



Dear Students and Families,

On March 12, 2021, Governor Inslee announced that students who desire to attend school in-person shall be on site for 30% or more of their instructional time. This is a shift from our original reopening plan, but I am proud of the work our teachers, staff, administrators and associations have done in the last two weeks. This has been quite the year during which metrics, standards, and expectations have continuously changed.

Through April 16, 2021, we will continue with our current model of K-5th grade in its hybrid form and 6th - 12th grade receiving remote instruction. Effective April 19th, any GFSD student in K-12 will have the opportunity to be on campus two days a week. We will follow an AA/BB format in which a student will be assigned to one of these two groups. Those in the AA group will be in school on Monday and Tuesday, and those in the BB group will be on campus Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays will remain an asynchronous day for students while teachers provide office hours and/or small group work, and participate in professional development and planning. Students who are already assigned to an AA or BB schedule will remain in their current schedule. You will receive specific information on the transition to the K-12 hybrid learning model that starts April 19th from your school principal in the coming days. Upon receiving communication from your school buildings if you still have specific questions regarding your child's educational needs, please reach out to your school building directly and they will happily assist you.

Safety protocols remain in place which includes: a) wearing a mask b) maintaining social distancing c) washing your hands frequently d) and staying home if you are sick. For more information about what school will look like during COVID visit the [Snohomish County Health Departments' website](#).

This has been a taxing year for students, families and educators. I am pleased we will be able to have some in-person learning to wrap up 2020-21. The bottom line is there is no perfect model except one that allows every student to be in class every day. I am hopeful that the 2021-22 school year will afford all of us that opportunity.

I would like to share some Frequently Asked Questions:

1) Why not send students in an AM/PM model like other area districts?

Our district did seriously consider the AM/PM model because it would allow each student to attend every day for approximately half the day. This was a strong preference, but due to the limitation of bus drivers and the amount of time needed to transport K-5 and then 6-12, this was a model we could not provide.

2) Wouldn't AB/AB be a better format?

Our district also liked the AB/AB model because teachers would see students every few days instead of two days in a row. This model had strong merit, and if we were back in the fall or early winter, we would likely go AB/AB. However, with so many changes at the national, state, and local levels, we did not want to ask our K-5 parents to endure yet another change as they have already scheduled their work and childcare around the AA/BB model. It is more prudent to remain consistent for the last 32 days of school.

3) Does the recent released CDC guidance on social distancing change anything?

Until we are authorized to return every student, every day to in-person instruction without any social distancing requirements, our district will be forced to have a hybrid model. Even with the change in social distancing from 6 ft to 3 ft for elementary (secondary if Snohomish County case counts meet a certain threshold) each of our classrooms would not be able to accommodate a full roster of students. We are also still working to get all grades in before adding another level of complexity. Right now, we continue to plan for carrying out our April 19th K-12 hybrid model.

4) Will my child receive bus transportation and what does this look like?

Students will receive bus transportation to and from school. School buildings are reaching out to families directly to see if they need bus transportation. Students are expected to wear their mask the entire time they are being transported. Parents/Guardians who can transport their students to/from school are encouraged to do so to help minimize the number of students riding the bus and allow for minimized student contact.

5) Will meals be available for my child at school?

Every student on-site will be provided the opportunity for breakfast and lunch. What this looks like will vary from school to school. This depends on the in-person schedule for

your student. Due to the pandemic the Federal Government has made all meals free to all students.

We have parent conferences next week, followed by spring break. After that there are just 9 weeks left in the school year. Let's make the most of our hybrid model, stay healthy, follow safety protocols, and hopefully be 100% in-person next fall.

Be well, be safe,

Dr. M