

KINDERGARTEN 2020 RESTART FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will kindergarten staggered start be the same as the rest of the district? No. Kindergarten traditionally follows a three-day staggered start. We will continue with this model especially due to the need for increased protocols in the classrooms. This staggered start will be the same for online and in-person. Families will be notified of their staggered start date as soon as possible.

Does the option of full or half-day kindergarten still exist for in-person? Yes, we are still offering both formats for kindergarten. Full-day will still have a capped number and will still require \$400 monthly tuition.

Is bus transportation provided for half-day, in-person students who live outside the 2-mile radius? Yes.

Will full-day, in-person classes still have lunch and recess? Yes, full-day classrooms will still have lunch and recess. Lunch will be physically-distanced in the cafeteria; students may purchase a “grab-and-go” lunch or pack their own. Recess will occur in zones on the playground. (Each classroom will remain in assigned zones which will rotate.) Teachers may use class time for additional recess as well.

Do in-person, half-day classes also have recess? This will be at teacher discretion. However, with limited instructional time, this will likely occur less as the year progresses.

Do students need to stay distanced on recess? Yes. LCHD guidelines require students to be physically distant even at recess. Staff will monitor students on the playground.

What is the schedule for half-day, in-person students? AM students will attend 8:40 to 11:20. PM students will attend 12:45 to 3:25. This is subject to change, but any changes will be communicated.

Will in-person students participate in field trips and assemblies? For the time being, no field trips or assemblies will occur at GES.

How will distancing occur in classrooms? Teachers and students will follow the guidelines from ODH, LCHD, and the GEVSD Board of Education. Students will regularly practice appropriate protocols and structures.

When will half-day families know whether they are AM or PM? We still need to identify how many kindergarteners will be online or in-person. Once we have that information, we will notify families of AM/PM as soon as possible. Our target is the week of August 10.

Will families be able to volunteer during in-person classes? Unfortunately, not at this time. In order to layer appropriate safety protocols, we are not allowing volunteers at GES. We look forward to the day this can change.

Will students be able to meet their teachers prior to their first day of school? Due to the logistics of maintaining the safety protocols, we will not be hosting a typical Open House. All GES teachers will create an introduction video speaking directly to students. This will be an opportunity for students to also take a virtual tour of the classroom. Some kindergarten teachers may offer online opportunities for students and families to meet, but this is not required of teachers.

When will parents be able to hear about the teacher's expectations, routines, etc.? Again, due to the safety guidelines, we cannot host our typical Curriculum Nights. Prior to the start of school, teachers will post videos of their Curriculum Night presentations on their Schoology pages and on the GES YouTube Channel.

Do fully online families need to buy all the supplies on the supply list? This is recommended. If GEVSD returns to fully in-person, all students will need the supplies. Also, online teachers will help students to organize materials and will follow many of the same routines and protocols as in-person. Most supplies will be used regularly for in-person and online.

Are devices being provided for online students? No, families will need to have access to devices.

Does the option of full or half-day kindergarten exist for online? No, all online students will follow a half-day schedule. They will be assigned AM or PM to maintain balanced classes.

What will an online schedule be for kindergarten? Teachers will create their class-specific schedules within time frames. AM classes will be 9:00 to 11:30 and PM classes would be scheduled between 12:30 and 3:00. An example of a morning schedule could be:

9:00-9:10- Morning Meeting

9:10-9:55- Literacy: Small Group/ Whole Group/ Individual (offline and online)

9:55-10:05- Movement Break

10:05- 10:45- Math: Small Group/ Whole Group/ Individual (offline and online)

10:45- 11:20- Offline Independent Practice/ Science and Social Studies

11:20-11:30- Daily Debrief

Can a student move back and forth between online and in-person learning? The short answer here is no. However, a movement from in-person to online education could be allowed early in the 1st nine weeks. Families choosing online education are committing to this for the first semester unless all school resumes as normal during that time.

If my child is enrolled for full day and we choose online learning to start the year, and at some point GEVSD returns to all in-person, will we keep the full-day spot? Possibly. If we are able to provide families on the waitlist an in-person spot, we are going to continue to do so while maintaining safety protocols. Even if GEVSD moves into fully in-person, the full-day classes will still be capped.

Will tuition be charged for families that enroll in full day and choose online? No. Families who have chosen full day and online will not be charged. The online format for kindergarten will be more consistent with half-day instruction for all online students.

Will tuition be charged for families that enroll in full day and GEVSD is hybrid or fully remote? If GEVSD moves to a hybrid environment, those who are in-person will still pay a monthly tuition of \$200 since students will be receiving more online instruction and less direct instruction. If GEVSD moves to fully remote for all students, then full tuition will be charged since students will be receiving more direct instruction than half-day counterparts.

If GEVSD is fully remote, will full-day classes remain full-day in the remote environment? Yes, teachers will create a schedule for full-day instruction that accommodates the needs of kindergarteners.

Do online families have access to specials classes? Yes, families may choose to complete specials activities provided by the specials teachers. These will be found on Schoology.

What if schools are closed to start the school year and remote learning is required for in-person students? Not an optimal situation, but we would arrange for materials pick-up for all students prior to the start of school. While

learning would take place immediately, we would direct our staff to take significant time to establish relationships with students as student learning is not maximized unless a positive relationship is in place.

What do “face covering breaks” look like? It will look different at each grade and in each classroom for individual students. A quick removal of the face covering to allow for a break from the fabric or straps, a few minutes outside during a socially-distanced lesson or recess period, or a step into the hall for a little longer break are all viable examples.

What if a student is out for a long period of time due to illness, related to COVID-19 or not? Just like in any past year, we will work with families to provide the best option for continued education for that individual student.

When will we go back to “normal”? When ODE, ODH, and LCHD allow us to return without face coverings, social distancing, increased hand-sanitizing, etc. We are preparing for these guidelines to stay in place for the entire 2020-21 school year.

Will anything outlined in this document change? This is hard to forecast, but the reality is most likely- yes. As the research and science of COVID-19 shift and change public policy, we will have to shift as well. In our Portrait of a Graduate, Adaptability is one of our cornerstone traits. Our entire community is getting some significant ad-hoc training on that competency every single day.

What if we have additional questions? Please contact the GES office by calling 740-587-8102 or emailing Principal Morris at tmorris@granvilleschools.org.