

Hybrid In-Person School 2020-2021 Education Plan: Cohort Model Grades K – 8

Greene Street Friends School will move to a Cohort Model in mid-October in a phased opening of grade levels, reflecting the need for social distancing to ensure the safest learning environment possible for in-person attendance for both our students and staff. In this model, students will attend with a cohort of students so that class sizes are significantly smaller than usual, approximately half of their typical class size. This will allow for focused instruction, opportunities for individualized teaching and learning, and increased safety for students and staff. In this model, students will attend school in-person for two out of the five days (either Monday & Tuesday - **Cohort Ago** or Thursday and Friday - **Cohort Ame**).

On Wednesdays, the school will engage in essential cleaning and sanitizing so that the new cohort of students can re-enter the schools with confidence in the safety of the environment. During this time, students will continue to follow the current Wednesday virtual schedule which includes a variety of activities such as synchronous and asynchronous classroom learning, electives and small group support. Teachers will engage in professional development, lesson planning, grading, attending meetings, collaborating with colleagues, learning new technology, innovating for teaching and learning, meeting with students, and communicating with families.

For those who opt for in-person (hybrid) instruction, attendance will be for a full day, for two days a week and receive synchronous online instruction two days a week. Depending on the developmental age of the student, some classrooms will use their lead and associate teachers to divide instruction between in-person and Zoom while others will have one lesson being taught simultaneously to both in-person and at-home students.

For those who opt to learn from home five days a week, students will receive the same content and will continue to have multiple synchronous teaching sessions per day, learning alongside the cohort of students who are also at home on those days.

Our teachers, who have “moved mountains” to create a dynamic virtual learning experience will no doubt continue their incredible efforts while adjusting once again to yet another new teaching reality of hybrid instruction. It is safe to assume that this new model will have unpredictable challenges and that even in the best scenarios will still not be a substitute for typical pre-COVID in-person instruction. Families should expect an enriching and fulfilling academic experience, but one that is different and modified from what they may be used to.

Schedule:

All grades will strive to maintain a similar schedule of classes from our virtual schedule. Given the possibility of returning to a full virtual school scenario, we will aim for consistency in our organization of classes. Specialists (Art, Music etc.) will continue to stream synchronous lessons each day and not be mixing with in-person cohorts. This is primarily to protect the health of specialist teachers who would otherwise see hundreds of students throughout the week. This

arrangement will also allow students learning both in-person and at-home to connect to the same synchronous special lessons each day.

Drop Off/Pick Up:

Students may not arrive on campus before 7:45 am (unless they are on the bus). There is no early care and students will be escorted from their cohort's designated meeting spot into their classroom by a teacher or administrator. No parents/caregivers will be allowed in the classrooms or buildings as we work to keep everyone safe. At 3:00, classes will return to their designated meeting spots for dismissal. At this time, there will be no After School Program or extracurriculars.

Recess/Lunch/Outdoor Classrooms:

The campus will be divided into specified lunch/recess and outdoor classroom areas. Some areas will be covered and some will not. We ask that all students come prepared to be outside every day regardless of the weather. This includes rainy and cold days. These areas will have strict accompanying schedules that will be adhered to by all classes in order to maintain cohort separation even while outside.

Every class will have a scheduled time and place to eat lunch outside. It is possible that weather conditions may necessitate indoor lunch on occasion. In those instances, proper distances and ventilation will be ensured. There will be no microwaves available to heat lunches so please pack accordingly. The same procedures will be followed for snack.

Masks

In accordance with our reopening plan, all students will be required to wear masks at all times (aside from lunch and spaced out mask breaks). Students that are unable to adhere to this requirement will not be allowed to participate in our in-person instruction. Masks should be 2-layers and may not have a valve. In addition, we encourage mask hooks and lanyards to keep masks on and safe from falling to the floor.

Headphones & Devices

In most cases, we will ask students to bring their devices and headphones (with a built-in microphone) with them to school each day and then bring them back home at the end of each day. This will allow teachers to best utilize this technology for both in-person and virtual instruction. Please also make sure chargers are packed. Students must also bring necessary materials for the day's specialist classes.

