

Safe Opening Plan - School Summary - 2021

August 28, 2021

Dear GBCS Community,

We are excited to open our doors for all students for in-person this school year. Last year we all agreed to “go with the flow” and focus on what we could control. **This year, let’s “bounce forward,” recognize how resilient we are and what we can do to stay afloat.** What is it for you? Exercise? Sleep? Gratitude? Self compassion? Your children may have the same strategies as you or different ones. Regardless, once in place they work against stress, exhaustion, trauma, and will keep your boat afloat. Self care and community care work! **Please look to GBCS for support;** don’t hesitate to reach out to our school social workers, family coordinator, or any staff member.

Our educational program has been updated to address unfinished learning, we’ve further supplemented our practices to support social emotional learning (SEL), and we’ve prioritized growth mindset, engagement, arts, intervention, enrichment, and fun. In addition, we have our well established safety protocols in place. Social distancing, mask wearing, cleaning frequently touched surfaces, are just a few of our routines. This summer we moved from 6 feet to 3 feet of distancing and had good success during the eight weeks of our Summer Camps and Academy.



Our decisions and planning continue to be grounded in the guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Education, the NJDOE’s [Road Forward](#), the [CDC](#), our school configuration, and survey results from our parents and staff. Our [Safe Opening Plan](#) is flexible and subject to change pending the current health pandemic, state and city guidelines, and school decisions based on surveys and needs. Our plan for **September 2021** includes the following:



HEALTH & WELLNESS

- All students and staff will be **required to wear a face-covering/mask** (unless prohibited because of a documented medical condition and must maintain a six-foot distance from others).
- Students were or will be given two washable cloth face masks to keep and wear. If they prefer to wear a face- covering/mask from home, they may. Remember to wash masks after each

use. **The mask must cover their mouth and nose and remain over their nose** while talking, etc.

- Students were or will be given reusable water bottles to use at school. Water fountain refilling stations will be available, if needed. Please refill the bottle before coming to school.
- **No students with fever or any cold symptoms will be allowed in school.** They should rest and recover before returning to GBCS.
- You must report to the school nurse when your child has tested positive or has been a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID19. It is imperative that you DO NOT send your child to school when you are aware they have tested positive or have been in close contact.
- Any student testing positive for Covid-19 will need to quarantine for 14 days, be symptom free, and have approval from a doctor to return to school. There is free Covid-19 testing for Middlesex County residents in Piscataway and for residents of all counties from Rutgers, in New Brunswick . Testing is also available at local pharmacies.
- Any student in close contact with someone testing positive for Covid-19 will need to quarantine for 14 days from the last contact with the person testing positive or 14 days after the person who is sick meets the criteria to end quarantine (14 days), and be symptom free, before returning to school.
- **The CDC has changed the definition of close contact for students in schools.**
When there is a positive case of COVID in our school community, unvaccinated close contacts will need to be quarantined. A close contact is defined as someone who was either:
 - Less than 3 feet from the COVID positive individual for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period; OR
 - Between 3 and 6 feet from the COVID positive individual for more than 15 minutes while either party was not wearing a mask properly, with fidelity. **Please help your child grow comfortable wearing a mask properly to minimize their risk of getting COVID19 and reduce the need to quarantine.**
- If a student is Covid19 positive or were in Close Contact with someone who is, and are feeling well, but must remain home for 14 days, they may participate in **Quarantine Instruction** at home. All assignments will be posted in Google Classroom and may be completed synchronously or asynchronously. Students will be given Zoom links to **observe the teacher/and or content via video camera and participate at home.** A staff member may check in on them, when possible. A staff member from that student's teaching team will offer **check-in support from 2:30 - 3:30** during the quarantine period. Students may also join **virtual after school tutoring** offered through our regular [After School Academy](#).
- Staff and students who are **NOT vaccinated** must follow the CDC guidance for [domestic](#) and [international](#) travel for **unvaccinated people**. Currently this includes Covid testing before and after travel, and quarantining for 7- 10 days after traveling. (*Notify the main office and school nurse of any travelling.*)
- Staff and students who are **fully vaccinated** must follow the CDC guidance for [domestic](#) and [international](#) travel for **fully vaccinated people**. Currently this includes Covid testing after travel (no quarantining). (*Notify the main office and school nurse of any travelling.*)

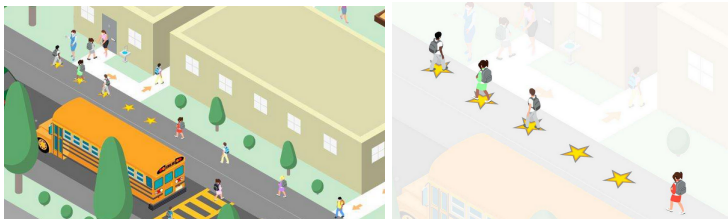
 HAGASE LA PRUEBA DE COVID-19 PRUEBAS GRATIS EN NEW BRUNSWICK LUNES/MIERCOLES: 9 AM - 12 PM JUEVES: 1 PM - 4 PM CITA ES NECESARIA LLAME 848-216-5565 CORREO COMMUNITY@IFH.RUTGERS.EDU (DEJE UN MENSAJE Y SE LE DEVOLVERA LA LLAMADA) PRUEBA RAPIDA / PRUEBA NASAL ESPACIOS SON LIMITADOS, SE NECESITA CITA SE HABLA ESPAÑOL GRATIS!	 GET TESTED FOR COVID-19 FREE TEST IN NEW BRUNSWICK MONDAYS/WEDNESDAYS: 9 AM - 12 PM THURSDAYS: 1 PM - 4 PM APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED EMAIL COMMUNITY@IFH.RUTGERS.EDU CALL 848-216-5565 (PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AND WE WILL CALL YOU BACK) RAPID TEST / NASAL SWAB LIMITED APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE SE HABLA ESPAÑOL FREE!
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- All school facilities, including bathrooms, will be deep-cleaned frequently, and all safety guidelines will be vigorously enforced.



TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation continues to be provided by the district where students live. Students are required to wear a face-covering /mask.



Arrival & Dismissal

- Before students leave home a [health screening \(Linked here\)](#) must be done, by a parent or guardian for each of their GBCS children. This will help minimize sick children coming to school and reduce the spread of COVID19.

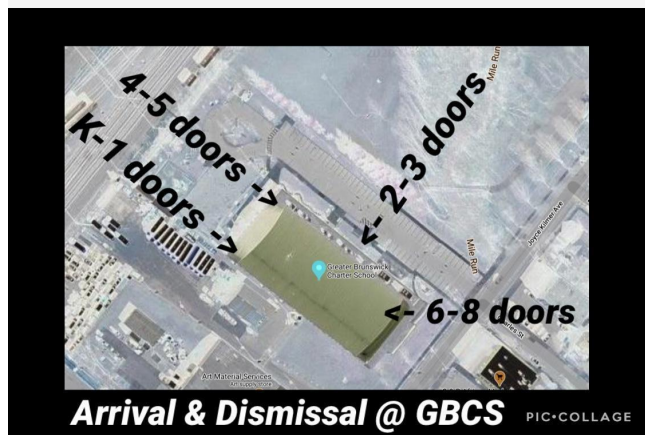
● SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Start time: 8:00 AM Monday to Friday

Dismissal: 3:00 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Dismissal: 1:35 PM Wednesdays (and other early dismissal days)

- Arrival is at 8:00AM. Dismissal is at 3:00PM, except for on Wednesdays when dismissal is at 1:35PM. The first three days of school are early dismissal, 1:35PM. Please be prompt for arrival and dismissal. Outdoor staff supervision begins at 7:50AM, students should not arrive before that time.
- We are able to offer a free [After School Academy](#) for the 2021-2022 school year.

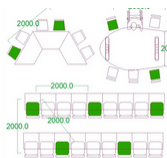
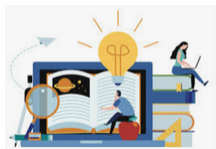


- **Students will enter the building at 8:00AM using the assigned door** for their grade group. K-1 enters the far door near the playground, 2-3 enters using the main doors near the flagpole, 4-5 enters using the doors near the backyard and bus loop, 6-8 enters using the doors facing Joyce Kilmer Avenue. Upon entering the building they will walk directly to their classrooms. If they exhibit any symptoms of illness during arrival or during the day they will be sent home.
- If you are driving your child to school **please be patient and drive carefully**. If you enter the parking lot, be sure to drop students off near the **bus loop crosswalk, near the building**. A staff member will be there to direct the students. Please, do not drop them off in the driveway and have them cross the parking lot. **You may also drop students off in the front of the building near the sidewalk**, but away from the crossing guard. They may then walk up to their assigned door.
- **Parents/guardians are not permitted in the building at this time**. Please develop a routine to say goodbye to your child outside of the school building.
- All items will be taken into the classroom or placed on the back of each student's chair. Please only put necessary items in the backpack so as not to weigh it down.



MEALS

- We are able to serve free breakfast and lunch for all students this school year. Lunch menus have been shared and posted on our [website](#). Students will eat in classes of approximately 15 students, approximately 6 feet apart.

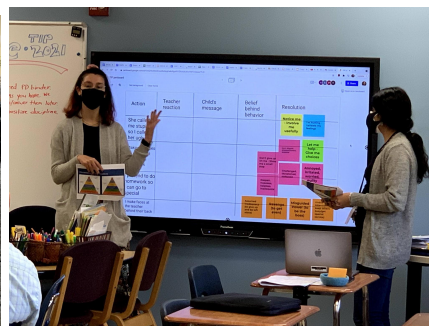


TEACHING & LEARNING

- Greater Brunswick Charter School is dedicated to the students of our community and ensuring students receive a meaningful learning experience. We have a multi-tiered instructional model that provides the opportunity for all students to learn.
- We increased our **outdoor classroom spaces** to allow more classes to be outside when

appropriate. We have tree stump chairs available for seating.

- We will begin the school year with **all students in person**, working approximately **3 feet apart**. If infection rates and onsite transmissions of COVID19 increase we may pivot and reconfigure classes to be 15 students each, currently 22 each, where possible and seated **6 feet apart**.
- This plan allows for flexibility and is guided by current pandemic conditions.
- If there is a need for an **entire class to quarantine** we will **offer a fully virtual learning model** for that group of students and staff members. This will be similar to the model we used for the 2020-2021 school year.



PARENTAL/GUARDIAN SUPPORT AT HOME

- While at home, consistently practice health and hygiene procedures such as temperature-taking, frequent [hand washing](#), using hand sanitizers whenever soap and water are not available, and washing face coverings/masks after each use.
- [Know how to protect yourself and others.](#)
- Living, working, and learning during a global pandemic can be stressful and traumatic. It is important to process and manage those emotions in healthy ways. **Assess the social and emotional well being of your children and family.** Reach out for support when it is needed. Contact GBCS if you'd like our help.
- As a GBCS Social Worker or staff member about [Care Solace](#), a free service to help your family has access reliable, ethical and high-quality mental health care services – no matter the circumstances.
- The academic program is rigorous. Speak with your child/children about setting up expectations and routines to help their success.

Our entire school -- staff, administration, and board members -- continue to do everything necessary to ensure that we are ready to begin the 2021-2022 school year, in person, by providing a safe and

nurturing learning environment for all our students. We look forward to seeing students at GBCS on September 1! Remember, the first three days of school are from 8:00AM - 1:35PM.

Thank you!

Vanessa Jones and Hector Alvarez

Executive Director Education Director