

## Summary - 2021

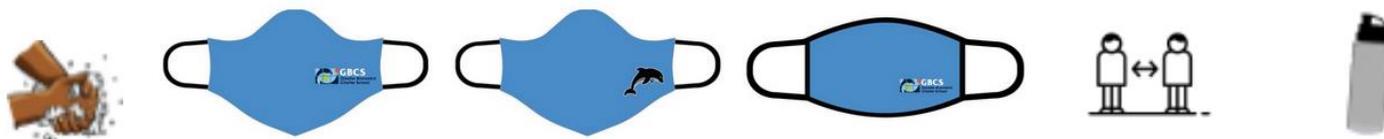
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January 15, 2021

Dear GBCS Community,

Our school re-entry committees worked diligently to construct a learning plan that ensures the health and safety of our students and staff, while generating an environment conducive to learning and instruction. We began this school year with a **School Wide Full Virtual Learning Model**, all students working at home following a rigorous learning plan. You have been valuable partners with this model for the first trimester, thank you! The next step in our plan is to return to GBCS in the spring using the **Hybrid Model** (Virtual Learning & In-School -- 11 students in class, 11 students virtually)

Our decisions and planning continue to be grounded in the guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Education, [Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan For Education](#), the CDC, our school configuration, and survey results from our parents and staff. Our re-entry plan is flexible and subject to change pending the current health pandemic, state and city guidelines, and school decisions based on surveys and needs. Our plan for spring 2021 includes the following:



### HEALTH & WELLNESS

- All students and staff will be required to wear a face-covering/mask (unless prohibited because of a documented medical condition and must maintain a six-foot distance from others).
- Students will be given two additional washable cloth face masks to keep and wear. If they prefer to wear a face-covering/mask from home, they may. Remember to wash masks after each use. **The mask must cover their mouth and nose and remain over their nose** while talking, etc.
- Students will be given reusable water bottles to use at school. Water fountain refilling stations will be available, if needed. **Please refill the bottle before coming to school.**
- We will follow an A/B schedule in order to maintain smaller class sizes and adhere to social distancing guidelines. (50% of students attend on A days, 50% on B days)
- We will have daily temperature readings and/or health screenings for all students and staff. Students and staff must stay home if sick. Students and staff who have symptoms at school will be isolated and sent home.
- **No students with fever or any cold symptoms will be allowed in school. They may work remotely at home until their symptoms are gone and they are in good health.**
- **Any student testing positive for Covid-19 will need to quarantine for 14 days, be symptom free, and have approval from a doctor to return to school. There is free Covid-19 testing for Middlesex County residents at the Youth Sports Complex, next door to GBCS, and other locations.**

- All school facilities, including bathrooms, will be deep-cleaned frequently, and all safety guidelines will be vigorously enforced.



## TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation continues to be provided by the district where students live. New Brunswick is planning to provide student transportation that will follow appropriate social distancing guidelines. Doing so may call for smaller numbers of students than usual to be transported during a single trip. They will continue to monitor the current pandemic conditions and, as conditions improve, will increase the number of students transported at a single time. Some bus routes may have more or fewer students and we will require all students to wear a face-covering /mask.



## Arrival & Dismissal

- Before students leave home a health screening must be completed in Oncourse, our student information system (SIS), by a parent or guardian for each of their GBCS children.
- We will have staggered arrival times. Students in “odd” grades (1,3, 5, 7) will arrive and enter school at 7:45. Students in “even” grades (K,2,4,6,8) will arrive and enter school at 7:50. If there are siblings who fall into different groups, please use the earlier start time, 7:45AM. These times may be adjusted as needed.



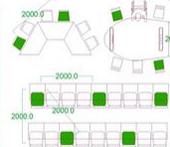
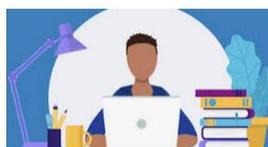
- Students will enter the building using the assigned door for their grade group. K-1 enters the far door near the playground, 2-3 enters using the main doors near the flagpole, 4-5 enters using the doors near the backyard and bus loop, 6-8 enters using the doors facing Joyce Kilmer Avenue. Upon entering the building they will confirm that the Oncourse screening was completed at home and walk up to an automatic thermo temperature scanner. If their temperature is normal, they will head straight to class. If they have a fever they will be directed to the nurse for a follow up assessment and sent home if the fever is confirmed.
- All items will be taken into the classroom and placed on the back of each student’s chair. We will not use the hooks in the hallways. Please only put necessary items in the backpack so as not to weigh it down.

- We will have staggered dismissal times. Students in “odd” grades (1, 3, 5, 7) be dismissed from school at 12:00PM. Students in “even” grades (K, 2, 4, 6, 8) will be dismissed at 12:05PM. If there are siblings who fall into different groups, please use the earlier dismissal time, 12:00PM. Food for the week is available for all GBCS students and will be given out at dismissal. See below for more information.

ODD Grades	Even Grades	All Bussers
Arrive at 7:45, Dismiss at 12:00	Arrive at 7:50, Dismiss at 12:05	Arrive at 7:45, Dismiss at 11:55
Grades 1, 3, 5, 7	Grades K, 2, 4, 6, 8	All Bussers, K-8

## MEALS

- When GBCS is operating in the Full Virtual Learning Model we offer Grab and Go meals for the week, each Wednesday. This model will also be used for families who choose the Virtual Learning model and not the Hybrid Learning model, when it is available, starting in the spring.
- Once we begin our Hybrid Model and students are In-School at least one day a week, all students will receive Grab and Go breakfast and lunch meals at the end of in-person instruction days, providing meals for in-school and Virtual learning days for the week.
- School dismissal will be at 12:05. All meals are designed to be eaten at home, not school.



## TEACHING & LEARNING

- Greater Brunswick Charter School is dedicated to the students of our community and ensuring students receive a meaningful learning experience. We have a multi-tiered instructional model that provides the opportunity for Virtual learning and in-school learning for all students. Models vary by grade levels and are based on student and program needs.
- We increased our outdoor classroom spaces to allow more classes to be outside when appropriate. We have tree stump chairs available for seating.
- We are using a Phase-in model for the *percentage of time* each student will be In-School for instruction and the *percentage of students* who will be In-School at GBCS.
- We began the school year at **Phase 1A-School Wide Full Virtual Learning Model** and in the spring will transition to **Phase 1B-Hybrid Model** (1 day in-school) and tentatively after two weeks we will transition to **Phase 2-Hybrid Model** (2 days in-school) and gradually and safely move to **Phase 4-Full In-School** (5 days in-school).
- These decisions and Phases allow for flexibility and are guided by current pandemic conditions. Decisions will be made cautiously and with input from families and staff when deciding to increase time in-school, moving from Phase 2 to 3 and Phase 3 to 4.
- Parents/guardians will be required to make a choice between the Full Virtual Learning Model and Hybrid Model. The decision for Full Virtual learning will last until the end of the second

trimester (March 18) or until we transition to Phase 3, whichever comes first. At that point families will have the opportunity to change learning models. Parents/guardians may request to move their children from the Hybrid to Full Virtual Learning Model at any time during Phase 1B or 2.

- **Full Virtual Learning Model:**

- **School Wide**

- Full Virtual Learning (Virtual) is when students spend 100% of their school time working at home. "School Wide" means that the entire school will use this model, not requiring a choice from parents/guardians.
- Educators at GBCS have identified elements of effective Virtual teaching and learning to implement this school year.
- The expectation and rigor of classes and assignments will reflect a traditional GBCS school program.
- The daily agenda for K-8 Virtual Learning in all grades may include ZOOM mini-lessons, student centered learning, small group ZOOM discussions, ZOOM partner work, projects, and independent work.
- Assignments will be given that will need to be completed online and offline, synchronously and asynchronously, while also working to strike a balance between screen time and book/paper/manipulative time.
- Virtual Learning will include mandatory synchronous instruction Monday – Friday, following an early dismissal school day schedule. Students are expected to log into all classes in order for instruction and learning to continue. Expectations will vary depending on grade level.

- **Full Virtual Learning - By Parent/Guardian Choice**

- This model is the same as above, but instead of being school wide it is selected by the parent/guardian.

- **Hybrid Model - In-School & Virtual Learning Model:**

- Hybrid teaching and learning includes a combination of In-School Learning and Virtual Learning.
- **Students must bring their fully charged devices (Chromebooks or iPads) to school daily with the cord and headphones.**
- 50% of a class will work In-School and 50% will work at home. They will follow A/B Day Schedules. (Phase 1B = 1 day per week, Group A on Monday, Group B on Thursday, Phase 2 = 2 days per week, Group A on Monday and Tuesday, Group B on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday = Virtual learning for all).
- Students In-School will participate in the classroom while Virtual Learning students will observe the teacher and/or content via video camera and participate from home.
- The Hybrid Model is very similar to the Virtual Learning Model, but may eliminate the need to always connect with the teacher through ZOOM on In-School Days and it requires social distancing. See program details above.

- **Percentage of Time In School increases from - Phase 1 to Phase 4**

- Phase-1A has Virtual Learning five days a week (No In-School instruction)
- Phase-1B has In-School instruction one day a week and Virtual Learning four days a week.
- Phase 2 has In-School instruction two days a week and Virtual Learning three days a week.
- Phase 3 has students in Grades K-3 In-School four days a week. We will utilize extra classrooms in order to accomplish this Phase. (Music Room, Art Room, Media Center, etc.)
- Phase 4 has In-School instruction five days a week for grades K-8.

- **Percentage of Students In School increases from - Phase 2 to Phase 4**

- Greater Brunswick Charter School will follow an A/B schedule in order to maintain smaller class sizes, adhere to social distancing guidelines, and reduce the percentage of students In-School.

- Students will be organized into two cohorts (A & B). Siblings will be assigned to the same cohort, unless a parent requests otherwise.
- Classrooms will have 50% of the students they typically house. Instead of 22 students in a room there will be 11. Students will be socially distanced in the classrooms, six feet apart.
- During Phase 1B and 2, no more than 50% of students at GBCS will be in a classroom or in the building.
- During Phase 3, up to 50% of students in grades 4-8 will be In-School, up to 11 per room, and up to 100% of students in K-3 will be In-School, up to 11 per room. We will utilize extra classrooms in order to accomplish this Phase. (Music Room, Art Room, Media Center, etc.)
- Students will be separated into two groups (Group A, Group B) in order to create student cohorts that will attend school at the same time. Cohorts will be created to provide continuity across the school and grade levels. Parents/guardians will be notified which group their children are in, as well as which day(s) that group will have in-person instruction. Parents and students will also receive advanced notification of dates and times of online classes/Google Meets/ZOOM. **All students beginning in person instruction before March 18 are part of Group A. They will attend school on Mondays. This may change to Mondays and Tuesdays after two weeks when the program is assessed.**

## Phase-In Learning Models for GBCS

### Learning Models -

#### 1. Full Virtual Learning Model: 100% Working at Home

0 days In-School, early dismissal- Full Virtual Learning

#### 2. Hybrid Model - Phase-In Plan for In-School Attendance:

**Phase 1A:** 0 days In-School, early dismissal- Full Virtual Learning.

**Phase 1B: 1 day In-School per week, early dismissal**

Group A: In-School Monday; Virtual Learning- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday.

Group B: In-School Thursday; Virtual Learning- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday.

**Phase 2: 2 days In-School per week, early dismissal. Gr.K-8**

Group A: In-School Monday and Tuesday; Virtual Learning-Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.

Group B: In-School Thursday and Friday; Virtual Learning- Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday.

**Phase 3: 2 or 4 days In-School per week, early dismissal . Gr.4-8 (2 days), Gr. K-3 (4 days)**

Group A Grades 4-8: In-School Monday and Tuesday; Virtual- Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.

Group B Grades 4-8: In-School Thursday and Friday; Virtual- Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday.

Group A Grades K-3: In-School Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; Virtual- Wednesday.

Group B Grades K-3: In-School Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; Virtual- Wednesday.

**Phase 4: 5 days In-School, early dismissal or full day. Gr. K-8**

Group A Grades K-8: In-School Monday – Friday.

Group B Grades K-8: In-School Monday – Friday.



## PARENTAL/GUARDIAN SUPPORT AT HOME

- If you pick the Hybrid Model, have your child practice wearing face-coverings/masks over their chin and nose, gradually increasing the period of time until they reach four hours. The more comfortable they are wearing a face-covering/mask, the easier the transition to working in-school will be.
- While at home, consistently practice health and hygiene procedures such as temperature-taking, frequent [hand washing](#), using hand sanitizers whenever soap and water are not available, and washing face coverings/masks after each use.
- Ensure that you have more than one working thermometer in your home, along with alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- [Know how to protect yourself and others.](#)
- Living, working, and learning during a global pandemic can be stressful and traumatic. It is important to process and manage those emotions in healthy ways. Assess the social and emotional well being of your children and family. Reach out for support when it is needed. Contact GBCS if you'd like our help.
- The academic program is rigorous. Speak with your child/children about setting up expectations and routines to help their success.

## SCHOOL SCHEDULE

### Schedule for Elementary and K-8 Schools :

- A multi-tiered model is being implemented based on student needs.
- Phase 1A - Fully Virtual Learning Model.
  - Instruction and Learning begin at 8:00 AM and continue until 1:30 PM.
  - Grab and Go Meals for the week may be picked up on Wednesdays
- **Phase 1B - Hybrid Model.** Instruction will incorporate In-School and Virtual Learning with a limited number of students in each class.
  - Students will be split into A/B groups to reduce In-School class sizes.
  - Students will attend school for in-school instruction or Virtual learning from 8:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. every day. In addition, one hour of synchronous or asynchronous work will be assigned after in person school dismissal. This is in place of the work done from 12:30 - 1:30 during Phase 1A.
  - Grab and Go Meals for the week will be available at dismissal.
  - Group A will attend in-school on Mondays (A Day)
  - Instruction will be delivered in the same classroom all day, whenever possible.
- Dismissal times for students who require transportation may differ.

### Instructional Time Schedules for Hybrid and Virtual Learning Models

#### Phase 1A:

Start Time: 8:00 am

End Time: 1:35 pm

Staggered Dismissal begins at 1:30

**Phase 1B:**

Staggered Arrival begins at 7:45am

Start Time: 8:00 am

On Site End Time: 12:05 pm

Staggered Dismissal begins at 12:00

Afternoon Learning Block: 1:30 - 2:30

End Time: 2:30

<b>Specials Schedule for Phase 1A &amp; 1B</b> Doors Open 7:45, School Day 8:00-12:05 (4h)	
8:15-8:50	Middle School - 6th
8:50-9:20	Grade K-1 or Open
9:25-10:00	Middle School - 7/8th
10:05-10:40	Grade 2/3
10:45-11:20	Grade 4-5
11:25-12:00	Grade K-1 or Open

<b>SAMPLE SCHEDULE - Phase 1A - Whole School Fully Virtual Learning EARLY DISMISSAL (1:35)</b>	
8:00	Morning Meeting/Advisory and Breakfast
8:15	Lang. Arts with SEL and Recess 70 minutes (55 + 15 min recess)
9:25	Specials (35 minutes)
10:00	Math & Recess 70 minutes (55 + 15 min recess)
11:10	Social Studies or Science with SEL (55 minutes)
12:05	Lunch
12:35	FLEX - Intervention and Enrichment Block
1:05	Non-Target Language Block
1:35	Dismissal

**SAMPLE SCHEDULE - Phase 1B - Hybrid Model**  
**A/B DAYS - EARLY DISMISSAL - Grab and Go Breakfast & Lunch**

Group A				
	A Day (In-Person)	B Day (Virtual)		
7:45	Staggered Arrival	Log-in		
8:00	Morning Meeting/Advisory,	Live Stream or Fully Virtual with Zoom <---		
8:15	Lang. Arts with SEL and Recess 70 minutes (55 + 15 min recess)	Live Stream or Fully Virtual with Zoom <---		
9:25	Specials (35 minutes)	Live Stream or Fully Virtual with Zoom <---		
10:00	Math & Recess 70 minutes (55 + 15 min recess)	Live Stream or Fully Virtual with Zoom <---		
11:10	Social Studies or Science with SEL (55 minutes)	Live Stream or Fully Virtual with Zoom <---		
12:05	Staggered AM Dismissal, Grab and Go Lunch and Breakfast	Log-off		
12:10	Travel, Lunch, Recess	Lunch, Recess		
1:30	FLEX - Intervention and Enrichment Block	Live Stream or Fully Virtual with Zoom <---		
2:00	Non-Target Language Block	Live Stream or Fully Virtual with Zoom <---		

2:30	PM Dismissal	PM Dismissal		
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We submitted a comprehensive [Restart and Recovery Plan](#) to the New Jersey Department of Education and received approval that our plan meets their standards. The document you are reading now is the summary of that plan. Our re-entry committee -- which consists of school administrators, our nurse, teachers, our head custodian, our technology specialist, parents, and board members -- continue to refine and expand our plans.

Thank you for responding to our survey regarding Virtual (fully remote) or Hybrid (in person and remote) learning. You will receive a confirmation of the model you selected. You may switch from in person to remote at any time by contacting the office. You may choose to switch from fully remote to Hybrid/in person at the end of the second trimester, March 18. If we do not launch our hybrid program before March 18 another survey will be shared for you to select your preferred model for the third trimester.

After careful consideration of the current COVID-19 infection and transmission rates, we will be postponing our return to hybrid instruction. We know some of you will be relieved and some will be frustrated in hearing about this delay. This decision was not made lightly.

We have been closely monitoring COVID-19 information from the State and Middlesex County. For our region (Central East Region), the virus activity level remains high. While we'd hoped to begin returning to school in late January, this plan was based on a projection of fewer cases. Delays in the distribution of vaccines are also a factor.

So, out of an abundance of caution, we'll postpone our reentry to school to limit the potential spread of the virus within our school and the surrounding communities. Moving forward, we will continue to closely monitor the status of the virus. **We will reassess local and state safety conditions by March 1 to determine when it's appropriate to re-enter school.**

While we all want to be back to the style of in person teaching and learning that drew you to GBCS, it's not time yet. We're almost there. Hang on!

Thank you!

**Vanessa Jones**

Education Director