

GILES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II
Division Superintendent

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July 29, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians;

We know that this continues to be a challenging time. We have continued to spend time planning for the upcoming school year and putting things in place to help prioritize the safety of all. You will find included within this packet our *"Return to Learning"* plan for GCPS for the 2020-21 school year.

We still anticipate that we will be under Phase III for the start of the school year, which means that we will continue with our plan to begin the year under our "hybrid model" of instruction for our PreK – 12 grades when school starts on August 24th. Please review the *"Return to Learning"* plan for additional information, including the important safety measures that we are implementing within our schools. This information is listed on page 15 of the plan.

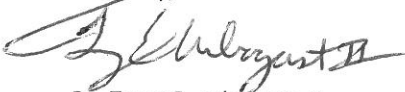
Here are a few more points of interest that we wanted to make sure that we shared:

- the CDC definition for a "close contact" is being less than 6 ft. apart for greater than 15 minutes without facial coverings;
- cleaning of the facilities will be similar to what has been done in the past. Each day, the buildings will be cleaned by the custodial staff following CDC guidance. In addition, those areas that are high traffic/high touch (i.e. – bathrooms, door handles, etc.) will be cleaned on a more regular basis each day;
- We will continue to communicate with the health department, particularly in the event we have a positive case. If this occurs within the schools, we will protect the privacy of the individual(s), but we will communicate to our communities that we have a positive case.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 will be something that we will have to deal with as we move into the upcoming school year. We feel confident about the plans we have put into place to help keep individuals safe. But, we will need everyone's help as we continue to navigate this issue. We ask that you encourage your child to follow the plan that is in place (i.e. – wearing face coverings, maintaining 6 ft. physical distancing, etc.) and stress to them the importance of good hygiene (i.e. – washing of hands, sneezing or coughing in their elbow, etc.). In addition, we ask that you keep your child home if they are not feeling well. By sending your child to school each morning, you acknowledge that they are well and that you have conducted the health screening as outlined on page 21 of the plan.

In order for this plan to be successful, we all need to work together. And, as quickly as things could change, it is important that your contact information is correct/current at your child's school. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's principal or the School Board Office. We appreciate your support and we look forward to a successful and positive school year. Enjoy the rest of your summer break and be safe.

Sincerely,



Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II
Division Superintendent