



2020-2021

# Grace Christian School's Reopening Plan



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2020-2021

## **The Process**

Grace Christian School established two different task force committees to develop a re-entry strategy that allows for flexibility, transparency and prioritizes the health and safety of our community. One task force is focusing on the health and safety of our students, staff, and faculty. This task force is comprised of medical professionals, staff members, board members, and administration. The other task force is focusing on how best to deliver the highest level of instruction while being flexible to the medical needs of our school community. This task force is comprised of educators, board members, and past and current administration. Grace Christian School is currently preparing the physical campus to support students in the fall of 2020; however, administration recognizes that the need for a digital platform so that students may access the same high-quality instruction and instructional materials if the need to be home for an extended period arises during the school year. As conditions and guidelines continue to evolve and change, GCS will monitor and update plans accordingly. We ask that you remain flexible in this fluid situation.

## **Funding Source**

The school has been fortunate to obtain funding through the CARES Act, also known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. This bill was signed into law back in March and provides funding to schools to cover the cost of cleaning supplies, protective equipment, and other resources to support instruction during this pandemic. Many of the plans outlined below are funded by the CARES Act and therefore do not impact our operating costs.



## Health and Safety Measures

### Temperature Screenings



GCS staff will screen students by taking temperatures at drop-off using infrared thermometers. Drop-off times will be staggered to help reduce the number of students entering the building at one time. A trained staff member will screen students before they exit their car in the car loop. Parents of young students (ages 3-6) wanting to walk their child to class will enter through the “clinic” (portable located to the left of the main office) for their screening.

- Students with a 100.4 temperature will be sent home.
- Siblings of a student with a temperature of 100.4 or more will also be sent home.
- Anyone who tests positive for Covid must quarantine at home.

### Return to School Criteria

(Guidelines set by the CDC and AAP)

Pediatrician-confirmed alternative diagnosis and afebrile for 3 days without fever reducing meds or:

- 3 days without fever reducing meds **AND**
- Respiratory symptoms have improved **AND**
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared **OR**
- 10 days after test if no symptoms **OR**
- 14 days after exposure to known contact **OR**
- 2 negative COVID tests 24 hours apart

### Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Sanitizing



The school community will follow hygiene and cleaning standards set by the CDC.

- Frequent handwashing/ sanitizing stations throughout the day
- New touchless bathroom faucets and sanitizer dispensers located around the campus
- Daily disinfecting of classrooms with disinfectant generators and atomizers
- Regular cleaning of classrooms and high touch surfaces throughout the day
- Regularly check the quality of the indoor air filtration system

## Face Coverings



The CDC, AAP, and the Florida Department of Health recommend the use of face coverings to help prevent the spread of Covid. Because a person can be asymptomatic and still be contagious, it is vital that all individuals in a group setting wear a face covering. Based on the most current research we know that face coverings protect those around you and therefore, all faculty, staff, and students (grades 1<sup>st</sup> and up) will wear a face cloth, mask, or face shield while inside when physical distancing of 6 feet is not feasible.

- Students will have breaks throughout the day when they can remove their covering.
- Students will be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.
- Information will be provided to all students, faculty, and staff on proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings.
- Students may wear any color or pattern facecloth as long as it is appropriate for a Christian school.
- Students who forget their face covering may purchase one in the office or wear a disposable mask provided by the school.

Note: Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:

- Babies and children younger than 2 years old
- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance
- Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment.

## Physical Distancing



The school community will adhere to physical distancing practices in the classroom and during student activities, dependent upon recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control.

## Outdoor Learning Space

We will make regular use of outdoor classroom space and more frequent recess time to give all students a break from face coverings.

## Clinic



There will be one isolated location, now referred to as the clinic, designated for students who are symptomatic to wait for a parent to pick up.

- The clinic will be used to screen K3-K5 students and parents who wish to walk their child to class during drop-off.
- Students arriving late during the school day will enter through the clinic for screening.

## Lunch

Maschio's Food Service has created the following procedures to keep our students safe and reduce the risk of spreading the virus.



- No cash exchange: All lunch funds must be paid online at [payschoolscentral.com](https://payschoolscentral.com) or by check, collected in the main office.
- Pre-packaged lunch: Lunches will be packaged in enclosed containers.
- Employee safeguards: Lunch staff will wear facemasks during service in addition to already existing protective covering, such as hairnets and gloves.
- Individual utensil/condiment packets: Lunch service will cease to use non-prepackaged utensils and condiments and use pre-packaged items only.
- Plexiglass shield: The kitchen service window will have a plexiglass shield to create a proper separation between students and lunch employees.

## **Adjustments to Schedule and Space for Safety Purposes**

In an effort to maintain physical distance and reduce the use of shared spaces the following adjustments have been made.

- Reduced movement around the building and reduced use of shared spaces.
  - Students in grades K3-5<sup>th</sup> will receive all instruction in one classroom or in an outdoor space. This will reduce shared spaces and cross contamination.
  - Co-curricular teachers will travel to the students, as will fourth and fifth grade core teachers.
  - Students will eat snack and lunch in their classroom or at an outside location, depending on weather and availability of space.
  - Middle school students will wear face coverings while changing classes and at their lockers.
  - Middle school classrooms will be sanitized between classes.
- Large gatherings such as courtyard and church will be live-streamed into the classrooms so all students can still participate.
- Library
  - We will encourage students to bring their own books from home to avoid trips to the library.
  - Those needing to check out books will go in small groups, wearing a face covering.
  - A plexiglass shield will be installed at the circulation desk.
  - Students will use sanitizer before entering the library and as they leave.
- Students will have their own supplies to reduce spreading of germs.
- Adjustments to uniform
  - Students grades 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> may wear their PE uniform on PE days to eliminate changing of clothes for PE.
  - Students may wear their regular uniform on church days since they are not in the church.
- Co-curricular schedule for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will be adjusted so that class size is greatly reduced and students have more choices.

## Selecting a Learning Plan

If a family intends to begin the 2020-2021 school year remotely via the Modified Learning plan, they need to alert the Head of School in writing **by August 10**.

Grace Christian School is proud to be able to fulfill our mission and continue to provide our high-quality education to all students even during these exceptional circumstances. Modified Learning designates the experience students will have when school remains in session but individual students are unable to physically attend school because of COVID-19 related situations.

While Modified Learning is not equivalent to in-person learning, GCS faculty and staff will provide high-quality distance learning instruction to advance student academic progress and attend to the social and emotional well-being of the student until they are able to return to school. Families may switch from in-person to Modified Learning on an as needed basis, reviewed by administration, given their need is COVID-related, as defined by the school. The Modified Learning option will remain in place as long as COVID-19 continues to be a concern, as determined by the Grace Christian School task force and administration.

### Early Childhood (PreK-Kindergarten)

Digital Platforms: Zoom and Seesaw

- Each child will receive a materials kit and ideas for possible playful learning and exploration.
- Daily attendance for students.
- Includes daily contact from a GCS faculty member.
- Students will live stream daily into their class as noted on their weekly schedule.
- Includes both asynchronous and synchronous content.
- Grade level content will be updated weekly.

### Elementary (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)

Digital Platforms: Zoom, Google Classroom, Loom

- Modified Learning content will mirror on-campus content.
- Content is posted daily to Google Classroom.
- Daily attendance for students.
- Students will live stream into their classes daily as noted on their schedule.
- The grade level teacher and/or GCS staff will provide regular one-on-one and/or small group instruction throughout the week.
- All subject areas will be covered throughout the week.
- Due dates for assignments will be posted with clear guidelines for turning in work.
- Students will have access to instruction and materials daily.
- Teachers will be available for questions during designated times each week.



## **Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)**

Digital Platforms: Zoom, Google Classroom, Loom, and Educreations

- Modified Learning student schedules remain the same as on-campus schedules.
- Daily Attendance for students.
- Content is posted daily to Google Classroom.
- All subject areas will be covered throughout the week.
- Students will live stream into classes daily as noted in their schedule.
- Only students enrolled in the MLP will have access to live streaming.
- Students who are late to a virtual class must view the recorded lesson later in the day.
- Due dates for assignments will be posted with clear guidelines for turning in work.
- Late work will be accepted with a reduction in grade.
- Students will have access to instruction and materials daily.
- Teachers will be available for questions during designated times each week as noted in their schedule.
- Assignments for all subjects/classes will be turned in digitally; method will be consistent across grade level.

### **Modified Learning Plan (MLP) Grading Policy**

Students will continue to receive grades for assignments completed during their time in the Modified Learning Program. Middle and elementary faculty will continue to use Renweb as a digital grade book for students, although MLP students might be exempt from assignments dependent on physical presence and have accountability for assignments only relevant to the MLP. Students will be responsible for communicating with their teachers, maintaining regular attendance, and completing assignments by the posted due date.

Assessment while in the MLP can take multiple forms:

- Students may take assessments or complete summative projects not dependent on physical attendance in line with their in-person classmates.
- Students may take alternate versions of assessments designed to acknowledge the realities of working from home.

Teachers will offer clear communication on assessment expectations and standards during class sessions, small group and individual conferences, and through in-depth postings to Google Classroom. Students will meet regularly via Zoom with a teacher, staff, or administrator regularly to review progress and communicate any needs in terms of time management or class work expectations.

