



Greenwood Lake Union Free School District

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www.gwlufsd.org

Sarah E. Hadden
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Dear Greenwood Lake Families,

I would like to begin by thanking all the members of our community for your patience, support and feedback as we finalize our district's "Restart GWL" reopening plan. As you may have heard, Governor Cuomo will ultimately make the final decision about reopening schools and that announcement is expected between August 1st-7th. Governor Cuomo has implemented benchmarks regarding school opening/closure which are based off the 'NY Forward Early Warning Dashboard'. At this time, regions with 5% or below of infection rate will be able to open schools and regions with 9% or higher of infection rate will be closed.

The Greenwood Lake Union Free School District has developed extensive plans for reopening our buildings to in-person instruction, as well as for remote instruction in case the buildings are closed to students due to a closure by the Department of Health or Governor Cuomo. In addition, the district will be providing an alternate at-home instructional choice to families who, at this time, do not feel comfortable returning their children to the school setting. Our plans for in-person instruction will meet all the health and safety requirements. Below are summaries detailing both the in-person instruction plan, how we will develop our choice remote instruction model, and our remote instruction plan to be used in the event of school closures.

In-Person Instruction Overview:

Full In-Person Plan: Click [HERE](#)

Due to our size, Greenwood Lake Union Free School district is incredibly fortunate to be one of the very few districts in the region that is able to instruct 100% of our students everyday with all safety guidelines and protocols in place. We are able to do so by reassigning any elementary certified teacher as a classroom teacher, with smaller cohorts of students. On average, there will be 10-12 students (spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart) per cohort and cohorts will remain together to minimize exposure.

For Kindergarten-2nd grade, students will have the same teacher all day; grades 3-6 will likely have two teachers team teaching together (one literacy and one math), with the teacher moving, not the students; grades 7-8 will either be moved to larger spaces or broken up into smaller cohorts, again with teachers moving, not students. Specials will likely take place in their homeroom classrooms and, whenever possible, outdoors. Grades K-6 will have the following specials: Art, General Music, PE and Guidance. At this time, PLTW and Spanish for K-6 have been suspended. Lunches will be delivered and consumed in their classrooms and each cohort will be given recess zones with individual equipment and equitable rotations of playground equipment use. Special Education and Related Services will continue to have the same flexibility in respect to IEP implementation for delivery of services as during CoVid-19 school closures; to the maximum extent possible. ELL services will be implemented as per Part-154 of the NYSED Commissioner's regulations. At this time, extracurricular activities/clubs, including modified athletics, have been suspended.

Our schools will operate on a 3-hour delay on Mondays to provide professional development and collaborative grade level meetings for our staff.

In accordance with the health and safety guidelines by the CDC, DOH and NYSED, both staff and students will be temperature screened daily and masks will be required in high traffic common areas such as buses, hallways, restrooms, and anytime social distancing cannot be maintained. Students will not be masked while sitting at their desks receiving instruction, although should a parent wish for their child to wear their mask all day, we will support that decision. All classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected on a nightly basis.



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We will provide transportation on our school buses for any student who qualifies and needs it, however at this time, in order to lower the school bus load, we are asking as many families as possible to consider driving their child to school and picking them up.

Choice: While our ultimate goal is to bring all students for in-person learning every day, we understand that there are some families who are not comfortable and/or ready to send their child(ren) to school, even with all the necessary safety guidelines put in place. The Greenwood Lake Union Free School District will be offering choice to families who prefer continuing with remote instruction. Our choice remote learning model will be developed based on the number of students in each grade level that opt for choice. That remote instruction model could include live GoogleMeets with a class in session or perhaps a dedicated teacher assigned to work with the at-home students. Please understand, no matter what instructional model we develop for choice, it will not have the same academic impact as in-person instruction.

Once we know how many families would like our Choice Remote Instruction model, we will develop it accordingly and share it with families. At that time, we will ask every family to fully commit to either In-Person Instruction or Choice Remote Instruction for the first marking period (Sept 3 - Nov 6). In mid-October, we will give parents the option to switch their choice for the second marking period.

Remote Instruction Plan Overview :

Full Remote Plan: Click [HERE](#)

In the event our district is forced to close, whether it be from the local health department or Governor Cuomo, the Greenwood Lake Union Free School District has developed a rigorous remote instruction plan that we will be able to seamlessly transition to, as we will share these schedules in advance. This new remote instruction plan differs greatly from our plan in the Spring. In our newly devised plan, teachers will have live GoogleMeets from the school/classroom setting and provide a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Students will remain with their in-person cohorts during remote instruction. During remote instruction, there will be daily lives where student attendance/participation will mirror that of in-person school. Below are details of the remote instruction plan:

- Grades K-6 will receive 4 days of core instruction, plus 1 day dedicated to Specials
- Grades 7-8 will more closely resemble their regular school day because of course requirements.
- All grade levels return to the standard grading system
- All students will be provided with grade level specific at-home supply kits (e.g. packets, workbooks, manipulatives, technology devices etc)
- Special Education & Related services will be provided services in equal comparative increments as compared to their regular education peers.
- ELL services will be provided as per Part 154 regulation

Teachers and administrators collaborated to devise this revamped, rigorous remote instruction curriculum based upon teacher experiences, student experiences, and parent feedback in our end of year surveys. It was our goal to meet the individual needs of our students, and most importantly, do our best to mirror a typical school day.



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I will be sending out a very important survey to all families next week asking questions specific to your plan for September, including whether you plan to enroll in our in-person or choice remote instructional programs, along with questions regarding transportation. Again, based on the survey data, we will release the choice remote instruction model shortly thereafter, and then parents will have a chance to change their mind prior to the start of school. It is VERY important that everyone fill this survey out so that we can accurately plan.

For anyone interested, our full Reopening Plan, the one being submitted to the state, can be found on our Restart GWL website, accessed [HERE](#).

I understand that we are living in unprecedented times and have had to rethink our systems, structures and spaces, but I feel confident knowing that we have devised plans that provide safe, supportive learning environments for our students, staff and faculty. I would like to thank you all for your important contribution and continued support. I am looking forward to seeing our hallways and classrooms filled once again.

Warmly,

Sarah Hadden