

# Gould

*Welcoming You Home*  
A RESOURCE FOR GOULD'S RETURN TO CAMPUS PLAN



## MISSION

Gould Academy prepares academically motivated students for college and helps them to become independent-minded, ethical citizens who will lead lives of purpose, action, excellence, and compassion in a dynamic world.

## Intention

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We write to you today with the strength of community and a hope that you are safe and healthy. The unprecedented challenge of a global pandemic and a call for racial justice confirms that Gould is guided by a relevant and important mission—to prepare “ethical citizens who will lead lives of purpose, action, excellence, and compassion in a dynamic world.”

Today, we share information with you about our academic year and return to school planning. With great anticipation, we plan to have students arrive in late August to begin the 2020-2021 school year. Our number one priority, which has and will continue to guide all of our decision making, is to protect the health and wellness of our students, faculty, extended family members, and Bethel community. Our second priority is to provide continuity in a Gould education and ensure that the value of being a member of the Gould community remains true to our core principles: The Individual Student; A Caring Community; High Standards; The Life of the Mind; The Whole Person; The Whole World.

As you can imagine, this planning is not quick work. Our task force is guided by medical experts and public health guidelines as we review all aspects of a residential and day experience that values learning in community. Our planning considers a wide variety of scenarios and optimizes our location in the western mountains of Maine. It leverages excellent technology that is supported by intentional and caring relationships. Our work will certainly be deep in the details of how to guide students to adjust to physical distancing norms, how to organize classrooms, how to be on the field and stage, and how to eat our meals all while continuing to thrive at Gould.

We appreciate your patience and support as we provide you with some clear decisions and take our time to thoroughly develop the details.

# Looking Ahead

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12-month employees return and train for new COVID-19 guidelines</li><li>• Day camps</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Day camps</li><li>• Return to campus stages released</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On-snow summer training if public health conditions allow</li><li>• Employee professional development and training</li><li>• Student staggered return to campus begins</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remote learning available for those unable to get to campus at this time</li></ul>

## 2020-2021 School Calendar & Important Dates

We hope this outline clarifies important decisions for your summer planning and helps you gain insight into the fall. Two factors influenced our decisions. First, inviting students back to campus at a staggered pace allows for small-scale community orientation. And second, reducing the amount of student travel between Thanksgiving and Christmas reduces exposure. We acknowledge that travel plans might be more complex than ever and are prepared to launch a parallel academic experience for students who need more time to return to campus. We also recognize that incorporating on-campus wellness breaks through the term, developing visitation guidelines for families, and clarifying the system to help students who need to remain on campus during the winter break is critical. We will continue to work on these details through the early part of the summer. In all our planning, we acknowledge that public health guidelines may influence this schedule, and we ask that you remain flexible and let us know how we can help in your planning.

## IMPORTANT DATES

AUGUST 21	STUDENTS BEGIN TO RETURN TO CAMPUS IN STAGES
SEPTEMBER 7	FALL TRIMESTER CLASSES BEGIN
NOVEMBER 13	FALL TRIMESTER CLASSES END
NOVEMBER 16	WINTER TRIMESTER CLASSES BEGIN
DECEMBER 11	STUDENTS DEPART FOR THE HOLIDAY BREAK
JANUARY 25	STUDENTS RETURN TO CAMPUS AND THEIR WINTER TRIMESTER CLASSES
MARCH 5	WINTER TRIMESTER CLASSES END
MARCH 15	SPRING TRIMESTER CLASSES BEGIN
MAY 21	SPRING TRIMESTER CLASSES END
MAY 22	COMMENCEMENT

# Community Campus Criteria

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In every scenario, we expect campus life will be different for as long as the COVID-19 virus remains a prominent threat to peoples' health. This is a tremendous undertaking that we believe will result in a stronger community. The conditions under which we will return will require important community obligations dedicated to taking responsibility for each other's health in addition to our own. At every decision point, we value the students' experience for learning, leading, and living in a community where they can learn to thrive alongside challenges. Your child's health and wellbeing will be our primary concern during this evolving situation. Nursing staff and counselors will continue to be available to all, and wellness checks will become a regular part of our lives. By returning to Gould this fall, our families and students agree to live under the guidelines and protocols for health and wellness that we will establish and communicate in detail later this summer.

Our Return to Campus Subcommittee will continue to develop policies and processes throughout the summer. We will pursue a widespread testing strategy in which all community members will have access to frequent, reliable testing with rapid results. We are developing a detailed plan to isolate infected individuals, whether day or boarding, child or adult. We are preparing a comprehensive plan to quarantine individuals who were exposed to someone who tested positive or is suspected to have COVID-19. With the utmost attention to creating a healthy environment, we acknowledge an acceptance of risk by all parties and an understanding that the virus will likely be present on campus and that members of our community are at risk of exposure and illness without a proven vaccine or cure.

## We share with you some of the new Gould Community guidelines to review.

These guidelines are subject to change as the situation evolves and our knowledge grows. We remain hopeful that time and successful protective measures will allow us to relax restrictions for low-risk behaviors and low-risk individuals at a future date.

### **GUIDELINES FOR PERSONAL BEHAVIOR**

Appropriate preventative health and sanitization practices listed below will be strictly enforced.

- Masks will be worn indoors at all times or in any areas where appropriate physical distancing cannot be maintained. An exception being if the CDC allows us to consider "roommates" a family unit, they will not have mask requirements in their own dorm rooms. Those who have legitimate medical reasons for not wearing a mask will also be exempt.
- Frequent hand washing
- Frequent cleaning and sanitizing of personal belongings and spaces
- Symptom reporting and frequent temperature assessments
- Testing compliance if an individual is suspected to have COVID-19 or has had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

### **GUIDELINES FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

Gould will operate a residential community while abiding by physical distancing requirements set forth by public health guidelines and medical experts.

### **GUIDELINES SPACE USE**

Our movement patterns on campus and social behaviors for students and faculty will be designed to limit exposure, contact trace with ease, and isolate groups of individuals in the event of a confirmed or suspected infection.

### **GUIDELINES FOR HYGIENE**

Our practices will support the widespread use of masks, personal sanitation measures, and regular, deep cleaning of the facilities and will incorporate students in learning how to keep spaces clean.

# Levels of Campus Response

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We know that the level of an outbreak can change quickly. Our primary objective is to be prepared to adapt quickly as the situation warrants. Below is a basic outline of campus activity levels. We will continue to rely on medical experts and public health guidelines to monitor the situation and adjust accordingly.

## GREEN (OPEN CAMPUS WITH STANDARD GUIDELINES)

- An effective vaccine is readily available.
- Community spread is unlikely.
- Physical distancing measures are removed.

## YELLOW (OPEN CAMPUS WITH MOST PROGRAMMING OPTIONS AND STRICT GUIDELINES)

- Pandemic status continues to show signs of significant decline in cases.
- Widespread testing is available.
- Agency guidelines permit schools to open with specific guidelines.
- School reopens with physical distancing measures in place.
- Programs adjusted to meet guidelines as needed.

## ORANGE (OPEN CAMPUS WITH LIMITED PROGRAMMING OPTIONS AND STRICT GUIDELINES)

- Pandemic status has flattened and is showing initial signs of declining cases.
- Testing options are more readily available.
- Medical facilities have capacity for new patients.
- Stay-at-home orders have been lifted.
- Employees are permitted to return to work.
- Boarding residents may or may not be allowed on campus depending on trends in pandemic status.
- Small group day programming may be possible.

## RED (CLOSED CAMPUS)

- Pandemic status continues to be elevated.
- Limited to no testing availability.
- Stay-at-home orders are in place.
- Remote Learning continues for all.
- Faculty and students operate from home.
- Essential employees allowed on campus.

# Core Areas Under Development

With each day, our understanding of COVID-19 evolves. Science-based and medical information and the experiences of other educational institutions contribute to our capacity to develop an in-person experience that will support as many of the Gould experiences and traditions our community holds dear. Over the next month, we will examine every aspect of campus life and school programming to prepare for the new school year and will ask for your feedback and ideas along the way.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

- Meeting CDC, State, and Federal Guidelines
- Identifying spaces for quarantine and isolation
- Defining healthy campus protocols
- Outlining expectations for employees and day students who leave campus
- Training employees in new procedures

## COMMUNITY

- Adapting the School Calendar to limit travel and exposure
- Scheduling a staggered arrival for new and returning students
- Arranging possible orientation activities for all students
- Adapting campus schedule and refining remote learning program
- Defining dorm life
- Planning food service and healthy use of the dining hall
- Adapting athletics, On Snow, and co-curriculars
- Exploring how experiential learning and Four Point programs can be modified

## PROGRAM AREAS

- Reimagining student activities to still be a thriving part of #GouldLife
- Identifying restrictions students might have on leaving campus
- Establishing behavioral expectations for physical distancing
- Addressing travel and visa concerns and quarantine practices for international students
- Maintaining a commitment to affordability while preserving the financial health of the school
- Looking at how the school community interacts with the town of Bethel and Sunday River



# Reopening Task Force

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## TAO SMITH '90

Incoming Head of School (chair)

## PHYLLIS GARDINER

President of the Gould Academy Board of Trustees

## CHRIS BROOKS '99

Secretary of the Gould Academy Board of Trustees

## LEO MENARD '03

Trustee

## WENDY PENLEY

Trustee

## PAM SENESE '82

Trustee

## CHRIS SPARKS

Assistant Head of School for Institutional Advancement

## SARAH TAYMORE

Vice-President of the Gould Academy Board of Trustees

## GREG YOUNG

Trustee

## RETURN TO CAMPUS SUBCOMMITTEE

### CHRIS HAYWARD

Director of Experiential Learning (co-chair)

### OLIVIA HENDRY

Director of the Student Health Center (co-chair)

### JERRY BERNIER

Director of Buildings and Grounds

### DEB COSTELLO

On-Snow Program Manager

### ROB MANNING

Dean of Community Life

## CONTINUITY OF TEACHING & LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE

### BRAD CLARKE

Assistant Head of School for Teaching & Learning (co-chair)

### JASON CHASE

Director of Technology (co-chair)

### SARA SHIFRIN '88

Humanities & Director of Seminar (co-chair)

### BOB HARKINS

Incoming Director of Athletics

## PANDEMIC FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

### BILL WHITE '80

Interim Chief Financial Officer (co-chair)

### DAVE WILLIS

Incoming Chief Financial Officer (co-chair)

## COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

### JULIE REIFF

Director of Marketing & Communication (co-chair)

### LINDSAY LEGARE

Executive Assistant to the Head of School (co-chair)

### DENISE MANNING

Dean of Students

### BETH GARFIELD

Director of the Gould Fund



# Closing Statement

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We imagine this guide might raise as many questions and concerns as it answers, but we hope it will be helpful in your planning. More details will be spelled out in early July. Your patience, cooperation, flexibility and support define the Gould community.

The week of July 6, we will release our Guide to Gould Life 2020-21, a comprehensive guide with more detailed information about academics, residential and community life, travel, health and wellness, athletics, and community living.

We encourage you to contact us at [open@gouldacademy.org](mailto:open@gouldacademy.org). Please make sure you add [communications@gouldacademy.org](mailto:communications@gouldacademy.org) to your email contacts to make sure you receive the latest communications. Families of students enrolled for the fall will receive the weekly newsletter throughout the summer. For the latest information, we will also maintain a list of updates and FAQs on our website at [gouldacademy.org/about/reopening2020](http://gouldacademy.org/about/reopening2020)

## RESOURCE LINKS/CITED MATERIALS

[Maine CDC](#)

[Federal CDC](#)

[State of Maine COVID-19](#)  
[Restarting Maine's Economy](#)

[The National Association of Independent Schools \(NAIS\)](#)

[Independent Schools Association of Northern New England \(ISANNE\)](#)

[Maine Department of Education](#)

[OSHA](#)

[MEMIC](#)

[Maine COVID-19 Response](#)

[Maine Division of Disease Surveillance](#)

[MaineHealth.org](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

[HealthData.org](#)

[New England Association of Schools and Colleges \(NEASC\)](#)

## WEBINARS

[NEASC: Boarding schools: Ideas and innovations for reopening safely](#)

[TABS Webinar: Considerations for Safely Re-Opening Boarding Schools in the Age of COVID-19](#)

[State of Maine: Restarting the Economy Checklist](#)

[State of CT: Report of the Higher Education Subcommittee, Reopen CT](#)

[US Ski & Snowboard TOWN HALL: Planning for Return to Training in the time of COVID-19](#)

[NEASC: Reopening schools safely: Insights, successes, and lessons learned](#)