**Wellness Screening**

* **Health Checks** – Daily health checks will need to be completed by each family prior to coming to school. Please make sure you answer all the questions on the form (daily). Those without complete health checks each day will need to complete them at a health station on site. While temperature and symptom checks don’t provide 100% assurance that a student is not infected with COVID-19, these health checks do allow for any student presenting with symptoms to be isolated.
* Parents should ensure that children’s vaccinations are up to date (if possible).
* Parents should consider the purchase of a thermometer so that daily health screenings can quickly and easily be completed at home prior to coming to school. In addition to this we will also do a temperature check before entering the building.
* Students and staff should not come to school if they have any symptoms related to coronavirus. Students who develop symptoms while at school are isolated and should leave school as soon as possible to go home or seek medical help.
* Students who show signs of illness or have a fever will be supervised in a space well removed from the rest of the other students. Teacher will contact parents to arrange for immediate pick-up of the sick child. Please make sure all emergency contact information is updated.
* Students and employees that are ill should follow the public health guidelines for returning (must have a doctor's notice or will not be allowed to return to school).
* Students and staff must quarantine for 14 days if diagnosed with COVID-19. Only those cleared with a doctor’s notice will be allowed to return to school.

**Reporting an Illness**

Upon confirmation of a case, the school will implement “close and clean” measures including:

* A suspected or known case of the virus in the school (someone who was physically present on school grounds has the virus); and
* A suspected or known case in the household of a community member (e.g., a student’s sibling).

In these instances, the class will quarantine for 14 days if the known case was in the class. If a student was exposed to a family member that has Covid the student must quarantine for 14 days. GCA will not disclose the names of any individual students or families with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 to the school community.

**Cleaning & Hand Hygiene**

* Every effort should be made to limit face touching.
* Handwashing should happen regularly. Students should wash hands with soap and water after each restroom use, before eating, and always after sneezing or coughing. When soap and water is not available, students should use hand sanitizer.
* Hand sanitization will be required upon each entry to a building.
* Hand sanitizer will be placed at all entrances and common areas and in each classroom. Classrooms will be stocked with hydrogen peroxide-based cleaning supplies for sanitation of tables between each class.
* Frequently touched areas and restrooms will be cleaned regularly.
* Students’ use of the restroom will be focused on reducing groupings to avoid gatherings and groups congregating.
* To the extent possible, students will be instructed to observe distancing guidelines when playing outside.
* There will be comprehensive cleaning at the end of each school day.

**Expectations around use of materials**

* Shared materials will be avoided OR will be cleaned between change of users.
* Teachers maintain the sanitizing of the classroom and materials during the school day.
* All school toys or supplies are cleaned regularly. Students cannot bring personal toys or other items to school.
* Lower School students will have materials “kits” that will be supplied by GCA, for school.
* Gloves will be given to each student to use when touching door knobs or turning any door knobs.

**Social Distancing**

Our best learning environment entails having all students and staff at school. Thus, we will do everything we can to create safe classrooms, offices, and common areas with appropriate spacing. All unnecessary physical contact should be avoided. Please talk to your child about appropriate social distancing in order to avoid contact with others.

**Visual Markers/Signage**

We will remind our students to follow these safety protocols by posting visual markers such as signs, posters, and other reminders throughout the building.

**Personal Items**

Students are required to keep all personal items within their personal space. This includes purse, bookbags, coats, etc., We are currently working on purchasing lockers but until then students are required to keep all personal items within their personal space.

**Mask Guidelines**

Based on current health guidelines, all staff at school are required to wear masks. We strongly suggest that students wear masks especially when social distancing is not possible.

Facemasks help limit the spread of germs. When someone talks, coughs, or sneezes they may release tiny drops into the air that can infect others. If someone is ill, a face mask can reduce the number of germs that the wearer releases and can protect other people from becoming sick. A face mask also protects the wearer’s nose and mouth from splashes or sprays of body fluids.

**Students should bring two of their own clean masks to school every day labeled with their name,** though there will not be supplies of masks available for those who need them. Please instruct your child on proper removal and disposal of face masks. (Please see guidance below.) Additionally, we recommend a more breathable buff or athletic mask for P.E.

It is strongly suggested that younger students use a face shield. This will minimize the touching of a cloth mask (which contaminates the mask).

We anticipate that wearing masks is going to be difficult for some students. We will work with students in case of any medical concerns that may prohibit them from wearing a mask when social distancing is not possible.

**Masks Should:**

* Be clean and in good repair
* Fit snugly, but comfortably against the side of the face
* Cover the wearer’s mouth and nose
* Allow for breathing without restriction
* Be able to be laundered and machine dried
* Be laundered on a daily basis

**Masks Should Not:**

* Have anything hanging off the facial covering that would create a choking hazard
* Have holes or tears
* Be shared with others
* Make references to illegal substances, discriminatory, offensive, or profane language or carry political statements or slogans that would create an uncomfortable or unsafe learning environment for others. We will make final determinations on unacceptable wear.

**Best Practices for Wearing Masks**

* Wash your hands before and after putting a facial covering in place.
* Do not touch the facial covering again until you remove it.
* Masks should be positioned so that there is no need to adjust or otherwise touch the face frequently.
* Remove your mask to eat and drink, and if it is still in good repair, you may continue to use it for the duration of the school day.

**Removing a Used Cloth Mask**

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

**Group Gatherings**

* GCA will limit the number of persons assembling in classrooms or any gatherings (8-10)
* Teachers and students will gather in assigned classrooms or when feasible, outdoors, and not move around the building unnecessarily.
* There are no scheduled in-person parties or gatherings.

**Drop Off / Pick Up**

Drop off time is between 8:00-8:25 AM (school starts promptly at 8:30). If you arrive after 8:30 you will not be allowed in the building until after 1st period. Please stay in your car for drop off and pick up. Pick up time is 2:00 (K-5) and 2:30 (6-12). Late payment fee will be charged to your account.

Please remember GCA is not bound by what other schools or school systems are doing. As an independent school, we will make decisions upon what is best for our school community. Due to our size, we are able to pivot much more quickly than the schools around us. Additionally, our size allows us more flexibility and eliminates some of the complexities of larger schools. However, we do maintain regular contact with the Chatham County School system and the other private schools in our community and share information and resources. We also understand that guidelines may change based on the course of the pandemic in Savannah, GA.

We trust God that this year will be a successful and prosperous year. We look forward to seeing you on August 17th, 2020!

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_