

August 1, 2021

TGFS COVID-19 Policy for 2021-2022 School Year

We hope that you all are enjoying a safe and relaxing summer. We are excited to be in a position to share the details of our return to school for the 2021-2022 academic year. The 20-21 school year was defined by uncertainty but the hallmark of our educational approach was built around safety. That will not change for the 2021-22 academic year. We are using the best guidance available from the Center for Disease Control, the Ohio Department of Health, and in alignment with applicable state laws. We have been hard at work in all of our buildings ensuring that safe return to in-person learning can take place seamlessly each day. This message contains details for: COVID Updates, Vaccine information, Classroom safety, Events/Extracurricular Activities.

COVID Updates

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released their latest guidelines for schools. Mask wearing is highly suggested for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Other key takeaways from this latest update from the CDC include:

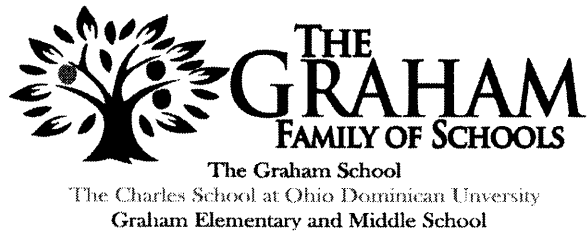
- Emphasis on the importance of in-person learning
- Mask wearing outdoors is no longer a recommendation
- Safe distancing is now reduced to 3 feet
- Important to keep apprised of the COVID risk in the local community and adjust prevention strategies in response

Vaccine Information

We know from numerous medical and public health experts that the safest and most effective way to protect all of our students, staff, and their families, is to be vaccinated. We highly suggest and encourage that all students who are 12 years of age and older be vaccinated. We do understand that there are relatively few cases where someone may not be medically advised to receive a vaccine. We also know that the vaccine is more effective than the flu vaccine, it is safer, and it has been shown to be more than 99% effective with few side effects. The front desks at all the schools have vaccine clinic information available should that be helpful and we are scheduling a vaccine clinic at one of our schools later this month.

Classroom Safety

We will resume full in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year. In accordance with guidance from the Ohio Department of Education and state laws, we will discontinue our remote learning. Remote learning is currently restricted for public schools in the state. Students' desks spacing will be decreased to a minimum desk spacing of 3 feet. Combined, outdoor recesses (without masks) returns. Each building will advise students and families as to their lunch distribution method.



Columbus City Schools will continue to provide transportation to and from school on a daily basis. Families must register with the transportation department in order to ensure that their student is able to be routed. Each school will communicate its drop-off and pick up procedures.

In alignment with the CDC Guideline, mask use indoors is required at TGFS for all persons (regardless of vaccination status), including parents, teachers, staff, visitors, and children over the age of two. The school administration will be monitoring and discussing its importance to all students. We will ask families to inform the school of their student's vaccine status and to provide a copy of their vaccination card for record keeping. This information will be protected just like all other student medical information.

In lieu of the daily required screenings for all students and staff, we will use random sampling for temperature and COVID testing. We will pull a proportion of the student body daily to check temperatures and screen for symptoms. This is in addition to monitoring student and staff symptoms and appropriately checking their health with our school nurse. We will follow the policies laid out by Columbus Public Health for monitoring and disclosure. We will continue to utilize letters emailed/mailed home in the case of close contact of your student to a COVID positive individual.

Additional layered prevention strategies remain in place from last year to limit the potential spread among our students and staff. These strategies include the following:

1. Extensive, daily disinfecting of all classrooms
2. Modified extracurricular activities and events to limit crowd size
3. 3 feet spacing of desks/workspaces
4. Air ionizers and filters in all classrooms
5. Increased ventilation in large group indoor meeting spaces
6. Continued emphasis on frequent hand washing with hand sanitizing stations in classrooms and common spaces
7. Controlled access to the school building
8. Drop-off and pickup to avoid the congregation of large groups of students and families
9. Requirement of families to keep their children at home if sick or being tested for the coronavirus
10. Quarantining of students or staff that test positive for the coronavirus
11. Reporting of all confirmed coronavirus cases and contact tracing via Franklin County Public Health

Events / Extracurricular Activities

Most, if not all, extracurricular activities and events will resume this school year. This includes clubs, celebration of learning, concerts, etc. Due to the continued limitations imposed by the pandemic, the exact details of each of these events/activities have yet to be defined. Please remain flexible as we seek to move back as close to normal as possible without exposing students and staff to undue risk.

Thank you very much for your understanding. Our commitment to the health and safety of our students, families, and staff remains paramount. We will keep you informed about any changes to these policies.