

From: Warden, Alexa <WardenAC@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 8:51 AM

To: Everybody <Everybody@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Subject: COVID update please read

Importance: High



Dear all,

Thank you so much for your excellent communication and ongoing support as we navigate this COVID outbreak. We currently have seven student and four staff who have tested positive for COVID. We have additional students who are symptomatic and who have not been tested. For these reasons, we will be going remote for the rest of the week (beginning Tuesday, May 23, 2022). Students should log in to Teams and join their classes remotely. Most classes will be synchronous, but in the event that a teacher is unwell, they will post an assignment that students can complete on their own.

Thanks again for your continued understanding.

Warmly,

Alexa Warden

Director

GW Community School

The GW Community School

9001 Braddock Road • Springfield • Virginia 22151



From: Warden, Alexa <WardenAC@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2022 10:16 AM

To: Everybody <Everybody@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Subject: COVID update- please read

Hi all,

I hope this email finds you well. As you know, we have several confirmed and suspected cases of COVID in our school community. I haven't heard from all of our students' families over the weekend, so I can't provide you with exact numbers. However, because of these rising numbers, we will be taking the following steps:

1. No gym this week. Students may arrive at school between 9:00 am and 9:15 am. Advisory begins promptly at 9:15 am.
2. No one displaying symptoms consistent with COVID will be allowed in the building. They are welcome to Teams in. Please understand that we are not able to distinguish between coughs, congestion, and sneezes caused by allergies or COVID. Again, anyone displaying symptoms consistent with COVID should stay home. If students or staff arrive at school and appear symptomatic, they will be sent home.
3. Students and staff will be required to wear masks indoors.
4. Be on the lookout for updates via email. As you know, this is a situation that has the ability to change quickly.

Thank you all so much for your continued support and patience. Let's do all that we can to ensure a fun, healthy, and happy end of a phenomenal year!

Warmly,

Alexa Warden

Director, GW Community School

The GW Community School

9001 Braddock Road • Springfield • Virginia 22151



From: Connelly, Timothy <ConnellyTP@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 6:49 AM

To: Staff <Staff@gwcommunityschool.com>; Parents
<Parents@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Subject: OBX: CPR

Hi Everyone,

As a few members of our community have tested positive for covid, we would like to request that if you experience any symptoms contact us and stay home until you are symptom free or receive a negative covid test. All absences related to covid like symptoms will be excused and online participation to regular classes will be available. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Best,

Tim Connelly

Timothy Connelly

Teacher
GW Community School
9001 Braddock Road, Suite 111
Springfield, VA 22151

The GW Community School

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From: Nunez-Oliver, Maria <nunezoliverm@gwcommunityschool.com>

Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022, 9:22 AM

To: Everybody <Everybody@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Subject: Changes to Universal Masking for ALL Starting March 1

Good morning, Coyotes and Families!

This morning during Community Advisory, Ms. Warden announced that we will be following FCPS' guidance on changing mask policies following the updated health guidance by the CDC. With the new guidance, Fairfax County's current COVID-19 community level is low.

Based off this new guidance, we are going to begin to allow our community members to make a choice whether they will wear a mask starting tomorrow, **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**.

Last week we began discussing with students and staff what their concerns and thoughts were on the change, but ultimately, we will be leaving it up to students and their families to decide what is best for them. One of our core values is Responsibility, so with this policy change, we would like to remind our community that continuing to do your part by monitoring for illness and staying home when sick will keep our community healthy and thriving. As a reminder, our current COVID guidelines for positive tests and exposures can be found [here](#).

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Warmly,
Ms. N-O

Maria "M" Nuñez-Oliver (she/her)
GWCS Director of Operations
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The GW Community School

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From: Nunez-Oliver, Maria <nunezoliverm@gwcommunityschool.com>

Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 2:11 PM

To: Parents <Parents@GWCommunitySchool.com>; Students <Students@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Cc: Staff <Staff@gwcommunityschool.com>

Subject: COVID-Counter Measures and Guidelines - UPDATE 1.24

Excerpt:

In addition to following the below protocols for illness/quarantine policies, we wanted to remind our community that we will still be requiring students and staff to wear masks at all times except when eating. Our school's administration agrees with the CDC's recommendations that masking is a critical public health tool for preventing the spread of COVID-19, and we urge our community to wear the most protective mask they can that fits well, is worn properly, and that is comfortable enough to wear consistently all day.

As always, thank you for being a part of this community and we look forward to seeing what third quarter has in store!

Warmly,

Maria

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The GW Community School

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From: Nunez-Oliver, Maria <nunezoliverm@gwcommunityschool.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:16 PM

To: Parents <Parents@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Cc: Staff <Staff@gwcommunityschool.com>

Subject: COVID-Counter Measures and Updated Guidelines



Hello all,

Considering the emerging COVID-19 omicron-variant outbreak in our area, we have decided to update some of our guidelines to keep our community as safe as possible.

After reviewing both Fairfax County Public Schools and the guidelines of other schools in our area, we are deviating from some of the CDC guidelines in an effort to avoid transmission at GWCS.

Please review the updated rules regarding COVID below:

- If a student exhibits COVID symptoms at school, they will be sent home.
- Students sent home with COVID symptoms may return to school when the following are met:
 - The student is fever-free **without** fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours **AND**
 - The student no longer has symptoms
 - If symptoms persist – we highly suggest:
 - Getting a COVID test to show negative test result (either Antigen, Rapid Antigen, or PCR test) **OR**
 - Getting a clinical evaluation from a healthcare provider that offers an alternate diagnosis to COVID
- If a student has had a close contact to exposures and are asymptomatic, the student may return to school when the following are met:
 - Student completes 5 days of quarantine **AND**
 - Student is asymptomatic **AND**
 - Student returns to school and wears a face mask properly for days 6-10
 - Students who display a pattern of failing to wear a mask correctly will be sent home at the discretion of GWCS administration
 - Upon returning to school, students will also be required to eat lunch in a room by themselves, but they may socialize (masked) after eating

- Students who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 may not return until all of the following have been met:
 - It has been at least 10 days since the student first had symptoms (for symptomatic students) or 10 since testing positive (day the test was administered) for COVID (for asymptomatic students) **AND**
 - The student is fever-free **without** fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours **AND**
 - The student no longer has symptoms

We've stayed opened previously during the height of the COVID pandemic, so we hope that these guidelines will assist us in continuing to keep our classes in person and keep our community safe.

Thank you for reading, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Warmly,

Maria

Maria "M" Nuñez-Oliver (she/her)
GWCS Director of Operations

The GW Community School

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From: Warden, Alexa <WardenAC@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Sent: Monday, January 3, 2022 11:58 AM

To: Everybody <Everybody@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Subject: GWCS Important update!



Hello all!

Happy new year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful break and got the rest and relaxation they needed for a rejuvenated 2022!

We are looking forward to a happy and healthy return to school. Please read this email carefully as it contains important information.

1. **Wonderful winter wonderland!** Enjoy the snow and help out a neighbor with shoveling if you can. Should (when) FCPS announces a school closure this week, GWCS will have a snow day. Note: we will **not** be holding online classes. Stay tuned for updates.
2. **Gym class suspended.** For the next two weeks we will not be meeting at Audrey Moore RECenter. Students should complete morning exercise on their own and report activity to their advisor. Students should arrive at school between 9:05 and 9:10 am. Should your student need to arrive earlier, please email me directly.
3. **Update from Virginia Department of Health.** Please take the time to read through the updated interim guidance from VDH. Please familiarize yourself with the new guidance on quarantine and isolation and mask wearing. <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2021/12/IQ-FAQs-for-K-12-Schools.pdf>.
4. **Upon return from break,** students and staff can expect new guidelines regarding physical distancing while eating. Kitchens will remain open, and students and staff may continue to leave campus to purchase lunch.

Warmly,

Alexa

The GW Community School

9001 Braddock Road • Springfield • Virginia 22151

From: Warden, Alexa <WardenAC@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 3:54 PM

To: Warden, Alexa <WardenAC@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Subject: Hello from GWCS, update, and COVID protocol



August 2, 2021

Dear all,

I hope that everyone is having a great summer—relaxing, reconnecting, and staying safe. I wanted to check in to say hello and provide you with a few updates.

We have been busy this summer! We are having a lot of fun planning for the upcoming school year, engaging in professional development, and getting in some vacation days too.

We are continuing to accept some amazing new students and still have some openings for the upcoming year. So, if you know someone who might be a good fit for us, please encourage them to reach out to me directly or through the website. That said, as we continue to add students, our class schedule is in flux. You can expect to receive class schedules in the third week of August.

In addition to checking in, I wanted to provide you all with information regarding our COVID mitigation plan for the 2021-2022 school year. As always, this plan is subject to change. We continue to receive updates from the CDC, VDOH, FCHD, and VCPE. As of this writing our plan consists of the following:

1. We continue to HIGHLY recommend vaccination for all community members.
2. We will continue with our universal masking policy this fall. Masks may be removed outside.
3. Overnight trips will be limited to fully-vaccinated community members.

4. Personal fitness/Basketball/Hiking club at the Audrey Moore Recreation Center will begin on September 20th and will be **optional**. Gym membership is required for basketball and personal fitness. A membership is not required for hiking club. For information on how to purchase a membership, [click here](#). (Membership sale begins September 1st.) Students may choose to complete personal fitness on their own from home each morning or afternoon. Hours can be reported to advisors each week and credit will be granted. We will discuss the options for Personal Fitness with students during orientation.
5. Each student will be assigned a cubby to store personal items during the day.
6. We will continue to offer a remote learning option for students who aren't feeling well and for students who may have been exposed to COVID.

As recommended by the CDC, we will begin our school year cautiously, with restrictions in place. As time passes and our community remains healthy, we will gradually lift restrictions one at a time.

First two weeks of school (Aug 30 – Sept 10):

- Students remain on campus for lunch.
- Student kitchen remains closed. Please have your child pack non-perishable lunches that do not require reheating.
- Students participate in Personal Fitness at home and report hours to their advisor.

Beginning September 20th, 2021:

- Fully vaccinated students may go to the gym at Audrey Moore Rec Center.
- After school activities and clubs will begin.

Beginning October 4th, 2021:

- Students (with parental permission) may go off-campus to purchase lunch.

We hope to see you at the **Yearbook Party and BBQ** on August 12th or at the **Bowling Bash** on August 19th. [Click here to R.S.V.P.](#)!

Warmly,

Alexa

The GW Community School

9001 Braddock Road • Springfield • Virginia 22151

From: Warden, Alexa <WardenAC@GWCommunitySchool.com>

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 9:22 AM

Subject: GWCS Community Pledge



Hello all,

I hope this email finds you well. As I mentioned in the Return to School Plan, I am asking all of our community members who plan to attend school in person to sign the GW Community School Pledge which is linked below.

All the best,

Alexa Warden
Director

Click this link to read and sign pledge:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SEIKI6LZvE28XXHR3mJw_UqQgVtURo9FvY86cazdZepUOUZFWU5KQks0UKIORTFQRFJQUjBMSE1UVy4u

The GW Community School

9001 Braddock Road • Springfield • Virginia 22151

From: Warden, Alexa

Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 11:08 AM

To: Everybody

Subject: GWCS Return to School Plan as of 8/7/20



GWCS Plans for Reopening:

Hello all!

I hope this email finds everyone well and happy.

I know that we are all anxious to find out what this school year will look like. We at GW Community School have been working very hard on our Return to School Plan and are eager to share it with you. Please understand that this is a working document. As we learn more about the virus, receive new Executive Orders, or simply find a better way of handling the bumps in the road, this document and thus our protocol will change. We will keep you apprised of major changes via email. **If you are interested in participating in our Return to School Plan and have time to volunteer, please contact me directly.** We could use your help!

It goes without saying that our first concern is the health and safety of our community. The plan that we have created intends to greatly mitigate the spread of COVID-19, but it does not eradicate the risk of transmission. Additionally, we believe that to return to school safely, we will be relying on our GWCS community to stay safe outside of school. If we can trust that community members are behaving safely outside of school, we will feel safer being *in* school. Coming back to school in person requires a great deal of trust and for that reason, I am asking each member of our community to sign a community pledge. I will send the community pledge in a separate email.

As of this email, we are preparing for a full five-day school week. However, any student may choose to attend school virtually. Each classroom will have a dedicated computer with Microsoft Teams running, so students can simply call into class. We did a great job with remote learning last spring, and the technology we have will allow our students to receive a great education remotely, if they so choose.

In order to make the most informed choice about whether your student chooses to start remotely or in-person, I'd like to share with you what we have prepared and a little more information regarding how the school day will run. Again, we haven't figured everything out yet, but we are working together to provide the best options for our community!

After sharing this document with you, you may have questions or want to provide feedback regarding our evolving plan. Please feel free to email me or our PAC Communications Chair, Andrea Spiegel, at PAC-Communications@gwcommunityschool.com with the subject line reading: "Return to School 2020." I will forward Andrea the emails I receive as well, and she will compile one master list of

questions/feedback. Please note that I will not be responding to individual emails. Please send your emails by COB Tuesday, August 11th and by the end of next week, I will provide the answers that I can, as well as let you know what challenges we are still researching or working to resolve.

Then, the week of August 24, Rick and I will host a series of small group Zoom calls to further share our plan as well as to reconnect with you before the start of the year.

So, here's where we stand today:

GWCS School and Classrooms:

- We have measured all of the spaces in the school. In each classroom each desk or table will be at least six feet apart from the next.
- We have purchased EPA-approved disinfectant cleansers for use against COVID-19. Teachers will sanitize surfaces between each class. Faculty will sanitize high-touch surfaces in common areas on a prescribed schedule. Students will be expected to sanitize their personal space after eating.
- Roombas have been purchased and all vacuuming will take place after all community members have left the building.
- We will remove the couches from the café area and use that area as a classroom for larger instruction, again with each desk being at least six feet apart from the next.
- We will install floor stickers to provide visual cues about safe distancing.
- We will close and shut down the student kitchen. The staff kitchen will remain open for handwashing only.
- We will remove the water cooler.
- Hand sanitizing stations have been placed at the building's entrance.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be mounted outside of each classroom.
- Students will not have access to the cubbies. We will be recommending a small rolling bag that can accommodate their personal belongings. More on this to come.
- We continue to work on how to maximize the air circulation and filtration in our space. More on this to come.
- We will attempt to utilize our outdoor space as much as possible.

Who CAN Come to School for In-Person Learning on Day One:

- Community members who have, for the previous two weeks, complied with physical distancing and mask-wearing while outside of their household.

Who CANNOT Come to School for In-Person Learning on Day One:

- Community members who have not complied with physical distancing and mask-wearing while outside of their household for the two weeks before the start of school.
- Community members who have traveled on an airplane or had a member of their household travel on an airplane for the two weeks preceding the start of school.
- Community members exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Community members who themselves or a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19 and is within the 14-day window.
- Community members who have had "close contact" (any individual within six feet of someone who is a laboratory-confirmed or probable COVID-19 patient for at least 15 minutes) and is within the 14-day window.

Coming to School:

- Each morning all community members who plan to enter the school building will complete a checklist of symptoms. If they are symptom-free they may proceed to school.
- Upon arrival at school, parent/student/teacher drivers will enter one of several “kiss and ride” lines. While masked, each person who plans on entering the school building will have their temperature scanned. If someone has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, he or she will not be permitted to come into the building. A community member must be fever-free for three consecutive 24-hour periods without the aid of fever-reducing drugs before they may come back to the school building.
 - I will provide more detailed information regarding protocol for arrival at school in a separate email and after trial runs during Teacher Inservice week.
 - Students or teachers exhibiting a listed symptom may participate in school remotely through Microsoft Teams.

While at School:

- Most importantly, GWCS is known for its loving and nurturing community environment. We understand that community members may make a mistake in distancing or mask-wearing from time to time, and our approach will be a gentle and kind reminder.
- All community members must always wear masks except while eating or drinking. More on this to come. We are currently researching and receiving advisement about the safest ways to handle lunch, snacks, water breaks, etc. We will develop and communicate our eating and drinking policy at a later date. However, community members should bring a filled reusable water bottle, a non-perishable lunch that does not require warming, and their own utensils to school each day.
- All community members must always do their best to stay six feet away from one another.
- Admittedly, transitioning between classes will prove challenging. We plan to request several students come to school during our Teacher Inservice this summer to practice the safest ways to move between each of the classrooms.

Changes to the Schedule:

- First Day of School and Orientation:
 - The first day of in-person school for Freshman and Seniors will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Sophomores and Juniors will be expected to “Teams-In” and attend remotely for part of the day on Tuesday the 8th.
 - The first day of in-person school for Sophomores and Juniors will be Wednesday, September 9, 2020. Freshman and Seniors will be expected to attend remotely for part of the day on Wednesday the 9th.
 - Our students who opt to attend remotely will not be required to attend in-person and should remotely attend the part of the day assigned to their class.
 - The first days of in-person school will include an orientation on how to attend school safely, allow for the practice of transitions, allow us to fully understand new policies, and to celebrate the new year.
- Gym: We will not be going to Audrey Moore Recreation Center as a school until further notice.
- PE at School: The first two weeks of school we will not offer a PE option. We will provide more information about the possibility of an in-person PE class after the first two weeks of school.
- Students may arrive at school between 8:55 and 9:05 am. After being scanned for temperature, they may enter the building and report to their advisor’s classroom. Advisory will begin at 9:15 am.

Tel 703.978.7208 • Fax 703.978.7226

www.gwcommunityschool.com

- If you need your student to be able to be dropped off earlier than 8:55 am, please reach out to me directly.
- Classes will be shortened to allow additional time for a safe transition. The bell schedule will be distributed after we complete our transition trials during Teacher Inservice.
- Traditionally, we do not offer after-school elective classes or clubs during the first two weeks of school. This will hold true this year as well, and we may decide that after school classes and clubs will be remote.
- The last Friday of each month will be set aside as a Teacher Workday. Should the last Friday of the month fall upon a scheduled holiday, the first Friday of the next month will serve as the Teacher Workday. Students will not be required to attend class, but may be assigned remote learning opportunities, group projects, or individual assignments.
- The purpose for these Teacher Workdays is for GWCS staff and faculty to come together and plan for the ever-changing path in front of us, to discuss victories and challenges with teaching and learning during a global pandemic, to receive support, and to create meaningful activities and experiences that are accessible to all community members, whether attending in-person or remotely.
 - Teacher Workdays should not be considered a student vacation day.
 - All assignments given during a Teacher Workday will be clearly communicated with students and parents.

Personal Protective Equipment:

- We have ordered medical grade PPE for our staff and faculty including: N95 masks, face shields, and gloves.
- Non-medical grade masks will be available if a student has forgotten their mask for the day.
- We encourage all families and students to use the mask of their choice. However, we will expect all staff and students to support wearing masks at all times other than eating or drinking.

Changes to School Rules:

- Usually community members are presented with an updated Parent-Student Handbook at the beginning of each year. Because of the amount of time we are investing into our COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, we will issue last year's Parent Student Handbook with this plan included, and all future policy changes should be considered an addendum to the handbook.
- We understand that wearing a mask for an entire school day will take some getting used to. We will have several outdoor stations set up for "mask breaks." Students may request a mask break when needed. However, excessive use of mask breaks may be an indicator that a student needs to explore a reduced in-person schedule. We will issue further guidelines on proper mask removal and storage during student orientation.
- Please practice wearing a mask at home prior to the beginning of the school year to support our students' success.
- For the first two weeks of school students may not visit the shopping center or gas station to purchase lunch. However, students may opt to bring a towel or mat and eat, physically distanced from others, outside. We will revisit this policy after two weeks of school have been completed.
- To allow for physical distancing, only one community member may use the bathroom at a time. An orange safety cone will be placed to the left of the bathroom doors; this will indicate that the bathroom is unoccupied. Upon entering the bathroom, community members will use their foot to slide the cone in front of the door to indicate that the bathroom is occupied. After using the bathroom, the community member will use their foot to slide the cone back to the of the door indicating that the bathroom is unoccupied.

Plans for Closing School:

- Should a member of our on-campus community be found positive for COVID-19, GWCS will immediately notify the community via email and transition immediately to remote learning for 14 days.
- Should we receive Executive Order to close, we will comply and transition to remote learning immediately.
- Should we deem that we do not have proper staffing or proper equipment to provide a safe learning environment, we may elect to transition to remote learning until we can provide a safe learning environment for all community members.

Plans for if a Community Member Becomes Ill at School:

- If a community member becomes ill while at school, they will be isolated in the “resource room” until they can be taken home, transported to a medical facility, or depart for an appropriate location.
- We will be adding additional spaces on our Emergency Form so that community members can indicate additional emergency contacts that would be available to transport their child/themselves home should the need arise.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our Return to School Plan. Again, please understand that this plan is evolving. Please submit questions and feedback following the protocol described earlier. In doing this, you will be affording me valuable time to continue to research and prepare for the school year.

Lastly, I am looking for six to seven parents to join me on our Return to School Team. I need help with things like sourcing and pricing floor stickers, investigating a school-wide once a week lunch delivery program, additional PPE research, sourcing and pricing outdoor furniture/tent equipment, researching professional sanitization services, and more. I also need a few parents to help me in the school building with furniture arrangement, painting, shutting down kitchen areas, blocking off cubbies, and more. Thank you in advance for contributing to our small but mighty community.

All my best,

Alexa

The GW Community School

9001 Braddock Road • Springfield • Virginia 22151

From: Goldie, Richard

Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:08 PM

To: Everybody

Subject: Looking forward to another great school year!



Coyote Community,

I'm pleased to inform you, with the governor's leadership and the current recommendations, that we have developed a general plan to reopen GWCS in the fall. Our individualized, private school, reopening plan submitted to the state for approval, is based on a five-day week of in-person instruction. We have eight full time and two part time teachers under contract, ten classrooms, and (somewhere between) thirty to forty students. There is every expectation that we will be able to be open every day, practice social distancing, clean and disinfect routinely, and keep everyone in a very low risk environment while they are in school.

We learned a lot about 'distance learning' last year, and while we see its implementation this year on a limited basis, we know what everyone else knows now: There's nothing like being in the room where it happens when it comes to education (among other things). In all of the ways that being a small school with quickly moveable parts has been a great benefit to us over the years, it may have never been as beneficial as it is going to be now. We can do things that bigger schools can't.

Obviously, some of the trips and extra-curricular activities cannot be planned at this point, but with the phased reopening underway in Fairfax County we are confident that some version of all of the school's time-honored traditions will be able to continue to be part of community in the 2020-2021 school year.

We will be sending a detailed plan for the logistics of the reopening in the coming weeks. In the meantime, as always, your thoughts and opinions are welcome. Please feel free to contact us via email. Your tentative class schedules will be available, as always, in mid-August.

Please keep an eye-out for an email from Alexa later this week letting you know how to share the word about GW community School and all of the wonderful things that we have to offer!

Sincerely,

Richard A. Goldie



The GW Community School

9001 Braddock Road • Springfield • Virginia 22151

From: Sinichko, Cassie

Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:49 PM

To: Underclassmen; Alumni

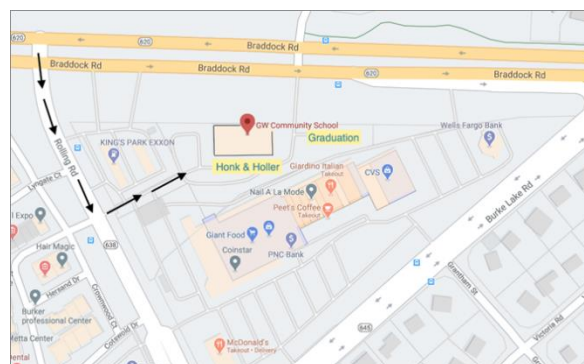
Subject: GWCS Graduation - Help Us Celebrate!

Hello GWCS Underclassmen Families!

We are just a few days away from the GWCS Class of 2020 Graduation! Although the **Graduation Ceremony is only for senior families**, we would love for you to participate in one of the following ways:

1. GWCS Graduation YouTube Live Stream Watch Link!

- Saturday, June 13, 2020
- GWCS graduation will be live streamed!
- Tune in at around 9:45 am to watch the seniors roll in.
- Celebration begins at 10:00 am.
- <https://youtu.be/uYbvihbmV9A>



2. Honk & Holler from the parking lot!

- 11:00 am – Park in GWCS south parking lot (between GWCS & Giant)
- Enter from Rolling Road (NOT Braddock Road)
- Seniors will parade through the lot following their graduation ceremony
- Honk and Holler (preferably noise makers over screaming – pots and pans, whistles)
- Please stay in your car.
- More details in the [WYNK](#)

Thank you for supporting our GWCS Class of 2020 Seniors!

Cassie

 Cassie M. Sinichko
 Director of Operations
 GW Community School
 9001 Braddock Road, Suite 111
 Springfield, VA 22151

The GW Community School

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From: Warden, Alexa

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:37 PM

To: Seniors; Senior Parents

Subject: GWCS GRADUATION THIS SATURDAY!

Email Excerpt:

Hello Class of 2020 Seniors and Families,

Graduation is fast approaching, and we couldn't be more excited. As you know, safety is our top priority and we have taken that into account in all of our plans. With that in mind, here is all the information you'll need for our GWCS Outside Coyote Pride Graduation Celebration!

WHEN: Saturday, 6/13 from 10 am – 11 am (Rain date 6/14)

GENERAL NOTES:

- We will be practicing social distancing (of course!)
- We recommend that you bring masks for everyone in your car; wearing masks will be optional
- Every Graduate family will have a single, designated parking spot
- Post a small sign with the first name of your senior on the front windshield of your car (paper and marker is fine!) so we can easily direct you to your parking spot
- Car windows can be open; all limbs inside, please :)
- Graduates are the only ones who may get out of the car
- No shouting, please! Bring noisemakers (bells, pots and wooden spoons, wind chimes, etc.)
- If weather is a concern, we will make a go/no-go decision via email by 2pm on Friday 6/12.

We are looking forward to launching our graduates with the determination, resilience, creativity and good cheer they have all exhibited during their time at GW Community School. We are proud of each and every one of you, and are so happy we will be able to see you and tell you that in person (from at least 6 feet away!).

Graduation, here we come....

Warmly,

Alexa

The GW Community School

9001 Braddock Road • Springfield • Virginia 22151



From: Warden, Alexa

Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:46 PM

To: Parents

Cc: Staff

Subject: Timely: GWCS classroom spots available

Hello GWCS Families,

Believe it or not, it is more than a month since we transitioned to online learning! I am happy to report that all is going well as we continue to push and stretch ourselves -- teachers *and* students -- in areas that are new, sometimes unexpected but always valuable.

I know we've all been reading about the challenges some schools are facing, especially those in Fairfax County. With that in mind, I wanted to let our families know that we can easily accommodate additional students in grades 9 - 12 to finish out the school year (and for next year, of course). If you know families that are frustrated with their current school situation or simply want some structure for their students, please pass this along. They can reach out to learn more about what we're doing at GWCS by contacting me at wardenac@gwcommunityschool.com or through our website www.gwcommunityschool.com.

As you all know, we have been teaching our regular class schedule online since March 19th. We are providing our students with day-to-day structure, live daily interaction with their teachers and classmates, rich and varied extracurricular activities, continued sense of community and camaraderie, and our usual high-quality teaching, learning and critical thinking. In response to student requests, we also just added a daily Zoom lunch so the kids can socialize during their lunch period. And we are especially excited to bring our 4th Quarter Friday out-of-the-box field trips online. Spoiler Alert: we have some great virtual and at-home experiences coming up!

Thanks for all of your support, as always. No matter the circumstance, our GWCS community always comes together to find the way forward.

Take care, everyone!

Alexa Warden

Co-Founder & Director, GW Community School

www.GWCommunitySchool.com

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From: Warden, Alexa

Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 9:43 AM

To: Everybody

Subject: GWCS: Service, PUP, teacher absence, electives, PE etc.

Hi all,

Once again, I'd like to thank you for being so flexible and adapting to the new now. It seems like things are really going well. I wanted to send a follow-up email to the one below to clarify a few points.

1. **Community Service** - is still required. Thanks to those who continue to send cool new service opportunities our way. These are listed and updated frequently in the [live WYNK](#). What is important to note about community service is that it is a school requirement. The hours you complete are listed on your official high school transcript...right next to your cumulative GPA. So, this it's very important that you complete your hours, this year and every year. We have greatly relaxed the standards for what constitutes community service, so everyone should be able to easily work service opportunities into their weekly schedule. [Click Here](#) for additional information and to submit verification of hours.
2. **Pursue Ur Passion (PUP)** - is still required. We are substituting PUP Projects for extended advisory. Extended advisory is listed on your official high school transcript as Student Enrichment and Development. We want you to be able to earn this credit. In order to fulfill this credit, you must spend at least 35 minutes each week working on your PUP Project. Furthermore, you must document the time spent working on your PUP Projects. You will be reporting your progress to your advisors each week via email. This email will be posted in your SED comments on Coyote Tracks for the following week. However, to earn credit for this course, you must provide a bit more documentation. Some ways that you can document your time: video clips, photos of the progression of your project, sound files, journal entries, etc. If you have questions about how to document your PUP Project, please email me directly and we will figure it out together.
3. **Teacher Absence** - If a teacher has an unexpected absence, I will send you an email in the morning providing you with an "assignment" such as, "Spend this 50-minute period outdoors, send me a short email and an optional picture describing your experience." This "assignment" will count as your class grade for the day. It is not optional. You will need to email me at the end of the regularly scheduled class or check in as announced in the email. If a teacher has a planned absence, he or she will email you ahead of time and provide the assignment.
4. **Electives & Clubs** - I strongly urge you to join one of the elective or clubs for fourth quarter. It's wonderful that you all are getting in a full academic day, but these chats and meetings are fun and social, and you need that too! And, not that you should do it for this reason, but extracurricular

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commitments mean a lot to colleges, apprenticeship programs, and jobs! We are a small community and we are counting on you to do your part to keep it a vibrant one! [Click Here](#) to go to the live WYNK where you'll find descriptions and how to join.

5. **Basketball/Hiking Club/Personal Fitness** - You can still earn your high school credit for whichever fitness class you were taking. For fourth quarter only, this class will be pass/fail. Each morning during advisory, you will report your fitness activity for the day. We are currently expecting students to exercise for a minimum of 40 minutes a day.

As always, more to come...

All my best,

Ms. W.

The GW Community School

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From: Warden, Alexa

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 4:51 PM

To: Students

Cc: Staff; Parents

Subject: GWCS update after staff meeting 3/24

Hi all,

Thanks so much for all of the well wishes and positive energy! GWCS Coyotes ROCK!

Parents, there's lots of important information here for you too, but I've written this one to the students. 😊

One of the reasons that Rick and I chose the COYOTE as our mascot when we created GWCS is that the coyote always finds a way to adapt. And boy, have we adapted lately! Thanks again for making this such a positive experience.

So, as we navigate the current landscape, we will adapt to make sure that we are making the best use of our time, that the learning experience is as valuable and authentic as possible, that we try our best to continue with our traditions (though they may look a little different), and that we are evolving in real time to best meet the needs of our community.

Hot off the press, here are our latest updates:

- 1. Community Service:** Yes, we will continue to require community service, but this might look a little different than our normal service opportunities. Even though we are home-bound, we can still live our GWCS value of service. Look in the WYNK in the days to come for some new service ideas you can complete from home, and feel free to send me your ideas! Here are a few: going above and beyond your normal chores at home and helping with a bigger job or project, writing cards and letters to your elders, making a creative dinner for your family and sending your recipe to the Oui Gobleu chat, and much more. Students can also virtually tutor, mentor, or "host" social gatherings. More on this last opportunity later.
- 2. Tuesday Extended Advisory:** Alas, it is no more. But wait! Moving forward, Tuesdays from 2:35 pm to 3:15 pm staff will be meeting, and students will be participating in PUP Time. Time for you to Pursue Ur Passion. (See what I did there?) Hopefully you will be doing this off-screen, but now is the time to learn to sew or knit, take up a yoga practice, paint, learn to juggle, play with power tools--the sky is the limit. We can't wait to hear about your PUP Project!

3. **Tests:** For the rest of this year, tests at GWCS will be open-note, open-book tests. The tests themselves will be a bit more challenging, but you will have plenty of resources at your fingertips. Following this train of thought, we have decided to **cancel final exams**. Open-note final exams simply defeats the purpose; and the work and stress that final exams would require far outweigh any benefit.
4. **AP Exams:** The College Board is currently making changes to AP Exams. They will announce new test dates April 3rd. You can expect to hear more about these changes from your AP teachers. ([AP Central Announcements & Resources](#))
5. **OBX:** Our 'Out of the Box' 4th quarter experiential learning program will continue. We will have virtual field trips and community exercises Fridays during 4th quarter. Juniors and seniors will also participate in OBX as we cannot offer Spring Co-Ops this year.
6. **R.E.A.L. Term Spring Co-Ops:** Sadly, are cancelled.
7. **Personal Fitness:** Beginning 4th quarter your advisors will replace your Personal Fitness, Basketball, or Hiking Club teacher. They will be communicating with you how you can be accountable for your Personal Fitness credit.
8. **Graduation:** We have a lot of cool ideas about how we can carry on our traditions. More on this later, but I welcome ideas! Seniors, I am choosing your quilt fabric now! Parents, please look for a separate email on how you can help with this quilting project.
9. **Please follow the WYNK!** Sign up for some clubs! I am loving our Oui Gobleu chat!
10. We love you: 'nuff said

Take care of yourselves and each other!

Warmly,

Ms. W.

The GW Community School

9001 Braddock Road • Springfield • Virginia 22151



From: Warden, Alexa

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 5:01 PM

To: Parents; Students

Cc: Staff

Subject: Thanks, and quick update

Hi all,

Thank you so much to the parents and students who have reached out regarding Virginia's schools closing until the end of the year.

I know that this news was incredibly upsetting to all of us, but also know that we must each do our part for the safety of the nation.

GWCS will continue to distance teach, and all students who continue to attend class will earn their high school credits. We will look for creative ways to continue our social activities and planned special events.

Our staff will be meeting tomorrow at 2:45 to discuss this latest development, and I will send out an update once we are done.

Thanks also for your kind words of encouragement, your accolades for our amazing teachers and faculty, your high spirits, and your support.

We are in this together. GWCS is small but mighty!

Warmly, and with a full heart,

Alexa

The GW Community School

9001 Braddock Road • Springfield • Virginia 22151



From: Warden, Alexa

Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 1:50 PM

To: Everybody

Subject: GWCS Teaming-In Update 3/16

Dear all,

Thank you so much for your participation in today's Teaming-In exercise! It seemed to go very well. We will pick back up on Thursday at 9:15 am with Advisory, and follow our [normal schedule](#). There is still a lot to discover with Teams, and we are excited to get a better idea of the full capability! In the meantime, we appreciate your patience while we begin this new adventure.

Some Clarifications About Teaming In:

- Teachers will initiate the call at the start of each class. Understand, that at times, teachers may introduce the class assignment, and then provide the class period to complete and turn in the assignment, off screen.
- The Teams desktop app has more features and, in some cases, works better than the online app. If you haven't already – [download](#) the Teams desktop app.
- Office Hours will be utilized for students who need extra help or clarification. Advisors will notify students if they have been assigned Office Hours during Advisory Check-In. Not all students will be assigned Office Hours.
- Please be aware of your surroundings while Teaming In. School dress code applies 😊 We want to see you! It allows us to create the most authentic learning experience that we can. To decrease distractions, it's helpful to blur your background (a Teams option)
- Please set up a workstation where you can use your computer at a table in a low-traffic area of your home and have necessary school supplies at the ready.
- Make sure to get up and walk around between classes and look away from your screen at a distant object frequently.

Some Suggestions While We're Away:

- Do go to bed and get up on your regular schedule!

- Work out each morning at 8 am. More information on this to come, but you are still earning credit!
- Do follow your regular morning hygiene routine. Shower, brush teeth, etc., and then, put on actual clothes and even shoes (if you are allowed to wear them in the house).
- Do set aside a specific time of day when you will update yourself on the COVID-19 situation, and then refrain from looking at all of the updates and the 24-hour news cycle.
- Do spend **at the very least** one hour a day outside.
- Do take part in leisure time activities that don't involve screens. Think crossword puzzles, sudoku, photography, reading, arts and crafts projects, cooking and baking, writing poetry, phone calls, cleaning up your house, Legos etc.
- Do make sure that you are eating a healthy, balanced diet.
- Do assume the best and know that everyone is doing their best with what they have at the time 😊

Lastly, in order to maintain school-life balance, I have asked our staff—the most dedicated, brilliant, compassionate people on the planet—to stop schoolwork at 3:15 pm each day. Emails will be answered during teachers' planning periods. We appreciate your patience and understanding in advance. We all need to practice good self-care during this difficult time.

We will see you soon!

With love and gratitude,

Ms. W.

Alexa C. Warden

Director and Co-Founder

GW Community School

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March 13, 2020

GWCS SAT Announcement:

The SAT is canceled at GW Community School on Saturday, March 14, 2020. All students registered to take the SAT will receive a notification from the College Board, informing them that the test is cancelled, and their costs for the exam will be refunded. Due to the high volume of closures, communication from the College Board regarding this cancellation will likely be delayed. To reschedule to that the SATs on a different date, go through College Board.

College Board Coronavirus Update:

What to do if you are registered to take the March 14 SAT

Q: What should I do if my test is canceled?

A: You will receive a refund of all registration fees, and you can register for a future test date.

- If your test center is closed, we'll work with local educators to schedule a makeup exam in March. If that's not possible, you will receive a refund and you can [register for a future test date](#).
- The next SAT administrations are planned for May 2 and June 6.

Above excerpt from College Board Website:
[College Board Coronavirus Update](#)

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From: Warden, Alexa
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 1:00 PM
To: Everybody
Subject: GWCS COVID-19 Update 3/12
Importance: High



Hi all,

As always, we are grateful for your continued support as we navigate the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19.

Usually, we rely on Fairfax County Public Schools to guide us on school-related closures, but for the past 21 years, those have been weather-related. The situation we find ourselves in today with COVID-19 is a very different creature.

Yesterday, I watched the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting that took place March 9th. Doctors from the Fairfax County Health Department briefed the supervisors on the status of the virus in our area. It is abundantly clear that we do not have accurate numbers of cases of COVID-19 in our county. It is also clear that we need to take immediate steps to mitigate the spread of this virus. More schools and colleges are announcing closings by the hour. I believe FCPS will close in due time, but they have things to consider that we do not.

Unlike FCPS, GWCS does not need to take into account:

- School-age children too young to be left alone during the school day
- Students relying on free or reduced-lunch
- Students without access to a laptop
- Student without Internet access

Our small community is fortunate for so many reasons. (I count my blessings every day!) And some of those reasons have led me to making the difficult decision to close school and begin our remote learning program. As stated in an earlier email, Monday, March 16th will be a Teacher Workday. Teachers will be here at the school and will practice using Microsoft Teams with their students. Students are expected to be at their computers from 11:15 am until 1:00 pm. We will take Tuesday, March 17th and Wednesday, March 18th as “snow days” allowing the GWCS Community to prepare for extended time away and allowing extra time for the creation of lessons.

Remote learning and Teaming-In will begin at 9:15 am on Thursday, March 19th. However, students are expected to participate in daily individual exercise from 8:00 am to 8:45 am. Students can report their exercise type and duration to their advisor at 9:15 am each day. Teaming-In will continue on regularly scheduled school days from now until spring break. We expect that we will all be able to return to school on Tuesday, April 14th.

We feel confident that we can continue to provide remotely a personal, quality, intellectually stimulating curriculum. Through Microsoft Teams we will have the ability to:

- Broadcast their lesson to students and interact with them in real time
- Share screens, such as PowerPoint, relevant websites, images, and class notes
- Students can give the teacher access to their screen, allowing teachers to make edits directly to a student's document
- Use "notebooks," allowing teachers to virtually "walk around the classroom" checking in on each student's progress and provide individual feedback
- Allow for "break out session" where students can briefly meet in small groups to complete jigsaw-type activities
- Collaborate collectively on shared documents
- Maintain a sense of community, collegiality, and camaraderie
- And much, much more

I ask for a little bit of patience as we move to Teaming In, but we are strong and competent Coyotes! I am certain that we will become adept quickly!

A word of caution: Please know that we are moving to Teaming-In to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Students should limit their activity to essential tasks and outings. Students should NOT plan on get togethers as this defeats the purpose of school closure. Please read [When should Schools Close for the Coronavirus?](#)

I will be sending additional emails regarding ways for our students to continue to socialize, as well as best practices for keeping a positive mental attitude while home for an extended period.

Take good care,

Alexa

Alexa C. Warden
Director and Co-Founder
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The GW Community School

9001 Braddock Road • Springfield • Virginia 22151

From: Warden, Alexa

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 1:33 PM

To: Everybody

Subject: GWCS School Update re COVID-19

Importance: High



Dear all,

First, let me thank all of you for your support and cooperation during this difficult time. We are in this together!

As you know, the COVID-19 situation is evolving rapidly. We are keeping ever-vigilant in staying abreast of the latest developments and recommendations nationally, and more importantly, locally.

GWCS is committed to providing a continuity of education while keeping our students, staff, families and our larger community safe. We are, at the moment, cancelling field trips and nonessential group gatherings which, **at the time of this email**, include:

- Robotics
- Wednesday, March 18th PAC Parents Meeting
- Hexagon
- Honors Astronomy and Astrophysics trip to NRAO
- Spring Break Spain Trip
- Other events and activities may be cancelled as well.

Saturday, March 14th at the time of this email, GWCS plans on holding the SATs here at school as scheduled.

Should we need it, GWCS is gearing up to provide valuable and authentic remote classes for all of our students. As mentioned in an earlier email, all classes will be held using Microsoft Teams and will meet in real time. Students will “Team-In” to all classes as well as advisory, and we hope that all students will keep up with their exercise in the morning before academic classes begin. Students can chart their exercise activity and duration to continue earning credit for Personal Fitness. Office Hours will be held via Microsoft Teams as well, and will be determined during Advisory Check-In.

Friday, March 13th is a scheduled school holiday.

Monday, March 16th is now being set aside as a Teacher Workday and **students will be at home**. After-school activities are cancelled. **On Monday**, teachers will be revising lesson plans for the possibility of remote learning and creating contingency plans to provide valuable, structured learning should they not be able to hold classes remotely.

We would also like to use Monday, March 16th as an opportunity to test our remote learning system:

- At 11:30 am students’ **third period teachers** will initiate a class call.

- For students who have a **study hall** third period, they will be “Teaming-In” with Ms. Warden, and she will initiate the call.
- We hope to troubleshoot any difficulties with the system and ask students stay available on their laptops from 11:15 am to 1:00 pm.
- Additionally, Mr. Robbins 5th period class will practice “Teaming In” at 12:30 pm.
- Please be patient with us. However, if after 10 minutes a student hasn’t received a call, or If students experience difficulty “Teaming-In,” they should call the school at 703-978-7208. It is very important that ALL GWCS students participate in this exercise. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

All my best,

Alexa

Alexa C. Warden

Director and Co-Founder

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The GW Community School

9001 Braddock Road • Springfield • Virginia 22151

From: Warden, Alexa

Date: March 4, 2020 at 2:43:27 PM EST

To: Everybody

Subject: GWCS plan in the event of school closure



Dear all,

I am sure that everyone is keeping themselves up to date on the COVID-19 as it develops. I just wanted to take a moment to assure you that, like our politicians, we have a plan: In the event that the [Fairfax County Health Department](#) deems it necessary to close schools for a prolonged period of time, GWCS will give families a few days to get their ducks in a row (we have a number of unused snow days) and then hold classes remotely via [Microsoft Teams](#). Mr. Lindner's classes will be held remotely through [WebAssign](#). All students and staff are setting up classes and practicing using Microsoft Teams today. We will follow the regular bell schedule (see below) for academic classes and encourage students to continue to exercise at home from 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM each day. Each teacher will initiate the class call.

1st period8:00 am – 8:45 am
 Advisory9:15 am - 9:33 am
 2nd period9:35 am - 10:25 am
 3rd period.....10:27am - 11:17 am
 4th period.....11:19 am - 12:09 pm
 5th period.....12:51 pm - 1:41 pm
 6th period.....1:43 pm - 2:33 pm
 Advisory Check-In.....2:35 pm - 2:40 pm

Office Hours (2:45 pm - 3:15 pm) will be held as needed, but students will need to initiate this call.

For now, you can help from home by just reiterating the importance of washing hands in warm soapy water for at least 30 seconds and avoiding touching face including mouth, nose and eyes, as well as keeping sick kids at home.

Thanks, as always, for your support and cooperation.

Best,

Alexa

Alexa C. Warden

Director and Co-Founder

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