

GES Welcome Back Letter & Important Information

2020-2021

Welcome!	<p>Welcome to Greenville Elementary School and to the 2020-2021 School Year. My name is Eric Swingler and I am proud and privileged to be working with you and your child(ren) at GES as Principal. I am entering my twenty second year in education. This will be my fourteenth year as a principal in Bond County Community Unit #2. I was principal at Pocahontas School for five years and I am entering my ninth year at GES. I'm looking forward to another successful school year and know there will be many changes ahead. We have students returning to GES as in-person learners, students beginning the year learning online, students that are new to our school, and kindergarteners about to begin their elementary school journey. For those who are new to the community and school, welcome! I am passionate about creating a culture of teamwork at GES, and I want all students and families to know they are an important part of our team. There is no doubt we will face challenges this year, but I am confident we will prevail with the strong partnership we have between our school staff, students, families, and the Greenville community.</p> <p>The start of the school will look different this year because we will not be able to open our building up to families or hold our traditional back to school open house. Please know that our staff will be ready to greet students and help them get to their classrooms when they enter GES on the first day of school.</p> <p>We have one new teacher at GES. Please welcome Shelli Neely (Kindergarten Teacher), who has filled the vacancy of Mrs. Clark.</p> <p>Students can enter GES at 7:40 each morning. Our first bell will ring at 8:10 and the tardy bell at 8:15. Please see specific instructions below for bus riders, car riders, walkers, and bike riders.</p> <p>I look forward to working with you, your student(s), the teachers and staff at Greenville Elementary School in what will be an ever changing school year. In advance, I appreciate your patience and understanding as we work together as a team in what will be a successful school year. I look forward to seeing/meeting all of you and am proud to work in and be part of the Greenville community.</p> <p>Finally, I ask that you please read all information thoroughly as this document is to provide you not only with important information but also will hopefully answer some questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or email me at eswingler@bccu2.org.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- Mr. Swingler Principal, GES</p>
Overview	<p>The 2020-2021 school year will present unique challenges as we continue to provide a rigorous education for children while at the same time doing everything in our power to ensure their physical and mental health. Now, more than ever, we need your help if we hope to achieve these shared goals. Our school staff members have spent countless hours planning and preparing for the upcoming school year. We want to take this opportunity to share with you an overview of the instructional and health/safety plans that will be implemented during the 2020-2021 school year consistent with guidance from the Illinois</p>

	<p>Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). There is a lot to digest in this letter, but I have done my best to present the highlights in segments. Additional information about COVID-19 issues impacting schools can be located on both the ISBE and IDPH websites.</p>
Instructional Program	<p>Hybrid Learning - a blended approach to learning in-person and remotely Remote Learning - requirement for all students to learn remotely Online Learning - choosing to learn online only on a daily basis with remote instruction provided by a district teacher or a district selected online program.</p>
Class Rosters	<p>Class rosters have been established and families can find out who their child(rens) teacher is by accessing their Skyward Family Access. Once logged in, you will find your child(rens) teacher under student information. You will see your child’s teacher’s name or homeroom followed by the letter “A” or “B”. “A Group” will come to school on Mondays and Wednesdays. “B Group” will come to school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All students will be remote learning on their non-in-person days and Friday.</p> <p>The first day of school for the “A Group” is Wednesday, August 19th. The first day of school for the “B Group” is Thursday, August 20th. All students will be remote learning on Friday, August 21st.</p>
School Supplies	<p>The school supply list can be found on the school’s website. http://www.bccu2.org/supply-lists.html</p> <p>Students will not be able to share school supplies. For this reason, we might need to ask for supplemental supplies as the school year progresses.</p> <p>Parents of K-2nd graders have the option to drop off their child’s school supplies at GES on Monday, August 17th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Parents simply pull up to the circle drive, remain in your car, roll your window down, and place your child’s items in a tote held by a staff member. Please have all items in a plastic bag with your child’s name and teacher name on the bag. The bag will be delivered to your child’s assigned classroom and will be placed on his/her desk.</p>
Face Masks	<p>While at school and on the bus, students, and adults must wear face masks at all times unless they are eating or taking a drink. Health experts recommend the use of face masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We need your help. Please talk with your child about this new expectation of wearing a face mask at school. Refusing to wear a face mask, or otherwise engaging in conduct that compromises the safety of others, will result in notifying parents and removal from school for the day.</p>
Medication at School and Required Health Forms	<p>Students who need to take medication at school must have the district’s medication form completed and up-to-date by their physician annually. This form and medication can be turned into Nurse Bohannon at Door 3 starting daily on August 10th from 8-3. If you have required health forms to turn in you may also take them to Door 3, fax them to her at 618-664-5014, or email them to Nurse Bohannon at cbohannon@bccu2.org. The following are the required health forms to be turned in:</p> <p>Kindergarten (physical, immunizations, dental and eye exams) 2nd graders (dental exam only)</p>
District Tech Devices	<p>The district tech devices (Chrome Tablets K-1 & Chromebooks 2nd-5th) may be sent home with some students. These devices can be used by students only for</p>

	<p>school related purposes. They are not to be used by parents/guardians or non-school aged siblings for individual use. Tech devices will be monitored and we expect all students/families to abide by the District Tech Acceptable Use Policy.</p>
<p>Google Chrome Browser</p>	<p>We are asking that parents download Google Chrome Browser on personal devices that students will use. This could be your personal smartphone, personal Chromebook or laptop. This is needed in order for students to be able to complete their assignments via Google Classroom.</p>
<p>Transportation - Bus Riders Arrival</p>	<p>During Phase 4, the district can provide transportation for up to 50 students on regular buses with social distancing maintained to the greatest extent possible. All riders must wear face masks on the bus. Parents must conduct symptom and temperature checks at home before their child boards the bus. Placing your child on school transportation affirmatively means that your child has no COVID-19 symptoms. Upon arriving at GES, students will exit the bus at Door 1 and follow the hallway directions which lead to their homeroom. Door 1 will be propped open to prevent touching door handles. A student choosing to eat breakfast at school may go to Charlotte’s Web area and grab breakfast items to take to his/her classroom to eat.</p>
<p>Car Riders Arrival</p>	<p>Parents who choose to drop their child(ren) off at GES may do so between 7:40 and 8:15. Please note that students may not be dropped off earlier than the assigned time due to lack of supervision and the health risks associated with students congregating together. Parents must remain in their car, follow the traffic flow, and pull up to the highest number before letting your child(ren) out of the car. Parents will not be allowed to park their vehicle and walk their child(ren) to Door 3 or Door 12. Children need to be ready to exit the vehicle in an effort to expedite the drop off process. As soon as your child exits your vehicle, he/she must be wearing a mask. Students will be allowed to enter school immediately, where doors will be propped open to prevent touching door handles, and follow the hallway directions which lead to their homeroom. Students must go straight to their assigned classroom to limit congregating in the hallways. A student choosing to eat breakfast at school may go to Charlotte’s Web area and grab breakfast items to take to his/her classroom to eat. Dropping your child(ren) off at school affirmatively means that your child has no COVID-19 symptoms.</p>
<p>Walkers & Bike Riders Arrival</p>	<p>Students who choose to walk to school or ride a bike to school must wear a mask upon entering school grounds. Students are to maintain social distancing and enter Door 3. Parents walking their child(ren) to school may accompany their child(ren) as far as the bike rack. From there, the child(ren) must walk him/herself to Door 3 and enter GES. A student choosing to eat breakfast at school may go to Charlotte’s Web area and grab breakfast items to take to his/her classroom to eat. Having your child(ren) walk to school or ride his/her bike to school affirmatively means that your child has no COVID-19 symptoms.</p>
<p>Bus Riders Dismissal</p>	<p>Students riding the bus home from school will remain in their classrooms until their bus number is called over the intercom. Once their bus number is called, students will leave their classroom while wearing their mask, follow the hallway directions, and exit the school through Door 1. Students riding buses will begin dismissing at 1:25 (in town routes) and approximately 1:45 (country routes).</p>

Car Riders Dismissal	Parents who choose to pick their child(ren) up from school may do so between 1:10 and 1:30. Parents must remain in their car, follow the traffic flow, and pull to the highest number. To assist GES staff and expedite dismissal of car riders, please place a sign in your front passenger side windshield listing your child(s) name(s). As you approach the circle drive, GES staff will radio your child's name to let him/her know their ride is at school. Students will remain in their classrooms until their name is called, follow the hallway direction signs, and exit the school at Door 3. Students must wear their mask until they are inside your vehicle.
Walkers & Bike Riders Dismissal	Students who walk home or ride their bikes will be dismissed at approximately 1:30 or when most students who are car riders are picked up.
Hallways	Students and staff will walk one direction around the library (counterclockwise) to go to homerooms and other classrooms as needed. Signs will be posted and tiled hallways will be painted to assist students.
Social Distancing	The joint ISBE and IDPH guidance recognizes that 6-foot physical social distancing between individuals is recommended, but that this may not be feasible to achieve in a school setting at all times. We have taken steps to reconfigure our classrooms, playground and other shared spaces with social distancing in mind. Even with these steps, we will not be able to strictly enforce 6-foot social distancing between students at school or on buses.
Flexible Seating - Desks	Some of our classrooms previously featured a wide variety of seating options that were adapted specifically to facilitate student learning. We plan to strictly assign students to desks/seats that are spread out within the classroom to help minimize the spread of COVID-19.
Personal Items	Each child can bring a book bag/backpack to school, but additional personal items such as purses, bags, toys, etc., are not permissible.
Breakfast/Lunch	<p>Breakfast and lunch will be eaten in classrooms as we are not able to accommodate students in a grade level while properly maintaining social distancing. Students may bring a sack lunch to school or choose the school lunch option. The in-person school lunch option will be a hot lunch. Deli sandwiches will not be offered. Students who opt for breakfast and/or lunch on their remote day will take their meal(s) home with them on their in-person day.</p> <p>Students who opted for online learning will have a sack lunch option. Parents will need to contact Teresa through Food Service teresa.tompkins@bccu2.org or call 664-5015, letting her know if your child(ren) will need a sack lunch. Parents of students who opted for online learning will need to pick up the sack lunch from 10:00 - 10:30 in the bus line at the flagpole.</p>
Food Products & Water Bottles	Other than sack lunches, no other food products will be allowed in the classroom. All students must bring a personal water bottle to school each day. Please ensure that your child's name is prominently displayed on the water bottle. Water fountains can only be used for filling water bottles. Students will not be allowed to drink from water fountains. No sharing of food/drink items will be allowed. No food can be brought in for birthdays or celebrations, etc. All of these restrictions are designed to limit the use of shared items to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Handwashing/ Hand Sanitizing	Students will be provided with multiple opportunities to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer while at school. The logistics of mass handwashing are much more complicated than most people realize. Know that we will prioritize handwashing (both with soap/water and hand sanitizer) throughout the day, as time and space constraints allow.
Student Illness	<p>Please let us know when your child is ill. We simply cannot protect the health of our students and staff without your help. We are obligated by law to keep this information confidential. We are required to track both staff and student illnesses to inform local health officials and initiate contact tracing, if necessary.</p> <p>Both ISBE and IDPH have issued the following list of COVID-19 symptoms that must be reported to school and that require exclusion from school: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.</p> <p>School personnel will communicate with you directly regarding the necessary school exclusion period and return to school protocols.</p> <p>During absences due to illness, your child will be allowed to make up all missed work and assignments, the missed school days will be marked ‘excused’ and your child will participate in the remote learning platform during the exclusion period.</p>
Parental Self-certification	<p>Parents/Guardians will be required to self-certify the following two things each day within one hour of their child leaving home to attend school/riding a school bus EACH AND EVERY DAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does your child(ren) have a temperature higher than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) ● Does your child(ren) exhibit any of the following symptoms: fever (see above), cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. <p>If the answer to either question is ‘yes’, the child may not attend school/may not ride the school bus. If the answer to both questions is ‘no’, the child may attend school/ride the school bus.</p>
School Closures – Short Term	We anticipate that short term (24-48 hour) school closures may be necessary for deep cleaning during the upcoming school year. You will be notified as soon as possible when a short-term closure is required, recognizing that childcare arrangements will need to be made.
School Closures – Long Term	In the event that a long-term school closure is required or mandated, the district’s remote learning platform will go into effect. This will be communicated as soon as possible after state and local health officials make this determination.
Cleaning Protocols	The School District has implemented extensive daily cleaning protocols for our school buildings and buses.
Visitors	Due to the pandemic, visitors and volunteers to GES will not be allowed to enter. If for some reason a visitor must come in (student teacher or contractor for district), we will require all staff members and visitors entering school buildings

	<p>to self-certify the status of their health at the time of entrance. Individuals who have a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius or currently known symptom(s) of COVID-19 may not enter GES.</p> <p>Please call the school if you need assistance or wish to sign a student out early for an appointment. If you wish to sign a student out early for an appointment, please call the school office as you arrive to pick your child up. Please stay in your car and do not enter the school. A staff member will get your child and bring them to Door 3.</p>
Playground Equipment	<p>Our playground equipment will be used as guidelines allow us to. Playgrounds will be cleaned in between each group use. If outside for recess, students will be assigned to one of four zones with no more than one other grade level class. Masks may need to be worn if students can't appropriately social distance. Please discuss the limitations with your child.</p>
Social Emotional Resources	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the mental health of all of our stakeholders - teachers, staff, community members, students and their families. School personnel are trained to monitor and address the mental and emotional wellbeing of students and staff members. Individual and small group counseling will be available for students at school. Please contact GES Counselor, Mrs. Finn (efinn@bccu2.org) or your child's teacher for more information.</p>
If your family needs assistance	<p>We recognize that this is a complex and difficult time for many of our families. If your family requires extra assistance in relation to any basic need such as food, clothing, school supplies, etc., please contact the school office and we will work with you to locate assistance. Please do not hesitate to ask for help – we are here to help you through this difficult time.</p>
Contracting COVID-19 at school	<p>There is a distinct possibility that your child and school personnel may contract COVID-19 at school. Due to the extremely contagious nature of the virus, school personnel cannot completely mitigate or prevent the transmission of the virus.</p>
Safety/Discipline	<p>Please discuss the concept of ensuring the safety of others/self with your child prior to the start of the school year. When mistakes are made, your child can rely on school personnel to guide them to self-correct the mistakes. Intentional coughing or sneezing on others, not wearing a mask, etc., will not be tolerated at school. Repeated instances will result in discipline, parents called to pick their student up from school, or assigned to remote learning..</p>
Prepare for the unexpected	<p>We are 'prepared for the unexpected' as best as we can and will stay in close contact with you as a new situation develops. In the meantime, we are excited to welcome your children back to school!</p> <p>Please know that you have our thanks and gratitude. The end of last school year was especially difficult for parents who were required to oversee remote learning from your homes. We recognize your efforts and we are prepared to meet your child's needs. We cannot predict exactly what lies ahead of us, but know that we are committed to you and your child. We will get through this together!</p>

