



**2020-2021**

**Return to School Plan**

**Global Village Academy Aurora**

**\*Amended January 2021**

Message from the Principals:

The Global Village Academy Aurora Return to School Plan is the product of extensive collaborations with the GVA-A community including parents, administration, teachers, and support staff, as well as the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and our health partners at Tri-County Health, Children's Hospital of Colorado and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). We are planning for GVA-A to open for 5 days a week in-person learning for K-5 the week of February 1 and have our 6-8th grade students follow an A&B BiWeekly Cohort (Group) Model with 1 week in person and 1 week Remote. We also will have the ability to engage students in a 100% remote model if desired. On the first day of "in person" we will review our new routines and procedures for classrooms. This will allow teachers and students time to adjust and prepare for in-person expectations.

The following information is designed to present an overview of our reopening and educational plans:

- 1. Ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the safety of our students, staff, and community.** This is a community-wide priority and we all have to do our part to make this happen. Included in this document are the numerous safety protocols and safety measures that GVA-A is taking to minimize the risks of becoming infected. Face masks are REQUIRED. Face coverings need to fit over the nose and mouth, they are required for all students except while eating meals, unless the student has a documented and approved health or education reason for not wearing a face covering. Face coverings should be designed so students can apply and remove them without assistance. Interactions among groups of students will be minimized. We will institute a cleaning regimen that is frequent, targeted, and of a scope sufficient to reduce transmission. Parents and guardians will need to regularly screen, monitor, and self-report their child's health. Anyone entering the building will be screened for a temperature over 100.4 degrees.
- 2. Ensure our mission that students become fluent and literate in English and a second world language, excel academically in core content subjects and develop 21st-century skills, including cross-cultural understanding.** Included in this document are academic plans to ensure grade level preparedness in any context and for every student. All students will attend school 5 days a week. A fully remote learning option is available for any student who is not comfortable in-person. Details of these plans and options are included in this document.
- 3. Ensure, to the greatest extent possible, a stable learning environment.** By adhering to the safety measures and schedules outlined in this plan, the hope is to create consistency throughout the year and minimize in-person school closures. While ensuring predictability is one of our primary goals, we recognize that the constantly-evolving nature of COVID-19 developments requires flexibility from our students, parents and staff. GVA-A will make every effort to keep families informed about any changes to our students' learning environments.

**4. Provide parents the choice to enroll students in a fully remote learning option.**

Parental voice and choice are key to the successful re-opening of schools. We understand that parents can be overwhelmed with doubt about what is best for their child—health on the one hand, and the academic fulfillment and necessary socialization that schools provide, on the other. It is for this reason that we have chosen to provide two learning options **In Person** (K-5 Full Day and 6-8 A/B Bi-Weekly Cohort) or K-8 **100% Remote Learning** for the Semester.

We are extremely proud of the work that so many have contributed to the GVA-A Return to School Plan. We understand that the difficulty of committing to one of our options, but our planning depends on your response. Families are asked to commit to either a K-5 in-person/ 6-8 hybrid learning environment or fully remote option for the remainder of the semester. We ask that families make the best choice for their student(s) and family and respect the choice that other families make for theirs. Exceptions can be made for students who need to move from an in-person learning environment to a remote learning environment based upon medical or health needs.

**In-Person Learning (K-5 All Day & 6-8 A/B Bi-Weekly Cohort)**

**When will my student return to school?**

They will return February 1st, 2021

**What will school look like?**

Our Goals: Regardless of the learning environment that parents choose for their child(ren), GVA-A will work to ensure:

- 1. Student Physical and Emotional Well Being:** We will be taking attendance, contacting and connecting with students and their families, and providing and connecting you to resources to ensure this safety and well-being of every student that attends GVA-A. GVA-A will continue to provide nutritious meal options for students. We will strictly adhere to the physical-distancing requirements, recommended protocols, and cleaning regimens asked of us by our health partners.

2. **Student Learning:** All students will receive new, grade-level learning. Each student will be advancing in their learning. Academic, social-emotional, and health development are all part of these curricular goals. We will be using evidence of student learning to guide our support, and engaging students in learning experiences that move them forward in their development.

3. **Constant Improvement:** GVA-A will use lessons learned and feedback we have learned during this remote learning process to improve our instruction during this unique time. We will work hard to remove barriers to learning as we evolve in our efforts to consistently provide students with an outstanding education.

#### **In-Person vs. Remote Learning:**

Families are asked to commit to either an in-person learning environment or remote learning environment for a full semester.

**Note:** Exceptions are available for students needing to move from in-person to remote learning due to medical or health needs.

#### **Elementary In-Person Learning Plan (K-5)**

Considering the changing dynamics of the 2020-21 school year, the intention of GVA-A is to deliver two learning models for elementary school students: **(1)** an in-person model, and **(2)** a fully remote model.

Families are asked to commit to either in-person learning or fully remote learning for the semester. Students that choose in-person learning can switch to remote at any time, but may be required to stay remote for the remainder of the semester.

#### **In-Person Learning:**

- All students will attend school between the hours K-5: 8:00am-3:00pm
- All students will begin a regular schedule on February 1st, 2021.
- Elementary students will remain with their class cohort throughout the day. These students and teacher groups will learn, recreate, transition, and eat together.
- Students may participate in additional cohort groups if: the student receives special education, social emotional, ELD, intervention or gifted and talented support outside of his/her home room.
- Students may have access to teachers or other staff outside of their cohort for lunch or recess, but this access will be limited.

- Specials (P.E., Art, Technology SEL, and library/digital media) will be in the cohort's classroom to limit exposure (with the exception of physical education which will be outside when possible)
- Students may be part of additional cohort groups due to ELD and Student Services. GVA-A will work to follow all safety protocols and health restrictions to maintain safety within these cohort groups, but participation does have further contact risk.
- Common areas such as the cafeteria and playground will be accessed by student cohorts in order to maintain physical distancing.
- Schedules will be created to limit exposure and cohort sizes will be limited to approximately 25 students.
- Every effort will be made to minimize student transitions between classrooms. For example, teachers will rotate classrooms instead of students .
- No field trips.
- No large group face-to-face assemblies.
- GVA-A may redistribute students to manage class size.

### **Middle School In-Person Learning Plan (6-8)**

Students will attend in-person instruction every day and will follow their daily schedule. The students will be placed in one of two cohorts (A or B) and have alternating weeks of in-person and remote learning. This model is designed to reduce student and teacher physical contact in order to meet health and safety guidelines issued by Tri-County Public Health Department.

#### **In-Person Sample Schedule (Middle School):**

- Students will attend school between 8:00am - 3:14pm.
- Students will follow their IC Schedule every day.
- Students will engage in core learning (English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and Immersion Language) during the school year.
- Students will attend Immersion Language classes on both A day and B day.
- Students may be part of additional cohort groups due to ELD and Student Services. GVA-A will work to follow all safety protocols and health restrictions to maintain safety within these cohort groups, but participation does have further contact risk.

- Every effort will be made to minimize student transitions between classrooms.
- Common spaces such as the gymnasium, and cafeteria will be accessed in cohorts. The number of students in these areas will be minimized.
- Lockers will not be used or accessed during this time.
- All classes will be sanitized before the beginning of a new class. We will use protocols with teachers and students to wipe down all desks, chairs, and materials before the beginning of class.
- Students will enter and exit the building in a way that keeps grade levels or groups separated as much as possible.
- Upon arrival, students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer and be temperature screened.
- Middle school students will not be allowed to bring their own sports equipment.
- All middle school students and staff will be required to bring and wear face masks both in the classrooms and in common areas. Masks must be school-appropriate and comply with the same dress code policy as any other clothing item.
- Face masks will not be required while eating. Students will be required to maintain safe physical distances when not wearing face masks.
- Please reference other safety provisions outlined in the safety section of this document.

### **Special Education K-8:**

We recognize that this school year will be unique and that families have different opinions and feelings about what type of learning environment will be best for their student who has a disability.

GVA-A is dedicated to providing the same choices for our special education students of in-person or fully remote learning. Special education supports and services will be available to all students with specialized services identified within their individual education plan. With this being said, depending on which learning experience a student chooses, they may require a new or amended IEP (Individual Education Plan) to determine FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education).

### **Learning Environment Options**

**In-Person:** The IEP will be implemented as currently written. All students will be required to wear face masks during their service time to protect themselves, their peers and their service providers. This will be an additional exposure outside of their cohort, so we will be strictly enforcing face coverings.

**Fully Remote:** If parents choose this learning environment, the IEP team will need to meet to review the current IEP and discuss any adjustments that may need to be made to the IEP. A particular student may require different accommodations for remote learning than they require for in person learning, etc. These should be reviewed and decided upon by the IEP team, of which the parent is a member.

If you have questions about school environments for your student who has a disability, please contact Angela Lovisolo, GVA-A Special Education Department Chair at:  
[alovisolo@gvaschools.org](mailto:alovisolo@gvaschools.org)

## **SAFETY PROVISIONS**

### **Cohorts of students and staff for physical distancing:**

To the greatest extent possible, students and teachers will remain together in the same groups (cohorts) throughout each day or week of in-person learning. Cohorts reduce the number of students and staff who are exposed to each other in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case in a school. The implementation of cohorts will result in fewer students/staff being required to quarantine in such an instance.

- GVA-A will work to minimize the ability of students and staff to co-mingle.
- Physical-distancing will be implemented to the greatest extent possible throughout the inside and outside of the building. Six-foot distancing between individuals reduces the risk of transmission and is preferred; three-foot distancing still provides substantial benefits and is acceptable in the context of a comprehensive disease control strategy.
- GVA-A will have one-way hallways, designated entrances and exits, and other traffic-control measures to reduce close contact.
- By CDE and TCHD guidelines, K-5 cohort groups are considered a group of no more than 30 students. We will work to have groups lower (closer to 25).
- Lunch and recess will be held with the same cohort and kept in specific eating and playing zones. Each classroom will have an assigned lunch, play & recess zone.

### **Required face coverings:**

All students and staff will be required to wear masks while at school. Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth to mitigate any transmission. The only exception will be while students are eating meals, unless the student has a documented and approved health or education reason for not wearing a face covering. Face coverings should be designed so students can apply and remove them without assistance. Face shields will be provided to all SPED students to support small group learning as identified by their IEP. Face shields (or masks) will be a requirement for special education service time.

Failure to wear a mask and wear it properly will constitute a removal from in-person instruction.

**Teachers and staff:**

All teachers and staff will wear face coverings at all times. Staff will also consider face shields as an added barrier option when working in close proximity with others or when students are medically unable to wear masks consistently.

**Student Health and Hygiene:**

- Students will wash their hands or use sanitizer upon entering the building.
- Hand sanitizer should only be used when running water and soap are not available. Hand sanitizer may be used in addition to hand washing but not in place of when there is access to running water and soap.
- Students will be required to wash their hands frequently for a minimum of 20 seconds. Portable handwashing stations have been added to the school to promote frequent handwashing.
- Use of water fountains is not permitted. Students should bring water bottles from home to use during the school day.

**Daily Symptom Screenings for Students and Staff:**

- Families are asked to monitor daily symptoms of cough, temperature above 100.4 F, shortness of breath, sore throat, and other symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students will enter the building at their designated grade level entrance and be temperature screened upon arrival at school. GVA-A has installed a no- touch infrared temperature readers at each entry door of the school building.
- Students or staff showing symptoms of COVID-19 or who have a temperature of 100.4 Degree F or higher should remain at home.

- Students and staff who become sick or symptomatic while at school will be isolated in the clinic until they can return home safely. Parents/Guardians are expected to have designated adults who can pick up a sick/symptomatic student as soon as possible.

## **Building Visitors**

Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups outside of each school will not be allowed to enter the school facility in order to minimize exposure with additional individuals. No classroom or school volunteers will be allowed.

- Parents, visitors and community members may not enter the school building past the locked interior glass doors in the lobby.

## **School Closure and Illness Response:**

- GVA-A will refer symptomatic students to a health care professional for evaluation and potential testing, as well as submit a report to the CDPHE Symptom Support tool and to Tri-County Health.
- GVA-A has assigned a dedicated room to isolate symptomatic individuals until they can return home or to a health facility. Isolation spaces will be cleaned and disinfected appropriately between each use. The School Health Aide will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.
- If a student or staff member walks through the temperature station upon arrival and has a fever (100.4 degrees or higher) or any COVID-19 symptoms, they will go directly to the clinic room and are expected to follow the guidance of the School Health Aide. Students and staff will be screened at a minimum, once a day, upon entering the building.
- GVA-A will work in partnership with Tri-County Health Department and Children's Hospital Colorado to determine the best and most safe course of action in response to a case of potential or actual exposure of a student, staff or community member
- Students with injuries/illnesses or daily routine health services, such as medication administration, with "Non-COVID-19-like" symptoms, will still go to the School Health Aide's office. Students with "COVID-19 like" symptoms will be placed in the clinic room.
- If any student has COVID-19 symptoms, staff members should notify the School Health Aide immediately and have the student ready at the door for pick up by the School Health Aide. Staff members should use the checklist provided by the school. Staff will use a checklist of mild symptoms: fatigue, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, cough, fever, or chills (modified as deemed appropriate). Staff will fill out a checklist per student and mark the symptoms.

- Following a positive COVID-19 test result, individuals should notify the school within 72 hours and isolate (stay home), they will not be able to return to school until there is no fever, and after respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath), and 14 days since symptoms first appeared/positive test result. GVA-A will notify the Tri-County Health Department, staff, families and ensure appropriate confidentiality.
- GVA-A will be prepared to shift to remote learning (for 2 -14 days) when school closures or cohort dismissals occur in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case among students or employees.
- In the event of an outbreak, Tri-County Health Department is the primary owner of contact tracing and will rely on schools to support their efforts to track a positive COVID-19 case. The school nurse is grounded in public health and the school nurse is ideally suited to be the designated staff responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns and support collaboration with the TCHD. A school's ability to manage the student population and make thoughtful determinations on how students are excluded depends on tracking data that supports contact tracing. This data will impact TCHD ability to support ongoing safe school operations. Additionally, the cohort style system tries to limit circles of students and their interactions and would further assist in understanding who is in contact with whom.
- Children should not come to school and parents should notify GVA-A if their child becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case. GVA-A will immediately separate staff and children with COVID-19 symptoms (such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath) at school. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others who are sick.
- Parent protocol if your child has Covid-19 symptoms: The School Health Aide will contact the parent or guardian of the child. Parents are expected to pick up their children. Parents are expected to update their student's files to ensure there are designated adults available to pick up the student, if the parent/guardian is unable to do so, immediately. Parents, guardians or designated adults will pick up the student at the front entry.

#### **When to Stay Home:**

- Employees and students who are sick or who have recently had close contact (within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes) with a person with COVID-19 are expected to stay home.
- Fever or temperature of 100.4 degrees F or higher.
- Coughing that won't stop, shortness of breath, fatigue.
- Diarrhea or Vomiting within the past 24 hours.

- Staff and students with positive COVID-19 test results or are showing COVID-19 symptoms must stay home and notify the School.
- Any staff member or student showing signs will be asked if they were tested and cleared to return to school.
- Specifics around personal health information cannot be released to the community. Individuals exposed to risk will be notified, however, specific identification is not allowed.

#### **Building Cleaning Protocols:**

- GVA-A has increased building cleaning protocols to sanitize all high-touch surface areas daily, if not more often.
- Tables and all exposed areas in the cafeteria and outdoor eating areas will be disinfected between each meal service.
- GVA-A has increased daily cleaning by adding additional cleaning staff.

#### **Building Ventilation:**

- All systems will continue to utilize air filtration filters that meet current school safety guidelines.
- Inside air will be flushed with outside air two hours prior to students and staff arriving for school and two hours after all students and staff have left the premises.
- GVA-A will work to maximize ventilation and increase circulation of outdoor air. Due to this effort, classrooms may run hotter during the summer months and colder during the winter months.

#### **School Supplies:**

- Due to COVID 19, the school supplies list will support individual students in the classroom. Each student will keep the individual supplies in their backpacks (toolboxes/pouches). Individual supplies should be labeled with the student's first and last name.
- Each teacher will have extra individual packed supplies in the classroom for students that need it. Teachers will keep the community supplies in their classrooms.
- GVA-A will make every effort to minimize the sharing of supplies when feasible, however students in a cohort may share books or instructional materials.
- Any shared Chromebooks or iPads will be disinfected between uses. GVA-A has purchased additional technology to limit the need for sharing.

#### **Social Distancing Policy:**

- Physical-distancing will be implemented to the greatest extent possible throughout the inside and outside of the building. Six-foot distancing between individuals reduces the risk of transmission and is preferred in accordance with Tri-County Health Guidelines; three-foot distancing still provides substantial benefits and is acceptable in the context of a comprehensive disease control strategy.
- GVA-A will have the hallways split to make two-way hallways, designated entrances and exits, and other traffic-control measures to reduce close contact, when feasible. Arrows will be placed on the ground to alert students and staff on which side of the hallway they should walk.
- Social distancing markings will be placed on the ground throughout the inside and outside of the building to ensure appropriate distancing, when feasible.
- Outdoor classrooms (when appropriate) and play areas are being created to allow cohorts to get outside when weather permits.
- No more than five students will be permitted in the bathroom at any time. Students will be expected to follow bathroom guidelines posted in the bathrooms. When students are using the facilities, students are to check the stalls for availability and use if available or return to the hallway to wait in line for an available space.

#### **Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer Policy:**

- GVA-A will incorporate hand hygiene education into the curriculum and daily school activities to maximize opportunities for students to develop personal hygiene practices including hand washing with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds and paying close attention to the surfaces between the fingers and on the back of the hands.
- Portable hand washing stations will be added throughout the school building and outside to promote additional handwashing. Staff will ensure that students wash hands when needed.
- Hand hygiene should be routinely performed:
  - before, during and after preparing food
  - before and after eating
  - after recess
  - after using the toilet
  - after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
  - after touching animals or pets
  - before and after treating a wound or cut

-after handling garbage

-when hands are visibly soiled

-when returning to the room (every time).

- Hand sanitizer should only be used when running water and soap are not available. Hand sanitizer may be used in addition to hand washing but not in place of when there is access to running water and soap.
- Students may bring their own hand sanitizer to school, but it should be kept on their body or in their backpack to prevent sharing. Hand sanitizer sharing will not be permitted.

### **Nutrition Services and Food Service Protocols:**

GVA-A will be using Aurora Public Schools for Breakfast and Lunch.

- Breakfast and lunch options will be available to students regardless of enrollment in in-person or fully remote learning.
- All meals will be individually packaged to prevent contamination.
- Recyclable, single-use serving items (trays, cutlery, napkins) will be utilized for all meals
- Food safety protocols will continue to be followed by staff, including following proper hand-washing procedures, glove use, and temperature monitoring.
- Food sharing will not be permitted on school grounds (eg. birthday cupcakes, snacks for the classroom, students sharing with friends etc.)
- Please assist our physical-distancing efforts by using our online format for pre-paying completing applications for free or reduced priced meals. More information, including menus, can be found on our website: <https://aurora.gvaschools.org/>

### **Breakfast Procedures:**

- Breakfast will be available, starting at 7:45am. Students will enter the building through their designated entry doors. Students will have their temperature taken before entering the building. Students must maintain social distance and wear a mask while getting their breakfast. Once a student has their breakfast, they will eat their food in their classroom where they will be allowed to eat.

### **Lunch Procedures:**

- All students will eat lunch with their cohorts. Lunch schedules will vary by cohort with some students eating lunch first and then going to recess while others will have recess and then eat lunch. Students will be given ample time to wash their hands before lunch each day and after recess.
- K-5 students will eat in designated areas to ensure social distancing is maintained. This plan will be used on days with inclement weather, as well. Students will be allowed to go outside, please dress your child appropriately.
- Middle School students will also have designated areas and a staggered lunch schedule, in order to maintain social distancing. This plan will be used on inclement weather days. Middle school students will receive 25 mins of lunch a day
- All students will be directed to wash their hands before eating lunch.
- Students that bring their own lunch will go directly to their cohort's assigned eating area at lunch time.
- Students needing school lunch will maintain appropriate social distancing while waiting for food service/distribution. Cohorts and staggered schedules will be maintained to ensure safety.
- No outside food deliveries will be allowed.
- All tables/designated eating areas will be sanitized between each cohort lunch time.
- Food sharing is prohibited to ensure health safety and food allergies within the students sitting an appropriate social distance apart from each other.

#### **Recess Procedures:**

- K-5 students will receive recess daily. Middle school students will receive a combined lunch/recess of 25 mins a day. K-5 recess will be scheduled at a separate time not linked to the student lunch time.
- All classes have a designated play time as deemed appropriate by GVA-A. Play area may be divided into two zones.
- The students will remain in their approved zone for the day. They should only interact with their cohort during recess time.
- Students will need to remain in their designated cohort play area for the full time. They may not change zones.

#### **Student Discipline as it Relates to New COVID-19 Policies:**

GVA-A staff will spend the first days of in-person learning teaching students the various new expectations of them. Patience and kindness will be of utmost importance when helping students adjust to a new and different school environment. A school-wide pledge of safety for the common good will be articulated to students and parents in the first week of school. Students that mistakenly violate safety guidelines will be reminded of procedures and expectations. Repeated violations may result in a private meeting with said student to discuss and revisit expectations/rules. Staff will be encouraged to use as much time as needed to practice and review safety protocols with students. Blatant repeated violations of rules around safety by students will result in removal from in-person learning.