



2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR PROPOSED REOPENING INFORMATION

Dear Greencastle-Antrim School District Families,

We are excited to announce our proposed plans for the reopening of our schools for in-person instruction in the fall for the 2020-2021 school year. In planning for our return, we are grateful to the many staff, community, medical, and business representatives that provided multiple perspectives, feedback, and expertise. We are committed to making every decision based on three equal priorities:

- the health and safety of students, staff, and community,
- high quality teaching and learning,
- the social and emotional health and well-being of our students and their families.

Our primary responsibility as a school district is to provide a quality educational experience that results in every student experiencing personal success in preparation to excel in the future. We will be unwavering in our commitment to high quality learning experiences, while establishing a safe environment that adheres to the recommendations of our reputable health organizations. Uncertainty and unpredictability of those changing recommendations may cause anxiety in students, as well as with our families. Therefore, our plan for the 2020-2021 school year serves to provide guidance for any change in the color phases of the COVID-19 pandemic and/or orders that are outside the perimeters of our control. We hope that children and families can find some comfort in knowing the plan in advance and prepare accordingly. Please understand that this plan may change at any moment and we will communicate as clearly and quickly as possible.

We will use our time in the “green phase” to fully prepare students and teachers to ease into any potential shift to the “yellow” or “red” phase without compromising student learning. We are embracing the opportunity to personalize learning and work collaboratively to keep GASD as a model of excellence in education.

PHASE	LEARNING STRUCTURE
Green	<p><b>Grades K-8</b> – All students attend school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays will be virtual.</p> <p><b>Grades 9-12</b> – HS students attend following a hybrid plan, two days in person (M/T or TH/F) and 3 days virtual instruction each week. <i>*Based on survey enrollment data, attempts will be made to prioritize students 4 days per week in person who have identified learning accommodations, assessment data and other course measures.</i></p> <p><i>Maintain 3 ft-6 ft distance</i></p>
Yellow	<p><b>Grades K-8</b> – Drop to 50% Capacity Group A: Monday and Tuesday Group B: Thursday and Friday Wednesdays will be virtual</p> <p><b>Grades 9-12</b> – All students follow hybrid plan</p> <p><i>Maintain 6 ft distance</i></p> <p><i>Students will be divided into two groups by last name. Students in the same household will be in the same group.</i></p>
Red	All students in virtual learning

*As per the current order, students will be required to wear a face mask on the bus and at any time throughout the day that they cannot maintain the identified distance for each phase.*

Please know that the face-to-face instruction will look different than in the past, however, the ability for students to interact in person with staff and peers can be critical to many in their learning, and therefore we are working to secure the safety of children while also offering this opportunity. We will have a complete Health and Safety Plan posted on our website prior to the opening of school and updated as the situation evolves. That plan will serve as our district guidance for a safe reopening of schools, as well as a plan for transitioning, as necessary, to a blended or virtual learning structure.

We also recognize that families may feel apprehensive about a return to face-to-face instruction, and therefore, we will also be offering families a fully digital learning experience. Staff members in each building are currently working to build a distance learning team and develop a plan that will provide students with equally high-quality instruction and learning experiences.

We are asking that EVERY FAMILY complete an enrollment form **FOR EACH CHILD** for the 2020-2021 school year indicating your plan so that we may solidify the details of our reopening. This form includes your transportation plans as well. There is a great deal of detail in preparing for a return to school, so please complete this form by **Friday, July 24, 2020**. You can use the link below or access it on our [www.gcasd.org](http://www.gcasd.org) home page.

[Primary School Survey](#)   [Elementary School Survey](#)   [Middle School Survey](#)   [High School Survey](#)

We will be asking for your continued patience and support as we navigate these new conditions. While we may begin the year with confidence in our plan, we also know that we may not get it perfectly right the first time and will be prepared to adjust as necessary. Your ongoing feedback and our frequent communication will be critical in a successful school year. We ask that you help us prioritize the health of our children, as well, by adhering to local health recommendations. In our commitment to seeking your feedback, we will be dedicating a section of our GASD website ([www.gcasd.org](http://www.gcasd.org)) to provide clarity in our plans and to address your questions and concerns.

It is an unusual time to be transitioning to the district, however, a great time and opportunity to lead the Greencastle-Antrim community into the future. It is likely that the educational landscape will continue to evolve as a result of our current circumstances. It will be those who embrace this opportunity that will thrive. I expect GASD will thrive and we will continue to celebrate the success and pride in the achievements of our students! Please be on the lookout for new opportunities to support GASD in defining what the destination will be for our students as we **set sail into 2020-2021!**

I look forward to serving the students, families, and community of GASD.

With much appreciation,

*Lura A. Hanks*

Lura A. Hanks, D.O.L.

Superintendent of Schools

**PENDING BOARD APPROVAL:**

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS WILL BE AUGUST 24, 2020.

Full calendar adjustment recommendations will be presented to the board for approval on Aug. 6, 2020