

BACK TO CAMPUS UPDATE



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Dan Dolan

How do you plan amidst
daily uncertainty?



By nature, educators are planners.

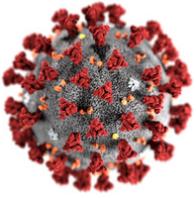
Normally (and that's a word that's taken on new meaning these days), this is the time when school administrators and teachers are hard at work planning for the next year. But as we all know, these aren't normal times.

As we look ahead to the 2020-2021 school year, we face new considerations and challenges. With a fluid situation, it's important to remain flexible and nimble, yet we want to bring you up to speed on our plans as they now stand. GWA continues to monitor the guidelines issued by the CDC, as well as state and local government authorities as we develop and evaluate our "Back to Campus" plan, and modifications will be made as needed.

I want to thank the many teachers, staff members and parents who provided feedback to help shape this plan. I also want to thank our entire GWA community for your resilience, strength, patience and support for one another as we have navigated this situation. Your embrace of our extended GWA digital days has been instrumental in the success of the program. Despite all of the challenges we face these days, it's still ***"a great time to be a bulldog!"***



Considerations



COVID-19



GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



HEALTH GUIDELINES



GLOBAL PARTNERS FOR EXCHANGES AND STUDY ABROAD



LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT



PARENT DECISIONS

There are many factors to consider in development of a plan to return to the GWA campus, some of which are beyond our control.

School administrators will continue to monitor the recommendations that are released by the Centers for Disease Control, as well as the guidelines established by local and state government authorities. The school will also monitor the threat level within the geographic area and the GWA community itself.

GWA is a member of the Georgia High School Association which sets the guidelines and schedules for sports programs. GWA awaits announcements from GHSA of firm plans for the next school year.

The school works with several global partners to facilitate student exchange programs and study abroad experiences for GWA students. These programs are on hold for now.

The school understands that families have their own unique situations and will be making decisions that best fit their needs. We encourage each of you to reach out to us to discuss any concerns you may have.

**BACK TO
CAMPUS PLAN**

Challenges

In development of the plan, GWA administrators, faculty, staff, and parents considered a range of challenges from:

- Safety of GWA students, families, faculty, and staff
- Academic progress and overall student experience
- Professional growth of faculty and staff
- Social and extracurricular opportunities
- Care and support for GWA community
- Variable threat levels
- Inconsistent external guidance



Campus Plan

We have a four-part plan for the 2020-2021 school year:

1. Reopening of Campus

- **Ensuring Safety and Addressing Challenges**
- **Fall 2020 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 split among two days (4:4 blocks)

Each class will be 80 minutes

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

- **Spring 2021 Schedule**

We hope to have a more familiar schedule with a return to 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

2. Ongoing Monitoring

3. Strategic Containment

4. Contingency Plans



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. From the way our students, teachers and parents have risen to the challenge and successfully navigated our extended digital days to the unity and quiet leadership demonstrated by our outstanding seniors, GWA is stronger than ever.

This experience has produced many positive outcomes: our students and teachers have increased their mastery of technology; innovations and imaginative problem solving have become daily norms; and we can take comfort in knowing the Class of 2020 is more prepared than most to take on the challenges of college and beyond.

As we turn the page on this school year, we are eagerly looking forward. 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 will be more than ready.

