

Grandview Elementary School



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August 21, 2020

Hello Grandview Families!

As we prepare to reopen our school on Monday, August 31, 2020, we want to ensure you that we are committed to providing a healthy, safe and nurturing environment built around our mission to provide a high quality education for all of our students. All summer, we have worked extremely hard and diligently to prepare Grandview for the challenges of opening a new school year during these unprecedented times. Our teachers are looking forward with great enthusiasm to the beginning of the school year and welcoming back our students. Based on the Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines, Pennsylvania Department of Education guidelines and CDC recommendations, there will be several changes to daily operations of the school with an emphasis always on the health, safety and welfare of our students, parents and staff members.

On Thursday, July 30, the school board approved the district's required Health and Safety Plan for reopening schools. Please take the time prior to the opening of school to read the plan which can be found on our website. It contains several guidelines on how we will operate the school. As a result, Grandview's academic program will look different this year.

We will welcome a majority of our students back to Grandview for in-person instruction with health and safety protocols in place. In addition, we will operate our own remote program this school year for families who prefer an online platform. The new iTrojan program will be taught by our own Derry teachers with students basically following the same instruction and daily schedule they would have in the classroom at Grandview. iTrojan students will have the opportunity to login to view the teacher's lesson live. If unable to participate in a live lesson, parents may request from the teacher a recorded version of the lesson. Just today, DASD announced that parents can choose to blend the face-to-face instruction with iTrojan for a hybrid model where students are assigned two days to attend classes at Grandview and then three days of remote learning. Please refer to the hybrid letter mailed to you the week of August 17, 2020 indicating your child's group if you chose this model. If you plan on putting your child in a hybrid model, please call the office at 724-694-2400. There is also the Derry eAcademy operated by the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit where parents can choose another online

option. eAcademy classes are most often taught by teachers outside of the school district. The instruction model is developed by the teacher of each course. A nice aspect regarding the online programs mentioned is that the student remains enrolled in the Derry Area School District with all of the benefits of being a Grandview student. It also allows for a smooth transition back to in-person instruction at Grandview when/if parents are comfortable with the current situation. Finally, we must be ready to move to a fully remote educational model if the number of positive Covid-19 cases in our area increases or if ordered by Governor Wolf.

In order to enhance our classroom instruction and online learning experience for students, we are excited to go 1:1 and provide Chromebooks for students in grades 2-5 and iPads for K-1 students. Providing a Chromebook or iPad means that all students can have teacher-led instruction, and students will be held more accountable for completing and submitting their assignments to their teacher online. Students in iTrojan will be part of the class remotely while their teacher instructs in-person students at Grandview. Instruction will be consistent for all students in-person and online. Attendance will be required and strictly monitored throughout the school day. Students will be graded based on the Derry Area School District Grading Policy.

Students and staff will be required to wear a mask or face shield at all times on buses and during the school day as per Pennsylvania Department of Health order. This order has exceptions for medical reasons. Students will be given face covering breaks throughout the day when not in close proximity to others (more than six feet apart) as per current order. Students may wear their own mask or face shield, or we will provide one for them. Students will be made aware of social distancing practices which include keeping six feet apart, and hygiene practices such as washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, and touching their face.

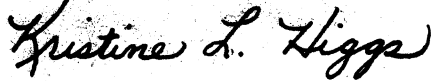
In the cafeteria, students will be socially distanced six feet apart and will of course be permitted to remove their face covering to eat. The multi-purpose room will be used for additional cafeteria seating. Teachers will stagger times when students transition in the hallways. For recess, each classroom will be assigned an area around Grandview. Water fountains will be off limits, so we encourage you to provide a water bottle every day for your son or daughter. Bottled water or a cup of water will be provided for students who don't bring their own water.

If you are planning on using school transportation, students will be socially distanced and required to wear a mask or face shield on the bus. If possible, you may choose to privately transport your son or daughter to and from school. We are changing our pick-up system to make the process easier for parents while keeping health and safety a priority. The new process will be a drive thru system where parents must stay in their vehicles and drop-off or pick-up their son or daughter at the school entrance by the flagpole. Your child will enter the school using the side doors by the flagpole. Parent pick-up will begin at 3:00 pm at the beginning of the school year. The time will be adjusted based on the number of students being picked-up. Your child will be brought to you after you inform us of your arrival using the new *PikMyKid* app. A school number will be provided for you to identify your child and you will need to create user information within the app. Additional information will be sent to you regarding

the *PikMyKid* app. As a result of the additional safety measures and social distancing requirements, students will not be able to enter the school prior to 8:45 am. There will be no staff members to supervise early arrivals. Please do not put your child in an unsafe situation by leaving him or her outside of the building alone until 8:45 am! Unless there is an emergency, parents will not be able to accompany their son or daughter into the school. For further information, please refer to the AM/PM Grandview Transportation Guidelines handout in the back-to-school packet.

Although this year will be different from what we have experienced in the past, we are looking forward to a great school year with your child. We intend to do everything in our power to make it a healthy, safe and memorable one. We will also be sending you some important information from the nurse as we continue to prepare for students to safely return to school. Throughout the year, we will continue to provide you with important information regarding school matters. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any questions or concerns. Your cooperation, patience and communication will be vital as we continue to work together to ensure a quality education for your child.

Sincerely,



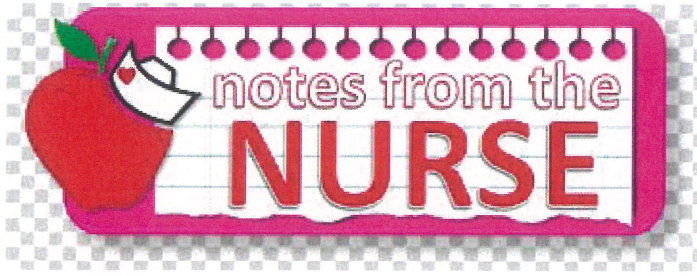
Kristine Higgs
Director of Elementary Education



Rod Bisi
Principal



Kara Gardner
Associate Principal



Preparing Students to Safely Return to School

Handwashing

- Hand hygiene will be conducted hourly, or when leaving the classroom, when sneezing, coughing or face touching occurs.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water especially after using the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom and in mobile stations throughout the school.

* Please visit the CDC website for additional handwashing resources.

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>

Face Masks

- We will follow the PA Department of Health July 1, 2020 order requiring face coverings to be worn in all public spaces, including inside school buildings. This order also has exceptions for medical reasons.
- Masks must be worn in all areas during the school day.
- Students will be given face covering breaks throughout the day when not in close proximity to others (more than 6 feet away) as per current orders.
- Masks may be removed during lunch (after students are seated and appropriately social distanced).
- Masks/face coverings must adhere to DASD dress policy guidelines.
- Remember to wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer after touching your mask to reduce the transmission of germs.

* Please visit the CDC website for additional information on masks/ face coverings

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

COVID-19 Information

Possible symptoms of COVID-19

- Fever (100.4 or higher when taken by mouth) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Tell a parent/ guardian or your teacher if you are experiencing symptoms.

You and your parents/guardian should review the attached screening tool every morning and follow the guidelines. Stay home if you are experiencing possible symptoms of COVID-19.

Call your school nurse with any questions or concerns.

Social Distancing

- **Make every effort to stay 6 feet away from others who do not live in your home.**
- **Avoid touching other people (no handshakes, high fives or hugs).**
- **Avoid touching items that belong to other people.**
- **Limit or avoid shared items in the classroom.**
- **Follow your building's signage regarding traffic patterns and use of stairwells.**
- **Students should avoid lingering in hallways or common areas.**

Nurse's Office Procedure

- **To prevent potential exposure and spread of infection, DASD will be utilizing a "sick" nursing office and a "well" nursing office in each building in conjunction with best practice nursing protocols. This protocol should be followed by both staff and learners.**
- **Please tell your teacher if you are not feeling well, and your teacher will let you know which office to present to.**
- **You will need a pass to visit the nurse unless you have a regularly scheduled reason to be there.**
- **To assist in preventing the spread of illness, sick students will need to be picked up in a timely manner. Please keep phone numbers and emergency contacts up-to-date with the nursing office throughout the school year.**

Return to School

- **If you are sent home from school due to illness, you will need to consult with the school nurse and/or your physician for guidance as to when you may return to school. All current CDC and PA DOH guidelines will be followed.**
- **If you stay home due to illness, please consult with your building's school nurse and/or your physician for guidance as to when you may return to school. All current CDC and PA DOH guidelines will be followed.**
- **As per DASD's plan, guidelines are subject to change to comply with updates from CDC, PDE and PA DOH.**

DASD Student Screening Tool

Complete Daily Prior to School/Work*

This is a tool to help you decide if your child should attend school. You do not have to return this form.

Temperature:

Is the student taking any medication to treat or reduce a fever such as Ibuprofen (i.e. Advil, Motrin) or Acetaminophen (Tylenol)?

Is the student experiencing any of the following? Circle all that apply

Group A 1 or more symptoms	Group B 2 or more symptoms
Fever (measured at 100.4 or higher/ subjective)	Chills
Cough	Rigors (shivering)
Shortness of breath	Myalgia (muscle aches)
Difficulty breathing	Headache
New olfactory disorder (loss of smell)	Sore throat
New taste disorder (loss of taste)	Nausea or vomiting
	Diarrhea
	Fatigue
	Congestion or runny nose

The Student should stay home if:

- Have one or more symptoms in Group A **OR**
- Have two or more symptoms in Group B **OR**
- Are taking fever reducing medication.