

Gateway Christian School

Safe and Practical Plan for Reopening

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has made the strongest recommendation that “the coming school year should start with the goal of having students physically present in school.”

Since we are a very small school with the average classroom size of under 10 students, we believe we can open safely and practically. Our plan was developed from CDC guidelines, AAP recommendations, Christian Law Association advice, and the statement from the Attorney General of Texas.

We plan to open Aug 17, 2020 with students in the classroom under the following plan. First we list eight principles that led to the guidelines we established in the different aspects of the school.

General Principles:

- ❖ Limit access on campus.
- ❖ Keep students in classroom clusters.
- ❖ Minimize hallway movement of students.
- ❖ Ensure staff and students arrive healthy.
- ❖ Practice CDC safety guidelines of social distancing, hand washing, and mask wearing.
- ❖ Sanitize common areas frequently.
- ❖ Encourage families to establish safe practices at home.
- ❖ Remove anyone from school who develops any COVID-19 symptoms.

Arrival/Dismissal:

1. The school day will be from 8:30 am to 3:15 pm. (See Before and After Care below.)
2. Staff will take their temperature upon arriving and wash hands and wear masks.
3. Parents are required to drop off **healthy** students at the door to their building of their classroom.
4. A staff member will take student's temperature and direct them to the restroom to wash their hands.
5. Students will then proceed to their classroom.
6. Parents must call/text the teacher when they arrive to pick up a student. Once you have arrived, we will dismiss students to them. Younger students will be handed off to parents at the door.
7. Face masks are to be worn during arrival, dismissal, any hallway movement or anytime social distancing is impossible.

Classroom Guidelines:

1. On the first day, teachers will explain the new procedures to the students emphasizing social distancing, hand washing, and mask wearing, and sanitizing.
2. All classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, and wipes.

3. All students will be required to wash hands before entering the classroom.
4. Students will be required to wear masks anytime they are not at their office.
5. Common areas such as score tables, test tables, and computers will be sanitized by staff throughout the day.
6. Classroom doors will be kept open as much as possible to allow ventilation and airflow.
7. Spacing between classroom offices will be maximized in each classroom with dividers separating offices.
8. Students must bring their own water bottles from home with their name on it. The water fountains will not be available.
9. Students may not share any supplies: computers, pens, erasers, calculators, etc.
10. Lunches will be eaten in the classrooms maintaining social distancing.
11. Students are responsible for keeping their spaces sanitized (age appropriate).

Breaks:

1. Classrooms will not be combined during breaks.
2. While outside on the playground or in the gym, students should maintain social distancing.
3. Students will wash hands upon returning to class.

PE:

1. Regular PE team practices will be suspended until TAPPS begins the fall season.
2. Students may change for their PE period but must maintain social distancing in and around lockers.
3. Students may practice individual skills during the PE time period.
4. Masks will not be required while exercising.
5. Students must wash hands before returning to class.
6. Equipment that is used commonly will be sanitized regularly.

Lunchtime:

1. Lunches will be eaten in the individual classrooms with microwaves available.
2. Students may bring refrigerated food and will be assigned a refrigerator to use.
3. The drink machine will be available.
4. Students may purchase/order food from the snack shack.
5. Microwaves operation will be by staff only.
6. Lunch period will be staggered so classes will not overlap.
7. Parents may not enter to eat with students but may request to take students to lunch.
8. Students should maintain social distancing during lunch and wear masks while out of their offices.

Facilities:

1. Reminders will be posted throughout the school and entryway to remind students and staff about proper distancing, washing of hands, face mask wearing, and sanitizing.

2. The buildings will be thoroughly disinfected each evening.
3. Restrooms will be disinfected as needed during the day.
4. Water fountains will not be available.

Face Masks:

1. Face masks are required for all staff and students 10 years old and older anytime they are inside the building and out of their offices.
2. Face masks are to be worn outside and in the gym if unable to maintain social distancing.
3. Students and staff who are rigorously playing or exercising need not wear masks.
4. Those who desire may wear masks continuously.
5. Staff may at times wear face shields in order to be better understood by students.

Closed Campus:

1. GCS is closed to all parents, guests, and visitors.
2. Prospective families may tour the facility by appointment and must meet all the precautions of staff and students.
3. The secure entry system will be used throughout the day.
4. All deliveries will be received at the door.

Before and After Care:

1. Any student arriving before 8:00 am will check-in to Before Care in 1st – 2nd grade room. Mask policy applies.
2. Any student not picked up by 3:15 pm will be sent to After Care. Mask Policy applies.

Health Screening:

1. Any student that exhibits a fever of 99.5 or higher or shows symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated from the classroom and parents will be called to pick up the student immediately.
2. Staff who have a temperature of 99.5 or higher or show symptoms of COVID-19 will be directed to leave the school immediately.
3. When above situations correct themselves, the student or staff may return to school.
4. If a student or staff tests negative for COVID-19, they may return when they no longer have a fever without use of fever-reducing medicines.
5. If a person has been exposed to someone with confirmed case of COVID-19 (within 6 feet of someone for more than 15 minutes), they must self-quarantine for 14 days, or have a series of negative COVID-19 test and a doctor's note to return.
6. Staff or student who tests positive for COVID-19 must provide proof of a negative test and be able to satisfy the following:
 - Be 10 days since symptoms first appeared
 - Has had no fever for 3 days without fever-reducing medicine
 - Has been at least 3 days since symptoms have improved.

7. If COVID-19 appears on our campus we will close the building(s) for deep cleaning and institute distance learning for the day(s) closed.

Distance Learning:

1. We strongly encourage the in class plan for the best education experience.
2. Any student who is required to stay home may engage in Distance Learning for the days at home.
3. Families who want to do Distance Learning exclusively may contact the office to set up that plan of education.

This plan is designed under the idea that strong measures must be taken to ensure a safe environment for the education of students. The plan will remain in effect until the coronavirus abates. Our hope is to see the coronavirus diminish in our community so we can incorporate extracurricular activities. Pray that God would deliver us from this pandemic and that we can engage in a full school program.