

Q & A for Parents

QUESTIONS ABOUT IN-PERSON LEARNING

Will there be an Open House for in-person students prior to the start of school this year?

GES will host a drive-thru Open House on Wednesday August 19 from 5:00-7:00 for K-2 and Thursday August 20 from 5:00-7:00 for 3-5. Students will be able to meet their teachers in the car rider line, and parents can drop off school supplies/classroom items at this time. Please label the supplies with the student's first and last name. Parents may give teachers money for the student's lunch account and/or classroom supply donations. Please remember to write separate checks, and checks need to have the student's first and last name and a phone number. Cash needs to be in a sealed envelope with the student's first and last name.

In addition, we will have staff located in the front circle drive for Cub Care registration, medication drop-off with Nurse Jenny, and PTO membership sign-up.

Will masks be required for students to wear at school?

Masks will be required when social distancing is not possible. Masks will be required for all students and staff when traveling throughout the school (hallways, restrooms, and arrival/dismissal times in the gym). Students will also be required to wear a mask on the bus. In the classroom where social distancing is possible, students will be encouraged but not required to wear masks.

What are the procedures for arrival?

When students arrive at school, they will go through scanners for temperature check (front door for bus riders/gym entrance for car riders). From 7:00-7:20, students will either go to the cafeteria to eat breakfast or to the gym. Students will be spread out in the gym by grade level, but they will need to wear their masks. At 7:20, students will be dismissed to their classes, except for any students who still need to eat breakfast.

What will my child do if he/she eats breakfast at school?

We will have two shifts for breakfast. From 7:00 - 7:20 bus riders will eat breakfast in the cafeteria - seated every other seat until we reach capacity; overflow students will join all other students in the gym for bus duty. At 7:20 we will begin dismissing breakfast students to classes and clean for the next group. We will lead car rider students and any other bus rider students who need to eat breakfast to the cafeteria to start the second shift for breakfast. Students arriving in the cafeteria after 7:55 will be given a sack breakfast and will take it to their classroom.

What are the procedures for lunch?

Classes will alternate eating in the cafeteria and their classroom. In the cafeteria, students will be seated every other seat. Each class will have a seating chart. When students eat in their classroom, a staff member will deliver meals to the room.

What is the policy for parents and/or visitors coming into the building this year?

At this time, only students and employees will be able to enter the school building. Visitors will not be allowed inside the school. This policy is to ensure safety for our students and staff. We have always loved and appreciated having our visitors and volunteers, and we look forward to the time when they can return to the school. Teachers will communicate with parents about various ways they may volunteer from home.

How will parents check out their students during the day or sign in students who are tardy?

Parents will ring the bell at the front door and communicate with the receptionist the name of the student that is being checked in/out. If a student is being checked out, the adult must show their identification in the camera. The identification must match the approved contact list in Infinite Campus. The receptionist will call the student to the office, making note of the time, reason, and person checking out the student. She will then walk the student to the front door. Please be patient as this new process may take longer than our normal check-out procedures.

Will the same safety protocols apply to the after school care program, Cub Care?

Yes, students will be in small groups. They will be required to wear masks in the hallways and bathrooms. In places where social distancing is possible, students will be encouraged but not required to wear a mask. Check-out procedures for Cub Care will be the same as above. Please remember social distancing as you wait to check out your child.

Will my child bring home their iPad or Chromebook?

Yes, parents will sign a technology contract, and students will bring home their iPad or Chromebook daily. Please remember to charge devices overnight and return each day. Teachers will not have extra devices or chargers.

Is it possible to send my student to school and then change my mind and register for Digital Learning?

Yes, parents have the option to switch from in-person learning to Digital Learning at any time.

QUESTIONS ABOUT DIGITAL LEARNING

How will Digital Learning be structured this year?

Catoosa County Schools purchased SchoolsPLP to be the content delivered to digital students at the elementary level. Students will be assigned a teacher from Catoosa County who will not necessarily be from the student's home school. SchoolsPLP will be the primary instructional tool. The teacher will support student learning through digital meetings with Google Meets. The teacher will meet with students in both large and small group live sessions. A variety of instructional methods will be utilized to engage digital students in learning. Finalized plans and teacher assignments will be communicated by August 21.

Is it possible to register my student for Digital Learning and then switch to in-person learning before the end of the nine weeks?

No, in order for a student to participate in Digital Learning, you must commit to complete the current grading period.

When will we be able to pick up iPads/chromebooks for digital learning students prior to the start of school this year?

Students participating in Digital Learning will receive their iPads/chromebooks on Thursday August 20th from 11:00-1:00 in the GES car rider line. At this time, we hope to be able to tell students who their digital teacher will be.