

GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY REOPENING PLAN 2020

Our Plan for a Safe & Successful Return to Campus



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- GCA ILLNESS POLICY
- PROTOCOL FOR STUDENTS/STAFF WHO EXHIBIT ILLNESS
- PROTOCOL FOR POSITIVE COVID-19 RESULTS
- PROTOCOL FOR POSITIVE COVID-19 RESULTS WITHIN A HOUSEHOLD
- RESPONSE TO EXPOSURE OR POTENTIAL COVID-19 CASE
- RESPONSE TO A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 ON CAMPUS
- CLEANING & SAFETY PROCEDURES
- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
- STUDENT WELL-BEING



A Note from Dr. Pointer, GCA Head of School

GCA Family,

We are looking forward to seeing you back on campus on Wednesday, August 12th. The leadership of Grace Christian Academy and the GCA COVID-19 Task Force have been working hard over the summer on a plan which will provide a safe, fun, and enriching school year for all our students. Our goal is to create an environment that mitigates risk as much as possible knowing that we cannot completely eliminate it. In order to adhere to the latest guidance from federal, state, and local agencies, modifications to daily procedures and campus events may be required as we progress through the school year. Even though things may look a little different for now, our school events are important and will continue to be a cherished priority for us.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. The success of the GCA Reopening Plan will depend upon our entire GCA community partnering together. Please join us in upholding the guidelines outlined below. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us. Go Rams!

God Bless,
Tony Pointer
Grace Christian Academy Head of School

GCA Illness Policy

Your assistance monitoring your child's health at home every day will be needed and greatly appreciated. If you need a thermometer, please notify your principal, and GCA will provide one for you.

Please adhere to the following protocols prior to the start of every school day:

- 1) Check your temperature and your child's temperature. Temperature checks will be available at school if needed.
 - 2) If you or your child feels sick or has a fever of 100.4 or above, please stay home. Your doctor/ pediatrician will advise you whether COVID-19 testing is necessary based on fever alone.
- (continued on page 3)*



3) If you or your child has a fever of 100.4 or above or two or more of the following symptoms, stay home until you have a negative COVID-19 test or your doctor releases you to return to school:

- Diarrhea
- Aches/fatigue
- Cough or sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Sudden loss of taste or smell
- Headache

4) Parents will be required to sign a statement to certify their compliance with the GCA Illness Policy prior to the first day of school. A link to the compliance statement will be shared with parents in advance.

Protocol for Students/Staff Who Exhibit Illness

If a student or staff member has a temperature of 100.4 or above or shows signs of illness listed above at school, that individual will be isolated immediately and sent home. The student or staff member will not be permitted to return to campus until they have met one of the following criteria:

- Documentation of a negative COVID-19 test is provided to the school or
- Documentation that the individual has been cleared by a doctor to return to school or
- The individual self-quarantines at home for at least 14 days from the onset of symptoms and has been fever and symptom free (with no fever medication) for 24 hours.

To avoid an unnecessary self-quarantine and to provide information for others who may have been exposed to the potentially infected individual, it is strongly encouraged that a COVID-19 test be conducted any time a potential case of COVID-19 is suspected. To ensure greater accuracy in test results, COVID-19 testing should be performed at least 48 hours after exposure.

Protocol for Positive COVID-19 Results

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, that individual will not be permitted to return to campus until they have met all 3 of the following criteria:

- Fever free and fever medication free for 24 hours and
- Resolution of upper respiratory infection, cough, and shortness of breath symptoms and
- At least 10 days have elapsed since symptoms began (or date of positive COVID-19 test, if asymptomatic).

Protocol for Pending or Positive COVID-19 Results Within a Household

If an individual within a student or staff member's household tests positive for COVID-19, family members within that household are encouraged to isolate from the positive family member and will not be permitted to return to campus until they have met the following criteria:

- Documentation of a negative COVID-19 test (conducted at least 48 hours after last exposure to the positive family member) is provided to the school or
- Documentation that the individual has been cleared by a doctor to return to school or
- The individual self-quarantines at home for at least 14 days from the onset of symptoms and has been fever and symptom free (with no fever medication) for 24 hours.

Protocol for Pending COVID-19 Results in a Household:

If an individual within a student or staff member's household is awaiting a COVID test result, they should stay home and notify the principal for further instructions.

Response to Exposure or Potential COVID-19 Case:

On-Campus Exposure:

Any student, while on campus, who has a fever of 100.4 or above or two or more of the symptoms listed above will be placed in a mask in a supervised isolation area until their parent/guardian can pick them up. Staff members with a potential case of COVID-19 will be directed to leave campus. The maintenance staff will be notified, and all desks, lockers, workspaces, etc. of the potentially infected individual will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.

General Exposure:

If a student or staff member has come in direct contact (prolonged exposure without social distancing and/or wearing a mask) with someone confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days, the student or staff member needs to be monitored every day for the symptoms listed above. The person(s) may need to be quarantined or tested if directed to do so by the Knox County Health Department or if guidelines change.

If the potentially exposed student or staff member has a fever of 100.4 or above or two or more of the symptoms listed above, they need to stay home until they have a negative COVID-19 test, or their doctor releases them to return to school. If the potentially exposed student or staff member is not presenting a fever of 100.4 or two or more of the symptoms listed above, they may return to school with regular monitoring detailed above.

Response to Confirmed Case of COVID-19 on Campus:

If there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was on campus, Grace Christian Academy will notify the parents of students who may have been exposed. Parents of a potentially exposed student need to monitor their child for the symptoms listed above.
(continued on page 5)

If the potentially exposed student has a fever of 100.4 or above or two or more of the symptoms listed above, they need to stay home until they have a negative COVID-19 test or their doctor releases them to return to school.

If the potentially exposed student is not presenting a fever of 100.4 or two or more of the symptoms listed above, they may return to school with regular monitoring detailed above.

The identity of the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 will remain anonymous in all communication to the GCA community. However, the individual may need to be identified for contact tracing by the Knox County Health Department.

If your student is unable to attend school due to illness from COVID-19 or suspected illness from COVID 19, Grace Christian Academy will work with you to ensure that your student continues to progress academically.

Cleaning and Safety Procedures

GCA will continue to take into consideration all federal, state, and local recommendations relative to COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. In addition to our normal cleaning and safety practices, the following protocols will also be followed:

- Increased frequency in cleaning of surfaces in classrooms, restrooms, offices, common areas, etc.
- Nightly sanitation utilizing a non-toxic, electrostatic/ionized solution.
- Strategic seating will be utilized in classrooms.
- Water bottle filling stations will be available instead of water fountains.
- Regular handwashing and use of hand sanitizer will be encouraged.
- New dining hall procedures have been established and are described under the Frequently Asked Questions.



Frequently Asked Questions

Will my child have to wear a mask?

In compliance with the current Knox County Health Department mandate, 5th-12th grade students will need to wear a face covering as they enter and exit the building, in the hallways, and in the lunch line, or when physical distancing is not possible. Once students are seated at their desk or lunch table, they may remove their mask if they choose.

Kindergarten-4th grade students will not be required to wear a face covering but are encouraged to do so. Families of Kindergarten-4th grade students need to supply a face covering in a zip-lock bag labeled with their child's name to be used in the event of a potential case of COVID-19.

All students and staff are welcome to wear masks at any time.

Will parents/visitors be allowed on campus for lunch or volunteering?

Under normal circumstances, GCA enjoys the opportunity to welcome visitors to campus. However, parents/visitors without a scheduled appointment will not be permitted at this time. If an individual needs to meet with a GCA staff member, a pre-arranged appointment can be scheduled.

Essential volunteers for lunch assistance will be scheduled in advance and will follow all school and safety guidelines while on campus.

What if I need to check my child out of school?

If parents need to check their child out from school the following procedures must be followed:

1) Parent will remain outside the main entrance and call the receptionist:

K-8th Building: (865) 691-3427

9th-12th Building: (865) 934-4780

The receptionist will walk the child to the door and verify ID before the student is released. K-8th Students can be checked out from the K-8th building front entrance until 2:45pm. After 2:45pm, all K-8th students must be picked up through car line.

Will GCA still hold weekly Chapel services?

Weekly chapel services will be conducted in the Grace Baptist Church Worship Center in order to promote physical distancing. At this time, visitors will not be permitted in our weekly chapel services.

Chapel services will be livestreamed so that parents and others can continue to enjoy the weekly worship experience with their students.

Will students attend enrichment and elective classes?

We're excited to share that students will still have the opportunity to enjoy enrichment and elective classes during their GCA experience in all divisions across campus.

Measures will be taken to minimize the use of shared equipment, and Enrichment and Elective classes will take specific precautions to ensure that social distancing and sanitation of equipment and supplies occur regularly.



What will the day look like for my K-6th grade student?

Our goal is to offer a school experience as "normal" as possible to minimize the potential concerns of families with younger students. You can read more about the daily opportunities and safety modifications in the link to "K-6 Precautions At A Glance" found on our website, www.gcarams.org, under the Parent Portal in the "GCA Reopening Plan 2020".

What are the new Dining Hall procedures?

Physical Distancing

- K-6th grade students will eat in the cafeteria by homeroom/assigned seating.
- 5th-8th grade students will wear masks "on the move" into and out of the cafeteria. They will also physically separate to the extent possible and by assigned seating.
- K-8th grade students will enter from one side of cafeteria line and exit near the register, which encourages students to pick up their needed food/drink items in one trip.
- 9th-12th grade students will wear masks into the dining hall and/or kitchen until seated. They will also have assigned tables with a maximum number of students to accommodate distance guidelines.
- 9th-12th grade students are permitted and encouraged to eat outside on the picnic tables.

Hand Sanitizing

- K-6th students will wash hands and/or hand sanitize when leaving their classroom or entering the cafeteria.
- 7th-8th grade students will use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the cafeteria. 9th-12th graders will use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the dining hall and kitchen area.
- 9th-12th graders will wipe down tables and chairs after each lunch.

Food Safety Adaptations for specific items:

- 1) K-12 Hot Lunch: Line will continue as before; students are served individually-plated meals.
- 2) 5th-8th Salad Bar: Students must order a salad in their homeroom; all salads for 5th-8th graders will be in pre-made containers with individual packages of salad dressing.
- 3) US Salad Bar: Students will still be allowed to make their own salad.

- 4) K-8 Soup & Potatoes: Soup will be pre-packaged and labeled in foam containers with lids. Baked potatoes will be wrapped in aluminum foil.
- 5) US Sandwich bar: Students will still be allowed to make their own sandwich.
- 6) K-12 Utensils: New utensil dispensers are being ordered (single-touch dispensers)
- 7) K-8 Beverages: Tea/cups are only for teachers in K-8.
- 8) The US cafeteria will have hands-free drink dispensers.
- 9) Microwaves will be cleaned as often as possible by GCA Cafeteria staff.

What about Athletics?

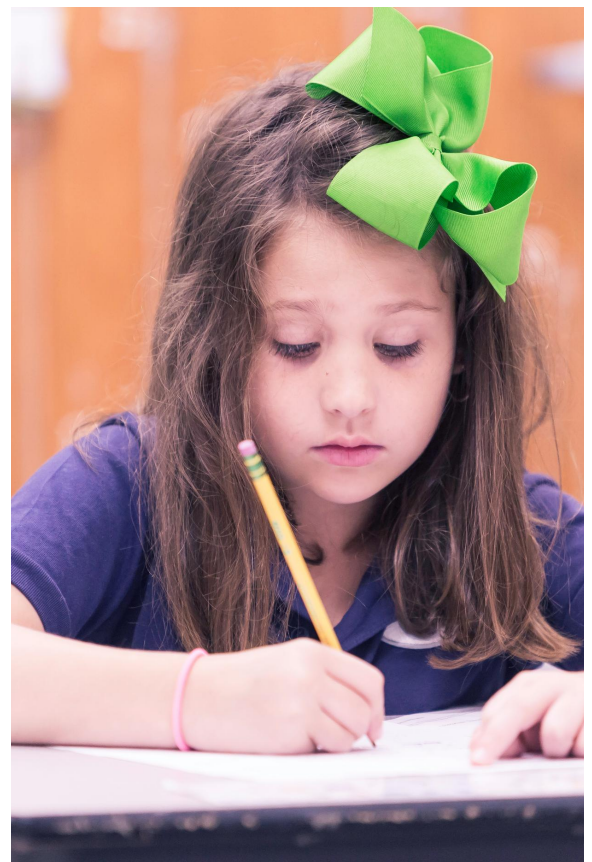
GCA is continuing to follow TSSAA policies and procedures for our student-athletes. The status of athletics is still under consideration by the TSSAA.

Student Well-Being

During this unique time, it will be more important than ever that we have partnership between home and school. As we work to ensure that we are keeping our students physically safe, we are equally focused on their spiritual, social, and emotional well-being. Though things will have to look a little different for a while, we are dedicated to avoiding a "scary" environment full of fear. We will work to teach students about ways to take precautions and keep safe while also helping them to continue to focus on the biblical truths that we hold as our foundation.

Our staff will continue to support each child individually and to provide the warm and loving environment that you would expect from GCA. Please continue to talk with your child at home as this will help them to process through a time where things may not make sense to them as children and young adults. If your child is having a more difficult time with this unique season, please let our faculty and staff know so that we can support.

If you have additional questions, please contact your principal.



Trained lay counselors are on staff to encourage students and families who might be struggling during this period. Please reach out to your principal for assistance.

Despite the unique challenges that the beginning of this new school year brings, we are trusting God to continue doing great work in the lives of our students here at Grace Christian Academy. We're waiting with hope and anticipation, knowing that His purposes will be fulfilled through this ministry.

We're excited to begin another year of partnership with you!



Grace Christian Academy School Verse:

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR
SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.
MARK 12:30

COVID-19 Task Force

Dr. Tony Pointer, Head of School
Angie Nordhorn, US Principal
Shawn Mehegan, MS Principal/A.D.
Amy Henderson, LS/EM Principal
Amy Smith, GCA Nurse

George Thames, GBC Executive Pastor
Daniel Mathis, GBC Facilities
Dr. Kathy Sims, HR Director
Nick Thornton, M.D.
Art Knight, Attorney