



August 7, 2020

Dear GAPS Families,

Last weekend, you received an update (*community letter and video message*) from our Superintendent, Dr. Lura Hanks, regarding GASD's plan for the re-opening of our schools. Last evening, our Board of School Directors confirmed our District's Health and Safety Plan (*which may be reviewed in its entirety on our website - GCASD.org*) as an essential piece of our preparations. The Board also approved a revised school calendar that designates **Monday, August 24, as the first day for our students** (*calendar attached*). From now until then, GAPS is accelerating our professional development and collaborative planning efforts to empower us to effectively operate regardless of our degree/frequency of physical presence. Our Apple Vanguard Teacher Group, Seesaw Teacher Team as well as our GA Online Digital Teacher Team are providing leadership and support to our virtual instructional effectiveness capacity. Next week, GASD Faculty and Staff return to our campus on Thursday, August 13. We will begin the day together with Dr. Hanks "Setting Sail." As part of establishing our course, our professional staff is reading, "The Distance Learning Playbook," and will be hearing directly from author, Doug Fisher, as we collaboratively plan for educational excellence in the year ahead.

This letter contains important building specific information for the 2020-2021 school year.

FOOD SERVICES

- Breakfast will be available each day. If a breakfast is desired, those students should report to the Cafeteria, wait in line (*spaced apart*) to receive breakfast; then, take breakfast to their classroom where they will eat at their desk.
- Lunch will be available each day. Kindergarten classes will eat lunch in their classrooms. First and second grade classes will eat lunch in the cafeteria. Students will have assigned seats with an empty seat next to and across from them.
- Regardless of the location of lunch, all seating is assigned for distancing and contact tracing.
- Students will wash hands prior to eating.
- Seating and tables will be cleaned and sanitized before new student populations arrive.
- Students will be permitted to participate in recess on the playground. Students will wear a face covering and use hand sanitizer before and after recess.
- A new hands-free point of sale system will be used in the cafeteria.
- Students will be served a full lunch rather than being offered options to select from.
- Parents can access their child's account through the district website or by visiting www.schoolcafe.com. Money can be deposited through this site or should be sent to school in an envelope clearly marked with the student's name and PIN number. Checks should be made payable to GAPS Cafeteria.
- Parents are encouraged to apply for free and reduced meals online via the district website.
- Questions regarding food services should be directed to Mrs. Nancy Foust, Food Service Director or her assistant, Mrs. Loreen Thrush 717-597-3226 ext. 50508.

HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES (*including face masks & shields as well as positive case identification*)

- Anytime that 6 feet of separation can't be guaranteed/maintained, students must wear a mask/shield. This will always include riding on the bus and traveling within hallways. This may

also include classrooms where there is inadequate physical space or equipment for distancing or instructional activities interfere. Only students with appropriate Health Care Provider documentation will be excused from this requirement.

- School provided tools that are used during instruction will be sanitized daily.
- Students will be escorted as a single, family unit to and from outside of classroom locations employing established safety procedures.
- Instruction will maximize the use of digital tools and minimize materials that could diminish a sanitary environment.
- Students will be discouraged from bringing anything unnecessary from their homes and encouraged to bring their own water bottle and school tools (*supply list attached*). Students will have access to a “touch free” water bottle refill station located within our school cafeteria as well as sinks within each classroom. However, please send your child to school with their water bottle filled.
- Information regarding monitoring and responding to student and staff health concerns at school as well as all health considerations and protocols may be found within the District’s Health and Safety Plan (*posted on our GASD website*).
- Prior to admission to school for the first time, all children must be immunized against the following diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox and Hepatitis B. Also required are Physical and Dental Examination Forms, two Proofs of Residency and a copy of the Birth Certificate. If these forms and records have not already been presented to us, we must receive them prior to the first day of school.
- Questions regarding student or family health concerns should be directed to Mrs. Carol Barrett, School Nurse. Questions regarding our Health & Safety plan may be directed to Mr. Kevin Carley, Assistant Principal.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- Our K-12 School Counseling Department will be working with students, teachers and families to address our student’s vital social and emotional needs. Our counselor will utilize Seesaw to share valuable information with students and parents alike.
- To support our kindergarten students and their adjustment to a school setting, we will have a staggered start where they will attend school two days the first week. **All kindergarten students whose last name begins with A-L will attend Monday and Tuesday and last names with M-Z will attend Thursday and Friday. Then beginning Monday, August 31, all kindergarten students will attend school every day.**
- You are encouraged to contact Mrs. Mary Lou Pool, GAPS Counselor; or any of our agency partners for information or support.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Student IEP’s and 504’s will address the needs and appropriate school responses.
- Specific questions should be directed to Mrs. Ginger Thompson, Director of Special Education; Ms. JoAnn Papoutsis, for 504s, or their Assistant, Mrs. Keri Lewis; or, your child’s Teacher Case Manager.

TEACHING & LEARNING (*including student schedules*)

- Classroom assignments will be emailed to you and will also be available to view on the PowerSchool Parent Portal on Wednesday, August 12. Although class assignments were posted

on the end of year report cards, many placements were adjusted to accommodate a wide variety teacher changes for the school year.

- This year, we are offering a “Virtual Open House & Building Tour” to our students and families! Each grade level and itinerant team will be creating video to welcome our students and families. These will be accessible via the district website on August 21.
- GAPS students will maintain a 6-day cycle. Specials include: Art, Music, Library, Wellness, and a new STEM class taught by Mrs. Trace (*replaces computer*) for all students in grades K-2. You will receive information from the special teachers about how their class will function this year. Some will be outdoors (*when possible*), in the special classroom or in the homeroom.
- Teachers have been encouraged to take every opportunity to provide students with “outside the classroom and building” learning experiences whenever possible.
- Students will physically attend school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Instruction will be fully digital on Wednesdays. Please note that new instruction occurs daily (including Wednesdays) and students will be held accountable for daily attendance and participation all five days of the week.
- Those students registered to be on our GA Online Digital Platform will work remotely from home each day. Students within this program also have five days of new instruction per week. Instruction will be comprised of synchronous and asynchronous instruction whole group and small group instruction. Additionally, devices will be distributed to these families (*stay tuned*). The digital teachers are: K – Mrs. Estep, 1st – Mrs. Young and 2nd Mrs. Moyer/Mrs. Horst.
- New this year, Seesaw will be used as the learning management system for GAPS. This will replace Schoology. Your classroom teacher will share account information with you at the virtual open house. If you would like to get a head start, you can download the Family Seesaw and Class Seesaw apps (*see attachment*). Seesaw will play a vital role throughout the entire school year.

TRANSPORTATION

- Students riding school buses should have their temperature taken at home prior to pick-up. Students must wear a face covering and remain within their assigned seat during transport.
- During the first few days of school, buses may run late due to children not being accustomed to their bus stops and bus drivers accounting for students according to their bus route lists. You will receive notification from the Transportation Department with assigned bus numbers, bus stops and times.
- **Temporary bus changes will NOT be permitted this year.** Should a permanent bus change be needed, request forms should be submitted to our Transportation Department at least 48 hours in advance. Questions should be directed to Mr. Travis Blubaugh, Transportation Director, or his Assistant, Mrs. Kim Bland 717-597-3226 ext. 50504.
- Students will be permitted to enter the building at 8:05 a.m. All students entering at this time will wait in the cafeteria. Those getting breakfast will go through the line and then wait in the cafeteria until 8:20 a.m. Homeroom begins at 8:35 a.m.
- Permanent car riders will be dismissed at 2:50 p.m. If you would like to be on this list and have not already completed the form, it is attached for your convenience. Those not on the list that are being picked up must sign out on the School Gate Guardian (SGG) System by 2:50. Dismissal for all others will begin at 3:00 p.m.
- If you have not yet scanned your license into SGG, and you plan to pick up your child at the end of the day, you are encouraged to come to school this summer to get that set up. Hours for this service are Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

TECHNOLOGY

- GCASD will continue to utilize School Messenger as a paperless method of communication.
- Stay tuned for more information from our technology department regarding back to school documentation, technology systems and procedures.
- New this year, there will be a “Get Help” section added to the website. This is earmarked to be launched by August 12.

If you have any questions, feel free to call the Primary School at 717-597-3226 ext. 40500. I look forward to working with you throughout your year at GAPS.

Sincerely,

Angela Singer

GAPS Principal

Enclosures: Supply List, Revised School Calendar, Seesaw Information Sheet, Permanent Car Rider Form