

Answers to Parent Questions

The following information will be updated as we receive more information from the Great Hearts Home Office and as we make more decisions on the campus level. Last Updated: 7/31/20

Health & Safety

Please see these two important documents: [GH Health Policy for Students and Staff](#) and [GH Covid Incident Response Guidelines](#).

With siblings, if 1 has a temperature (or is sick) do all have to quarantine? *No.*

What if one sibling was exposed, will all siblings quarantine? *Please see current guidelines (see links above, in blue.) They state that the only students/staff required to be quarantined are those who have tested positive, exhibit symptoms, or have been directly exposed to someone within 6' for 10mn or more. If multiple children in any given class are positive or have been exposed, there is a possibility that the entire class or section could be quarantined.*

Will students be reminded to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer throughout the day? *Yes, frequent hand sanitizing will be required.*

What's the response protocol for a child exhibiting Covid symptoms? *The protocols are quite extensive. Please see the current GH guidelines. Links are posted above, in blue type.*

Will children be visible to other children/families on recorded Zoom sessions? *Children will not be visible in recorded sessions, however the children who attend live-synchronous sessions will be able to see one another. (Their faces will not be included in the recording.)*

May students wear a face shield instead of a mask? *This will only be permitted if the child has a medical condition that prohibits him or her from wearing a mask. You will need to send the headmaster a letter in writing, requesting permission and stating the medical condition.*

What happens when a teacher contracts Covid? *The teacher will be quarantined and there will be a substitute teacher for their class.*

Training

Will you be offering training for parents on Google Classroom? *Great Hearts will have tutorial trainings available for parents beginning the weekend of July 31st. Please continue to check their website under [GHDL](#). In addition, each one of our grade level teams are planning specific help for parents, however some are doing this live, some by pre-recorded video, and some through additional tutorials specific to their grade level.*

Technology

For online courses, do students need a web cam and/or mic? *Yes they do, and please let us know if you do not have this available so we can help.*

Will the Google Classroom user name and password be the same that they were last year?
No. Students will be receiving new login information with new passwords.

Can you confirm if we must use Windows/Chrome OS or is Mac compatible with distance learning? Will iPads work and do we need to have a separate Bluetooth keyboard for it? *Macs and iPads with keyboards will work.*

Will live-synchronous Zoom sessions be recorded? *Yes, however this option is only available if there's a family situation where it's impossible for their child to participate in the live-synchronous lesson at the time it's scheduled (the student attends day care and/or both parents work and the student can't get on the computer without help.) In these cases, parents must communicate with the teacher ahead of time and receive approval from the teacher. All other students are expected to participate in live-synchronous instruction.*

How will students turn their work in? *There is an instructional video available for you to watch in ATW's [Distance Learning Resources](#), which will walk you through uploading student work.*

How do we apply for a loaner laptop if needed? *There was a GH survey/sign-up for this, but if you missed it, please contact our front office and we will add you to our list. Student laptop pick up will be on August 4th-5th and there will be more detailed information about the pick-up in our Friday Flash.*

Academic Expectations & Schedules

Where do we find the overview of student distance learning schedules? *If you go to our school website and scroll to the bottom, the 2nd link is titled "Distance Learning Resources". Click on this. All Distance Learning documents, including the learning schedule, can be found here.*

Will students have homework after the distance learning day? *You will not see anything titled "homework" in distance learning. All student practice will be titled "independent work." When students return to the classroom, there will be homework as usual.*

Will the on-campus classroom work and the DL work be the same for the scholars? *The content will be aligned, but the lessons may not be 100% identical. The learning expectations will be the same.*

If a student gets sick and has to be quarantined, can they learn online during the time they are quarantined? *Yes, as long as their health permits it.*

Are you aware of the technical issues many of us experienced with Google Classroom in spring and have these been addressed? *We were made aware of various issues and were able to troubleshoot most of them at the time. If it was an issue related to internet speed, we will extend grace on synchronous video requirements and/or deadlines during the 100% learning period. Whatever the issue, please do reach out to us, as we may be able to provide a solution.*

When and how often will assignments be due? *In almost all cases, homework will be due the following school day by 8am. The main exception to this is during 100% distance learning, if a student has key instruction after their independent work time, it will be due by the end of the independent work time the following day. Every assignment will include the specific date and time it is due.*

Do you anticipate Archway Zoom schedules to coordinate with Prep siblings? *No, the Archway & Prep schedules are not intentionally aligned or misaligned. This was not a possibility due to the complexities of each school's scheduling needs.*

Why are specials listed as optional on the schedule? *Only the synchronous enrichment lesson at the end of the day is optional. The independent learning time for specials is not optional, and there will generally be an asynchronous video available for this assignment. All students must take part in the required portion of specials classes.*

Logistics

What's the timeline for deciding each quarter? For example, when would we be making the decision for quarter 2? *This could change between now and September, but we believe this will be up to each individual GH school. We will likely need parents to decide at least a couple weeks before Fall Break, but we'll get you an exact date as time gets closer.*

When is the school year calendar coming out? What about the dates such as fall break and spring break? *The school calendar, including dates for all breaks, is posted on our school website. You may also [click here](#) to view it.*

Are uniforms still required for Distance learning? *It depends. Yes, when students are participating in live or synchronous video instruction, and no at all other times.*

My child will be in daycare during the live-synchronous zoom hours. Do I need to set up anything with the school or is it OK for her to view recorded zooms and complete schoolwork this way? *You'll need to email your child's teacher to let him or her know your situation. Grace will be extended in these situations. Your child will be able to watch live videos later in the day instead, however there must be communication with the teacher ahead of time.*

When will we know child classroom/teacher assignments? *Friday, July 31st*

Can you address the placard system with pick-up? What about Archway-Prep sibling drop-off? *Parents will be receiving a placard to place in the dash of their car for use during pick up. We will be using a different system this year and will explain it in full as the time gets closer. Students will stay in their classroom until we know their parent is in the car pick-up line. At this time, we're unsure if there will be a walk-up option for parents. We will let you know if any changes will be made to sibling drop-off as we get closer to August 31st.*

If we have chosen Distance Learning for the first quarter, do we need to drop off our child's school supplies by/on Aug. 31st, so things like Kleenex can be shared with the class? *No.*

Will you offer another town hall prior to quarter two? *That has not yet been decided, but if we plan one, we'll be sure to communicate this with you in the Friday Flash (school newsletter).*

Will clubs be available during quarter one? What about morning homework club? *The only clubs that will be offered are SportsKids on Wednesdays (starting early September) and remote clubs (when we know remote club options we'll be sure to notify you in the Friday Flash.)*

What date is Meet the Teacher? *Monday, August 3rd.*

If the state opens schools back up to full time learning will GH continue to offer DL to those who aren't quite ready to send their children back? *GH has not yet decided when to halt their DL option. We believe it will be an option as long as the pandemic is a major concern among our families.*

Are certain patterns or colors of face masks not permitted? *Face masks must be a solid color or they can have a pattern that is aligned with our school culture. No words, branding or pop culture on facemasks.*

How can we submit future questions? *Please email your child's teacher and he or she will either reply directly to you, or forward your question on to the leadership team or school nurse.*

Kindergarten

Will Kinder students be assessed before school starts? *Generally kinder students would be assessed before school starts, but not this year. Their academic levels will be assessed during quarter one to measure their growth throughout the school year.*

With Kinder students, are we able to choose half day distance learning during 100% Distance Learning (the first 3 weeks) then full day after, either while distance learning or at school learning? *The first 3 weeks for all Kinder students will be half day (no fee), however there will be afternoon learning options available to your child at no additional cost. Beginning August 31st, we will have both half day and full day programs available for both at-school and DL programs. As a reminder, there is a fee for the full-day program.*

Will Kinder students have homework? *You will not see anything titles "homework" in distance learning. All student practice will be titled "independent work." When students return to the classroom, yes, there will be homework. This is generally about 30mn per day for Kindergarten, plus reading time with a parent.*