

BACK TO CAMPUS FALL 2020



Ready for a New Year

Dr. Dan Dolan, Head of School

We look forward to welcoming our students back to campus in just a few short weeks!

Our team has worked diligently to develop plans and procedures so we can provide a safe and healthy learning environment.

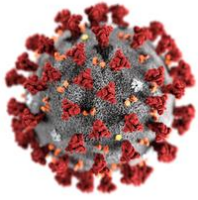
Our teachers and division heads have devoted much of their summer to adapting their lessons plans and classrooms - to not only meet needed COVID-19 modifications - but to think outside of the box so they can deliver instruction that continues to excite and engage their students in new and creative ways.

Following the guidance of the CDC and the Georgia Department of Public Health, GWA has developed this *Back to Campus Plan*. We acknowledge that these are uncertain times. Flexibility and adaptability are essential as health guidelines for schools will most likely continue to change and evolve. As a community, we are committed to providing a safe environment while continuing to ensure our students receive an outstanding education.

Interest in GWA has been robust and many new students will be joining us this fall. Please join us in welcoming them to the GWA family. Despite the challenges, it's still a great time to be a Bulldog!



Considerations



COVID-19



HEALTH GUIDELINES



GWA MEDICAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL



GEORGIA HIGH
SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC HEALTH



PARENT
DECISIONS

When developing this plan, GWA's administration considered many factors, including guidance from the CDC, the GWA Medical Advisory Council and Georgia Department of Public Health.

GWA has an obligation to ensure a high standard of educational experiences and the well-being of its students, faculty and staff; therefore, preparations and planning for any health emergency include flexible approaches to ensure instructional continuity.

George Walton Academy has a long history of academic excellence. The administration, faculty and staff are committed to creating meaningful and quality experiences in and out of the classroom that benefit each child academically, emotionally, physically and socially. The GWA commitment does not change, even in the event of an outbreak of a pathogenic illness. This Back to Campus Plan includes an overview of the *Academic Approach*; *Student Support Systems*; *Health and Safety Plans*; *Arts, Athletics and After School Information*; and *Additional Details*.

In our ongoing efforts to keep the GWA community informed, future updates will be communicated through email and the *In Focus* weekly digital newsletter.

**BACK TO
CAMPUS PLAN**

Academic Approach



Classes Held On Campus

Should absences increase to a significant level and/or become prolonged, teachers will make flexible plans that take into consideration those students who are unable to attend school for a longer period of time.

GWA will continue to provide quality educational experiences for all students. Communication and planning are key elements to helping any absent students stay on track while they are at home recuperating or quarantining. If students are directed to stay home by the school nurse, school counselors will step in to help them keep up with assigned work.

We will provide the following support for **absent** students (*students able to work from home*):

- The expectation for asymptomatic students is that middle and upper school students will join classes via Zoom to follow live instruction and keep up with assignments. Lower school students will receive lessons and assignments through Seesaw. Absent students are encouraged to contact their teachers to ensure they stay on track.
- Expectations and assignments will be posted on RenWeb and updated daily. Students should check the *Lesson Plan* and *Homework* tab for any resources they may have missed.
- Utilize the buddy system. If needed, teachers will help students connect with at least two classmates to aid them in keeping up with class assignments and projects.

We will provide the following support for **sick** students (*students unable to work*):

- The counseling office will assign a member of their team as the primary family contact person and, in coordination with the student's advisor or homeroom teacher, will share the plan for how the student will be supported during and after his or her illness.
- Teachers will keep track of the lessons and assignments that the student is missing and what they will be asked to complete upon their return to class.



Extended Digital Days

If the Head of School deems it necessary, the school will be closed to protect community members from exposure to illness. In such case, all learning will be online (with some exceptions in the Lower School).

Student Support Systems

During difficult or uncertain times, there may be students who find they are not able to attend school or are worried or anxious. Support for these individuals becomes essential for successful completion of academic requirements. We have added daily extended office hours (2:00-3:45 p.m.) for middle and high school faculty so they can be available for students who need more help. Additionally, GWA Student Support Departments, which include School Counseling, The Place for Academic Reinforcement and Coaching (PARC), the Writing Center and Math Lab, assist students who may be experiencing difficulty and need further support.

School Counseling

The school counselors are dedicated to the well-being of all GWA students. During a time of increased absenteeism and the possibility of the campus closing for several days or a prolonged period, the school counselors will be available to students and parents/guardians who need support. With a mission to provide academic, social and emotional support to all students, the school counselors work with students in the following ways:

Classes Held on Campus

- Help students and families organize and plan for making up work through in-person or Zoom meetings.
- Check-in on students as referred by administration and faculty.
- Offer faculty support in the form of resources designed to help students.
- Share resources and up-to-date information regarding methods of support.

Classes Held Online

- Counselors are available by phone and/or Zoom conference. Students/parents can schedule appointments online using Calendly.
- Share resources and up-to-date information regarding methods of support.
- Help students and families organize & plan for making up work.
- Check-in on students as referred by administration and faculty.
- Offer faculty support in the form of resources to help students/families.

Writing Center

Students may schedule 30-minute Writing Center appointments to meet with Mrs. Fissette online. To schedule an appointment, send an email at tfissette@gwa.com.

Math Lab

Students may request assistance from GWA's Math Lab Director Paula Allen, via email at pallen@gwa.com.

Student Support Systems



The PARC: The Place for Academic Reinforcement and Coaching

The Place for Academic Reinforcement and Coaching (PARC) is an essential part of the overall school program. There are a range of services offered during the school year. In the event the campus must be closed for some or all grades, the academic coaches will be vital to those students who receive support during the school day. The Academic Coaches will be offering the following services:

Classes are Held on Campus

- Continue meeting with students who are in attendance.
- Monitor students, especially students who have been absent due to illness.
- If needed, help with scheduling make-up work.

Classes are Held Online

Middle/Upper School

- Email students and their parents a digital day schedule (closely resembling their regular PARC schedule and in conjunction with classroom teachers).
- Schedule a virtual session time, using the Zoom platform.
- Send an email with an invitation. Students will click on the invitation link sent to set up a virtual session.

Lower School

- Use Zoom in conjunction with Seesaw.
- Parents will sign their students up for sessions through Zoom. Students will be allowed to sign up for the same number of sessions they have each week.
- Continue the OG scope and sequence along with support for classwork.
- Continue Reflex Math logging in three (3) times per week.



Health & Safety Plans



What is the procedure for monitoring symptoms?

Take your child's temperature each morning before school. If it is 100 degrees or higher, your child should stay home from school. Each student's temperature will also be taken upon arrival at school. Students who arrive late should check in at the front office or at the newly-constructed booth next to the student parking lot. The employee who is designated to check temperatures will be wearing a safety vest for easy identification.

Your child should stay home from school if he or she is exhibiting any of the COVID-19 symptoms that have been identified by the CDC: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.



What happens if a student or employee becomes ill, tests positive or is exposed to COVID-19?

- **If a student or employee develops COVID-19 symptoms while on campus**, the school nurse will isolate the individual in the clinic and provide guidance for next steps. Remote learning support will be provided for students who must stay home due to illness or quarantining.
- **If an individual tests positive for COVID-19**, he or she should stay home for 10 days and be symptom free before returning to school. Note: This time frame is dependent upon the severity of the illness, improvement of symptoms and whether the individual is immunocompromised, so please refer to this Georgia Department of Health directive for details: **[Return to School Guidance After COVID-19 Illness of Exposure](#)**.
- **Asymptomatic persons who have a known exposure to a person with COVID-19 without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)** can return to school after they have completed all requirements in the Georgia Department of Public Health guidance for persons exposed to COVID-19 found online at **<https://dph.georgia.gov/contact>**. Note: if this person is tested for COVID-19 during the 14-day quarantine period, a negative test result would not change or decrease the time a person is quarantined.



Positive COVID-19 test results or exposures must be reported to the GWA nurse at 678-635-3825. The nurse will provide guidance & answer questions.

Health & Safety Plans



Are face coverings required?

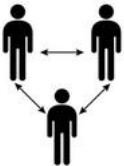
Face coverings are required for faculty, staff, visitors, and students in grades 2-12. Face coverings are encouraged for students in Pre-K3 through first grade. Face coverings should not display political messages/images or offensive text or graphics.



What are the plans for cleaning and sanitizing?

The school will provide sanitizing stations throughout campus and students will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly. Younger students will be taught proper hand washing techniques.

Throughout the school day, the custodial team will be increasing efforts to clean and sanitize, paying special attention to high-touch surfaces and restrooms. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will also be available in each classroom. Students will be reminded not to share school supplies, technology devices, books, toys, etc. Signage will also be in place to remind students, faculty and staff of the importance of health and hygiene practices.



What efforts are being made for physical distancing?

Class sizes have been limited and daily schedules have been modified to allow for increased spacing. Whenever possible, desks, tables and chairs will be positioned six feet apart. Students will be encouraged to maintain space whenever lining up or walking in hallways. Group gatherings will be discouraged with modifications implemented for meetings, events, group projects, assemblies, etc. When the weather permits, outdoor spaces will be utilized for instruction, class projects and breaks. During this time, we are limiting campus visitors as much as possible.



How will lunch be handled?

Students need to bring a packed lunch that does not need to be refrigerated or heated. They will be eating in their classrooms instead of in the cafeteria. If you need to drop lunch off for your child, please bring it to the welcome shack (and make sure it is labeled) and we will be sure it is delivered to your child. If you have birthday treats, please bring them to the school office.

Arts, Athletics & After School

Will extra-curricular activities be offered during the fall semester?



Our talented performing arts teachers are currently evaluating options and developing opportunities for student musicians, thespians, singers and dancers to be able to enjoy artistic pursuits. As soon as these plans are finalized for each of these programs, we will be sharing details.



George Walton Academy is a member of the Georgia High School Association. The [**GHSA website**](#) provides updates on policies and procedures. GWA coaches will continue to communicate directly with their team members and parents regarding practices, conditioning and games.



"Beyond the Bell" classes will be limited. Please contact Stacy May at smay@gwa.com for details.

For aftercare:

- K4-2nd grade students will go to The Hill/playground
- 3rd-5th students will go to the cafeteria/small basketball court
- Middle school students will go to The Commons

How can my family help ensure that GWA can provide a safe experience for all students, faculty and staff?

As an independent school community, we are drawn together by common values. Accordingly, it is incumbent upon each of us to look out for the most vulnerable among us. Every student, teacher, staff member and all of our families count on one another to do all we can to protect the health and safety of all. Therefore, we asked every GWA family to sign and abide by the expectations outlined in the [**COVID Community Commitment Form**](#).

Additional Details



Daily Schedule

Lower School

Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Middle & Upper School

Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Eight periods will be split among two days (4:4 blocks)
- Each class will be 80 minutes in length
- Two study halls for Upper School
- Middle school students will have one study hall and will choose an additional world language or art course
- Online advisory



Campus Visitors

Only essential visits to campus will be allowed. This policy is in place to minimize the risk of exposure for our students, faculty and staff. We appreciate your cooperation. The Dawg Shop will have specific hours of operation and any campus visitors will be required to wear a face covering.



Transportation Services

George Walton Academy will continue to offer daily bus transportation. Drivers and students will be required to wear face coverings.



Culture & Community

We understand that these are challenging times.

Even so, we have never been more proud of the strength and resilience of our George Walton Academy community. Our students, teachers and parents have risen to the challenges and pulled together to support one another. GWA is stronger than ever.

We look forward to the days when we fill the stands to cheer on the bulldog athletic teams, applaud for our talented students during their performances, and come together to celebrate time-honored GWA traditions. But until then, even in times when we can't gather together, our sense of community endures.

The fall semester will look different...no doubt. It will take effort and flexibility on the part of each and every one of us to successfully navigate the days ahead. There will be new lessons to learn, discoveries to make, talents to explore, and achievements to celebrate during the 2020-2021 school year...and George Walton Academy is more than ready.

