



June 22, 2021

Dear Parents & Guardians, GSAA Community,

This letter contains information regarding the current plan for opening of school for the Fall of the 2021-2022 school year. We will notify you regarding any updates or changes that take place regarding this plan as we move forward.

We are extremely proud of the efforts put forth by all the GSAA families, faculty, and staff during the 2020-2021 school year. The concerted efforts of all our community members resulted in us successfully navigating a productive school year during the pandemic. We are certain that we will all adapt to whatever changes are necessary to make the 2021-2022 just as successful.

It is extremely important that our students attend classes in person. As an arts academy, the GSAA curriculum is built upon arts integration, which includes the performing arts. It is imperative that students collaborate in-person in the studio to be successful. Therefore, our plan is that 100% of our student body attend classes in person. We will continue to follow the guidance and recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and the New Hampshire Department of Education as we move forward.

Our top priority will continue to be the safety of everyone in our school. There is no guarantee that with any protocols or systems that will be in place, that any viruses will not enter our school and that students, teachers and families may become ill. We ask that parents continue to take part in home screenings each morning prior to sending students to school using the following guidelines:

Parent/Student Home Screenings:

All parents will screen their children daily at home for symptoms of COVID -19. If any of the following symptoms are present, parents will keep children home from our schools: **fever or chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, cough, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting.**

Student Drop Off:

We will resume the same drop off procedure as last year. All parents are asked to enter the second entry to the parking lot, line up along the edge of the parking lot parallel to Keewaydin Drive and exit via the first entry (Please note that we cannot block the first entry due to emergency vehicles entering for the Dialysis Center). Parents waiting in line for drop off should not allow their engines to idle due to State of NH safety regulations.



Students should be dropped off no earlier than 7:45am. Students will report directly to their first period class and should be in their seats by 8:00am.

Masks:

We will not require masks in the building. Any person entering the building has the option to wear a mask at any time due to any medical concerns they may have. Students and teachers are encouraged to wear a mask if they are feeling sick while at school.

Parents or Visitors:

Parents and visitors will be allowed in the building and wearing of masks will be optional.

Classrooms:

The general set-up of the classrooms will remain the same with minor changes that may be necessary for ease of instruction. Class sizes will be kept as small as possible as scheduling allows, which is always our goal.

Lunches:

Students will eat lunch in our cafeteria. We will have three lunches in our schedule to accommodate smaller groups eating at one time.

Facility Precautions:

We have taken the necessary precautions to allow us to open our building. Frequent cleaning will occur in hallways and bathrooms throughout the day as needed. Nighttime cleaning will be completed using normal cleaning practices along with room spray disinfectant, as necessary. Our HVAC systems filters will be replaced more frequently to help promote clean air. We will continue to use the portable filtration systems in each classroom. Our faucets and paper towels dispensers were upgraded to touchless models last year and our water fountain was updated to a touchless water bottle fill station (students must supply their own reusable water bottle). Hand sanitizer dispensers are available throughout the building.

If you would like to leave feedback on the current opening plan, you may do so on the GSAA website: <https://www.gsaanh.org/>

Thank you all for your cooperation.

Christine Caron, Director of School
Frank Sharlow, Co-Director of School
GSAA Board of Directors