A person who was within 6 feet of a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case for at least 10 minutes

What if someone in school tests positive (or is presumed positive) for COVID-19?

- FOR CONFIRMED CASE (STUDENT OR FACULTY):
 - May recommend school-wide virtual instruction for a day to allow health department to complete investigation and contact tracing
 - All students and faculty in class or on bus with a confirmed case are quarantined for 14 days
 - Confirmed case will isolate for at least 10 days since their symptoms first appeared and they have no fever for 24 hours (one full day without the use of medicine to reduce fever) and symptoms improved.
- FOR PROBABLE CASE (STUDENT OR FACULTY):
 - Probable cases should already have been under quarantine as close contacts and should not have been in school.

What if someone in school tests positive (or is presumed positive) for COVID-19?

- FOR REPORTED SYMPTOMS (STUDENT OR FACULTY) WITH NO KNOWN EXPOSURE TO A CONFIRMED CASE:
 - May recommend school-wide virtual instruction for a day to allow health department to complete contact tracing investigation
 - All students and faculty in class or on bus with a probable case are quarantined for 14 days or until Probable Case tests negative
 - Probable Case will isolate for at least 10 days since their symptoms first appeared and they have no fever for 24 hours (one full day without the use of medicine to reduce fever) and symptoms improved.
 - Probable Case is recommended for testing
 - Based on NJDOH COVID-19 Guidance for Reopening Childcare 7/20/20

What if someone in school tests positive (or is presumed positive) for COVID-19?

- CLOSE CONTACT (STUDENT OR FACULTY):
 - Student and faculty member with symptoms of COVID-19 stays home for at least 10 days since their symptoms first appeared and they have no fever for 24 hours (one full day without the use of medicine to reduce fever) and symptoms improved. May return earlier after negative COVID-19 test or alternative diagnosis is confirmed.
 - Symptomatic person is recommended for testing
 - Student or faculty that are close contacts of confirmed cases outside the school will quarantine for 14 days from last date of exposure
 - Assumption:
 - There is a low confidence that students and teachers can remain 6 feet apart during a class period
 - There is a low confidence that students can be six feet apart on the school bus. All bus trips are longer than 10 minutes
 - When a 6 foot distance cannot be maintained, the use of face coverings and physical barriers in a classroom are protective measures to decrease the risk of disease transmission, but do NOT eliminate the recommendation for individuals in the class or bus to quarantine if there is a positive or probable case.

What are mask requirements/procedures?

- All bus riders will be required to wear a face covering (mask, bandana, gaiter) at all times.
- Face coverings will be required for staff and students in all common areas and during transition times throughout the day.
- Masks are recommended throughout instructional day.
 - Mask breaks are permitted.
 - Masks may be removed when students are seated for instruction if safe distancing protocols are followed.
- Shields will be provided for teacher use in classrooms.

What are social distancing requirements/procedures?

- The number of students in each classroom is dependent on the number of students who select the Fully Remote option.
- DOH has indicated that three feet on all sides (six-foot radius) is sufficient for safe distancing in a classroom
- GMRSD – classroom capacity using DOH guidelines:
 - 12 students with six feet on all sides
 - 18 with five feet
 - 23 with four feet
- Hallways and staircases will be directionally labeled to prevent congestion and allow for safe distancing.

What are busing requirements/procedures?

- Students will be required to wear face coverings on the bus in the same way they are required to wear seatbelts.
- Paraprofessionals may be used on buses to ensure distancing (when possible) and wearing of face coverings.
- Paraprofessionals will also be used for temperature screenings using contactless thermometers.

What will lunch/recess be like?

- Meals will be provided to all free and reduced students.
- Meals may be offered for all to purchase at the start of each day (if this is possible, there will be no cash sales. All meals must be paid for using the online portal).
- Meals will be eaten in classrooms.
- Students who receive free or reduced lunch that select the fully remote option will have designated pickup days, times, and locations to collect school lunches.
- Students may bring a bagged snack from home that will be eaten in the classroom at the teachers' discretion.
- Classes will have recess at the teachers' discretion.
 - It is recommended that recess be outdoors as often as possible.

How will students catch up?

- Early identification
 - Students will be assessed immediately upon starting school.
 - PLCs will review data and plan together.
 - Teachers will differentiate lessons to address areas in need of improvement.
- Consistent, differentiated instruction
 - Smaller groups means better-quality instruction
 - Streamlined online programs
 - More individualized approach
 - All hands on deck

What if we must close again?

- Students/Teachers will follow the daily bell schedule remotely.
 - Students will be REQUIRED to attend remote meetings from the **scheduled start of the day until the scheduled dismissal time**.
 - Chromebooks and hotspots will be provided to those who need them.
 - This will occur at the start of the year even if we are open.
 - Number of online programs/platforms will be reduced and streamlined.
 - All staff at each school will use the same home-school communication platform (SeeSaw/Class Dojo).
 - Google Classroom and Google Meet will be used K-8.
- ****Students MUST ATTEND remote meetings!******

What can we do about child care?

- Liberty Learning Center
- YMCA
- Other programs
 - Check www.gmrtd.com for frequently-updated options from around Warren County
- Parent co-op
 - One parent hosts a number of students each day for safely-distanced remote learning.
 - Multiple families rotate days/weeks of hosting safely-distanced remote learning.

Questions

