



Will Greenwood Christian School be open and in person to start the 2020-21 school year?

Yes, the first day of classes is Aug. 19. We can't wait to see you!

There are several different scenarios proposed by the South Carolina Education Department and Governor's office regarding reopening schools across the state. Do those guidelines apply to Greenwood Christian School?

The Accelerate SC guidelines and related proposals are for the public school sector. The guidelines proposed by the GCS Board and Administration will be directly related to our school community and in the best interest of our students and staff. Public schools have their own unique set of challenges (examples: large numbers and busing transportation). While there is valuable insight and expertise we can incorporate from the SC education task force, as an independent school, GCS is not bound by its recommendations.

Will GCS amend the school calendar in anticipation of a potential resurgence of the COVID 19 this winter?

At this point, we will keep our current 2020-2021 calendar. Colleges and universities have taken such action because their students come from all over the world and reside in their community for classes. By ending the semester early they hope to limit departures and returns on campus during mini breaks.

Will GCS students and staff be required to wear masks?

Our Board and Administration will continue to monitor the local cases of positive COVID 19 tests, and adjust our advisory levels of optional to mandatory status accordingly. We acknowledge health officials strongly recommend the use of face masks to help mitigate the spread but are not 100% assured. The advisory levels could change week to week following the latest curve.

- Optional use is based per each parental preference on any given day.
- Mandatory use will be issued for 4th to 12th grade students and ALL employees (K3-12th faculty and staff) if the need arises.

We will strive to make sure no one feels uncomfortable for wearing a mask or taking additional precautions. COVID 19 bullying in any form will not be tolerated. We will also restrict any inappropriate graphics or sayings on masks.

Will you take the temperature of every student upon arrival on campus?

Yes. We will set up several check-in stations along the drop off route. However, parents are still accountable for their own child's health. We recommend parents take temperature readings daily. Students will not be allowed to attend school when they are sick. We anticipate extremely strict guidelines that reinforce many of our updated handbook policies – students with a fever of 100 degrees or higher and who exhibit virus-related symptoms are required to return home immediately without exception.

Do you foresee changes in the drop-off and pick-up schedules?

We already stagger our Primary, Elementary, Middle School and High School drop-off and pick-up times and locations. There may be additional procedures put into place to avoid traffic jams. Initially, we will prohibit walk-ins in the morning or afternoon.

Will hand washing and hand sanitizing be enforced?

Yes, we will be intentional about hand washing and educating our students about safety practices. We will make hand sanitizer readily available throughout campus.

How will desks be arranged in classrooms?

Our student count in each classroom is intentionally being kept low to accommodate social distancing protocols in a safe manner that will not compromise instruction. We intend to be creative and think outside the classroom, literally, by using multiple venues around campus, including the possibility of outdoor classrooms as weather permits.

Are you installing plexiglass and/or desk guards in classrooms?

We will establish personal space for students in their classrooms by arranging desks to observe social distancing practices. We do not anticipate installing plexiglass and/or desk guards in our classrooms.

How will you ensure students practice social distancing in the hallways between classes?

The following ideas are under consideration: staggering of the bell schedule and teachers in the hallways to facilitate social distancing. Again, the safety and health of our students will be at the forefront of the board's recommendations.

Will there be any changes on how students move about campus...have recess or P.E. classes...eat lunch?

Yes to all of the above! Administration will outline sanitization efforts related to playgrounds and the gym with students being expected to wash their hands both before and after each recess or P.E. session. All lunches will be eaten in classrooms. Purchased lunches will be delivered by staff.

Age specific classroom instruction:

- Primary grades will stay in their classroom for all instruction, related arts and lunch, except P.E. and recess.
- Elementary and Middle School students will stay in their homeroom class to minimize traffic in the hallways. However, to maximize the instruction, their teachers will rotate to them.
- High school students will continue to rotate to classes in a modified manner.

What happens if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

Keeping students confined to classrooms will help minimize potential exposure. However, we also know we have no control of interaction that goes on when a student is away from GCS.

- Any student who tests positive will be required to quarantine for 14 days and return only with a doctor's release
- In addition, any student with a household member who tests positive will be required to quarantine for 14 days.

What happens if a student in my child's class tests positive for COVID-19?

- If the classmate with a positive test was wearing a mask, the neighboring students do not have to quarantine.
- If the classmate with a positive test was NOT wearing a mask, the adjacent students will be required to quarantine for 4 days and in both instances parents should be looking for symptoms.

What if a student becomes uncomfortable attending class in-person for a brief period?

We understand the virus may create anxiety, and we will work with them to determine how we can accommodate their learning as if it was an excused medical absence and send work home. They do not need to be fearful of getting penalized if they are not on campus. However, it is not feasible to expect our teachers to perform both in-person and virtual learning instruction.

How will GCS proceed if you must temporarily suspend in-person operations?

We are proud of the virtual learning platforms that evolved over the course of last spring. We are currently reviewing our efforts and will determine the specific modality for specific grade levels. We will also plan "practice E-learning days" throughout the school year to avoid any lapse in instruction. In addition, we will work with parents to make sure they are kept updated to ensure familiarity with the software and forming consistent practices in preparation of a virtual learning time period.

Will there be a tuition refund should I choose not to send my enrolled student(s) to GCS?

Yes, if you withdraw your student(s) by Friday, July 31, 2020, any payments made in full or for June and July will be refunded if you were on the 12-month payment plan. No refunds will be issued after Aug. 1, 2020.

Will there be a discount or credit should the school be forced into a virtual E-learning format?

Upon admission, GCS families agree to pay tuition for the duration of enrollment based on the payment plan selected at the time of their enrollment. This includes summer months, holiday observances, snow days, in-service days and E-learning etc. Based on our budget constraints, the only alternative to not honoring the commitment to pay tuition is to withdraw the student(s). While it isn't the preferred traditional teaching/learning scenario we desire – we are providing academic learning and (some say), more than expected emotional, technical and learning support.

How will the current COVID 19 situation affect student athletes and sporting events?

We are following SCISA guidelines and anticipate their policy to be formalized by the start of school. As of right now, games between SCISA schools are on schedule.

We understand these circumstances are creating more unanswered questions as the data is changing frequently. We are facing unprecedented situations, and we know that places the risk of school choice on each family. Our administration and board of directors is taking every measure to ensure Greenwood Christian rises to this challenge and places faith over fear with caution and common sense.

Thank you for your continued partnership and prayers.

As of 7-21- 2020

GCS, accredited by ACTS (nationally); AdvancED / SACS (regionally); a member of SCISA (statewide); does not discriminate against race or ethnic origin in administration of its educational, admission and athletic policies, tuition assistance or any other school administered programs.