



GILPIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

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Home of the Eagles!

July 13, 2020

Dear Gilpin School Community,

After the 2020/2021 educational program choice survey went out to parents on June 30, the principals have received many questions. Here are the

Frequently Asked Questions and Responses

With students returning to school in August, won't this cause a community COVID-19 outbreak?

Although there is no guarantee that a community outbreak will not happen, Colorado State Epidemiologist Dr. Rachel Herlihy and a number of Colorado Medical Directors of County Public Health Departments concur that children are at low risk for contracting and having complications from COVID-19. Also, these doctors concur that children are not carriers of the virus, dispelling what was previously reported.

May we delay the start of school a few weeks so parents may better know the safety factor for students returning to school?

The COVID-19 pandemic will be ongoing during the 2020/2021 school year and may well continue into the 2021/2022 school year. From now into August, the number of COVID-19 cases in the county, state, and nation will increase and decrease. Positive COVID-19 cases will cycle in number higher and lower throughout the school year. Delaying the day school begins will not affect the school community unless there is a dramatic increase in the number of positive cases in Gilpin County resulting from the pandemic between now and August 10, the first day of school.

Why did the school decide to offer 100% in-person classes to all students?

Students and parents have two educational program options: 100% In-Person Learning or the 100% Gilpin Online Learning. Colorado State Epidemiologist Dr. Rachel Herlihy and a number of Colorado Medical Directors of County Public Health Departments concur that schools may resume in-person learning and effectively minimize the threat to public health by wearing a mouth and nose covering, social distancing as possible, and frequently washing hands.

On average, 90% of parents surveyed recently across the State of Colorado responded that they wanted their children to return to the classroom. However, GCSD and most school districts across the state are



also concurrently offering pre-made computer courses for students to enroll so they may choose to stay home and complete school requirements.

With the possibility of full classrooms, it is almost, if not entirely, impossible to maintain social distance with that many kids in a classroom. How will social distance be achieved in school?

Students and staff will do their best to maintain social distance. The 6 feet physical distancing will be the practice at all times and to the greatest degree, wherever and whenever possible. School staff and students will wear a nose and mouth covering whenever possible and, for students, considering the age for developmentally appropriate wear, during the school day and anytime when present in the building. Staff will clean, sanitize, and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, refillable water stations) multiple times per day.

Can you help me understand why the district chose this option rather than something like a 50% remote, 50% in-person strategy with different grades attending on different days?

When the Public Health requirement was 9 students and 1 teacher in the classroom in May 2020, GCSD, like many other school districts, developed a hybrid plan that had students coming to school one day a week and working remotely on the three non-in-person school days. GCSD was concurrently going to offer a pre-made computer course of study for parents and students to choose as an option.

However, when Public Health increased the capacity to 20 to 25 students in a classroom with a teacher in June 2020, GCSD, along with many other school districts, changed to offer two educational program choices: 100% In-Person Learning and 100% Gilpin Online Learning. Because the pandemic will be ongoing, offering an in-person option as close to “normal” as the parameters of social distancing and health safety practices will permit addresses the state-wide survey result of what about 90% of parents requested to have their children return to the classroom for the 2020/2021 school year.

Frequently Asked Elementary Questions and Responses

What is the expectation for the Preschool Program for the fall?

Gilpin will offer an in-person full day and half day program. Full day is Monday-Thursday 8 am-4pm and Half day is Monday-Thursday 8 am-11:30 am. There will be a waiting list when we reach capacity. On-line preschool is not available at this time.

What is the difference between on-line and remote learning?

The Gilpin Online Learning Program is provided for and supported by an outside company. The K-5 courses are aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS). At this time, the course teacher will be provided by the outside company. The expectation is that students complete the assigned lessons.

Remote learning is a component of in-person learning and will be facilitated by Gilpin classroom teachers if the building has to be closed for a period of time during the school year due to a positive confirmation



of a COVID-19 case in the school community. Gilpin teachers will provide learning remotely to their students and it will be similar to what students experienced at the end of the last school year.

Are there K-5 Montessori courses available for the Gilpin Online Learning Program?

Unfortunately, there are not online Montessori courses. There are supplemental materials available on the internet that will support the Montessori philosophy. However, Montessori students may still choose the courses available with the Gilpin Online Learning Program appropriate for their grade-level.

If we start online and change our mind, when can we re-enter in person learning at Gilpin?

In the event that online learning no longer works for your family, we ask that the student complete the semester of online learning through December. They will be able to return to in-person learning for the second semester in January.

If a family chooses our online program, a Chromebook will be provided?

All students in grades K-5 will be issued a Chromebook for either the In-person or Online Learning Programs.

What program will be used for online learning?

We are currently researching companies to provide the courses and teachers for Gilpin Online Learning for grades K-5. One of the determining factors to pick a company to provide the online courses for grades K-5 is cost. The cost will be affected by the number of students who choose the online option, which is why we need to know how many K-5 students want to be online and do their schoolwork from home.

One of these two companies will be awarded the K-5 Gilpin Online Learning contract:

Colorado Digital Learning Solutions (CDLS) <https://www.coloradodls.org/>
Calvert Learning <https://calvertlearning.com/curriculum>

K-5 students will enroll in ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science and will have a choice for no more than two elective courses.

Does my child have to wear a mask all day?

We are asking that students have and wear a nose and mouth covering whenever possible and, for students, when age and developmentally appropriate, during the school day and anytime when present in the building. Staff and students are expected to provide their own cloth nose and mouth covering, for example, a mask, bandana, or scarf, when 6 foot social distancing is not possible. When social distancing is possible students will be able to remove their masks during that time. Nose and mouth coverings are to be worn in the hallways, bathrooms, or other common areas where multiple students gather. Limiting the exposure to others will support school safety and health.



Will my child still have recess?

Your child will have recess. A schedule will be created to limit the number of students on the playground. In addition, we will review/adopt recess procedures to promote safety and health for our students and staff.

Where will my child have lunch?

Elementary will have lunch in the classrooms with their teacher. Lunches will be delivered to the classroom for those who order lunch from the cafeteria. We ask that you plan ahead and order lunches one week in advance. Students may bring snacks and meal food from home. Students cannot share school food or food brought from home with other students.

Frequently Asked Middle School and High School Questions and Responses

How will seating on the bus work?

Students will be required to wear a nose and mouth covering on the bus. There will be one student per seat unless they are immediate family or live in the same household.

Will the students be allowed to take breaks without the mask?

Staff and student nose and mouth covering are required when social distancing cannot be maintained. When students are 6 or more feet apart, they may work without their nose and mouth covering.

What will lunch look like?

Students will eat lunch in the classroom, not the common areas. Students may provide notice for hot lunch purchase one week in advance. Hot lunch will be delivered to classrooms. Students may bring snacks and meal food from home. Students cannot share school food or food brought from home with other students.

How will social distancing be maintained?

6 ft. Social distancing will be practiced to the fullest level possible. There will be no activities in the common areas of more than 25 people, lockers will not be used, lunches will be delivered to classrooms, and hallway guidelines will be on the ground to facilitate one way traffic on each side.

What will fall sports and extracurricular activities look like?

Colorado Association of High School Athletics (CHSAA) is currently working on a plan for extracurricular fall sports and activities. If fall sports and activities are a go, they will have guidelines and protocols out by August 1. We will follow those guidelines and protocols for Middle School and High School.



Is there a way to view the Gilpin Online Learning Program course options for Grades 6-12 provided by Edmentum?

Yes. A demo site has been created. In addition there are video resources. Please see the information below. Please note that many people will be on the demo site, so whatever you put in there will be seen by all.

[General Information about Edmentum Courses](#)

[Video Resources about Courseware](#)

Sample courses:

www.login.edmentum.com

Username: DemoStudent

Password: DemoStudent

What will the typical Gilpin Online Learning Program course load look like?

It will be the four content courses (ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science) with 2 electives. The electives will vary depending on grade level, interest, and graduation requirements.

Will students be able to participate in extracurricular activities if they choose the Gilpin Online Learning Program?

Yes.

Will students receive teacher support through online learning?

Students in grades 6-12 are expected to be independent learners if they choose the Gilpin Online Learning Program. The online coursework is student-driven. Each lesson consists of a tutorial to help guide the students. Sunny Vincent will serve as the online learning liaison. She would be the first point of contact for teacher and parent concerns in the online learning program. If a student needs help, they may contact a teacher. Please understand the response might not be for 48 hours, as the teacher's main responsibility is providing in-person instruction. In addition, students may come to Friday school to get assistance for online learning.

If a student chooses online learning, will it be a smooth transition to in-person learning if they opt to change at semester?

The Edmentum courseware is aligned to the common core standards and the Colorado Academic Standards. Therefore, the transition should be smooth. If there are areas of deficiency upon return, the teacher will work with the student and parent to address these deficiencies.

Will the school provide Chromebooks for the online learners?

Yes. All students in grades 6-12 will be issued a Chromebook for either the In-person or Online Learning Programs.



Thanks for your continued support, understanding, and cooperation as we prepare for the 2020/2021 school year amidst all the complications and challenges caused by the effects of the pandemic on students and staff.

Please direct your questions to your principal:

PS-5 Principal Heather Huntoon hhuntoon@gilpin.k12.co.us

6-12 Principal Alexis Donaldson adonaldson@gilpin.k12.co.us