



Grass Valley School District

Community Forum
2020-2021 School Reopening

Superintendent - Andrew Withers

July 29, 2020

Welcome and Purpose - Thank you for joining us!

The purpose of today's presentation is to share details regarding the development of the Grass Valley 2020-2021 School Reopening Plan

At the conclusion of this presentation, we will review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that were submitted

While we may not have detailed answers to all questions at this time, we will continue to work to finalize our program structures to ensure parents, staff and community members have the information they need to start the school year

Note - We will be providing this same presentation in Spanish on Thursday August 6th at 6:00pm. Esta presentación se va a repetir en español el jueves, 6 de agosto a las 6pm. El enlace es:

<https://zoom.us/j/96108795063?pwd=cXNqMFAzQUxQVByK2M4TDR2TDhtdz09>

School Board Message

Board President - Lisa Jarvis



Grass Valley Teacher Message

John Frantz - Teacher at Lyman Gilmore



Background

- We are working in coordination with the Nevada County Public Health Office and Superintendent of Schools Office to review and respond to the updated data, information and guidelines regarding COVID-19
- We have distributed parent and staff communications and surveys between March and July 2020
- MOU Negotiations and discussions with bargaining units are in process
- The Grass Valley School Board approved a 3-Phase Reopening Plan on July 21
- We will be in Phase-1 Online Learning for the first 6 weeks of the school year August 18 - September 25
- We will provide a districtwide update regarding the instructional model after September 25th following the September 8th Board Meeting

Nevada County Task Force

Our District Leadership participates in weekly Task Force meetings led by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools with direct updates guidance from our Nevada County Public Health Department

We received updated guidelines and communication protocols on July 14th and 15th and are implementing these in our summer program offerings

[A Public Health Guided Return to Site-Based Classroom Instruction - July 14](#)

[COVID Exposure Guide for Schools - July 15](#)

State Guidance and Updates

[Governor Newsom](#) and the [California Department of Public Health](#) released additional guidance on July 17th. This is the most current State guidance however it remains subject to additional changes.



Summary of State Guidance

1. General Measures - Development of site specific prevention plans, trainings, and collaboration with County Public Health

2. Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices - Teach and reinforce hand washing and hygiene including the use of hand sanitizers and face coverings

3. Face Coverings - Children aged 2 to 2nd grade are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings.

Staff and students 3rd grade and above must wear face coverings. Schools must exclude students if they are not compliant unless they are exempt from wearing face coverings. Staff may wear face shields in limited situations

4. Ensure Teacher and Staff Safety - Physical distancing and face coverings outlined

5. Intensify Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation - Additional cleaning and sanitation details outlined

Summary of State Guidance

- 6. Implementing Distancing Inside and Outside the Classrooms** - Arrival and departure planning, classroom space, and non-classroom space guidelines
- 7. Limit Sharing** - Guidelines regarding storage containers, supplies and equipment are outlined
- 8. Train all Staff and Educate Families** - Trainings will be provided
- 9. Check for Signs and Symptoms** - Daily screening, monitoring and documentation to support contact tracing
- 10. Plan for When a Staff Member, Child or Visitor Becomes Sick** - Symptoms checklist and communication guidelines provided
- 11. Maintain Health Operations** - Establishing designated site liaisons responsible for COVID-19 concerns
- 12. Considerations for Reopening and Partial or Total School Closures** - Developing a clear plan for the continuity of education are required

Grass Valley 3-Phase Instructional Program

Phase 1 -- Learning at Home (Online Learning)

- Students learn at home, 5 days a week, with daily instruction
- Teachers and service providers will connect with students remotely
- Instruction includes a combination of live instruction, digital or hard copy assignments and/or pre-recorded lessons

Phase 2 -- Hybrid Model

- Reduced student numbers for part day on-site classes with students in cohorts
- Two days of in person instruction and three days of learning at home
- Alternating days of student at school learning (e.g. Cohort A=Monday/Tuesday and Cohort B=Thursday/Friday)

Phase 3 -- Traditional School with Safety Precautions in place

- All safety practices and guidelines as outlined by the Nevada County Public Health Department and CDC will be followed
- Full school day of instruction, on campus 5 days a week

*** We will move between these phases based on State and County Public Health Guidelines**

**** Full online learning (Grass Valley Virtual Program) will be offered in addition to the 3-Phases based on family preference and/or student medical needs**

GVSD 3-Phase Approach to Reopening

- Dynamic data and policy shifts during COVID-19 have shown us that we need to be prepared to provide teaching and learning in multiple formats.
- We will move between the 3-phases based on State and County Public Health Guidelines.
- Reminder - Full online learning (Grass Valley Virtual Program) will be offered in addition to the 3-phases based on family preference and medical needs.

Student Services

- All student services, including but not limited to Special Education services, support for English Learners, Foster Youth, Homeless Students and 504 accommodations, will be provided per Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
- Services including in-person learning needs will be provided to students in accordance with County Public Health, State Mandates and IEP Guidelines.



Crisis Support vs. Online Learning

Crisis Support (March-May 2020)

- Teacher Check-ins
- Unplanned/Reactive
- Materials Used: Worksheets, Computers and/or emailed lesson plans
- Focused on review, restricted ability to teach new concepts
- Flexible without daily requirements
- Credit/No Credit
- No Attendance
- No Assessments

Online Learning (August-TBD 2020)

- Teacher Led Instruction
- Purposeful and Standards Driven
- Technology Integration
- Materials Used: Board Adopted Curriculum via Computers or Hard Copy Documents
- Focused on Grade Level Standards utilizing Essential Standards
- Scheduled/Planned School Day
- Graded Assignments and Report Cards
- Daily Attendance
- Assessments scheduled regularly

Technology

- Chromebooks will be offered to families based on need and we are finalizing our first day packet and technology distribution plans now.
- We will be using Google Classroom to support instruction and communications between teachers, students, and parents.
- Technology trainings and videos will be provided to support our transition
- We are researching 3 options to ensure students/families have access to the classroom instructional content
 - personal wifi-access points
 - In-person district work locations with safety practices and socially distancing required
 - Hard copy work materials

State Instructional Requirements - 2020-2021

The State has established daily instructional minute requirements. These minutes are a combination of instructional minutes as well as small group and independent work time. Students will NOT be required to be on the computer for this entire length of time daily however they will have access to ongoing support from staff

- Kindergarten - 180 minutes
- 1st-3rd - 230 minutes
- 4th-12th - 240 minutes

Phase 1 -- Learning at Home (Online Learning)

- Students learn at home, 5 days a week, with daily instruction
- Teachers and service providers will connect with students remotely
- Instruction includes a combination of live instruction, digital or hard copy assignments and/or pre-recorded lessons

- Students will receive instruction and grade level content 5 days per week
- All classrooms will utilize Google Classroom as the primary instructional platform
- Content will be aligned to grade level standards and will include daily “live interaction” with staff including; internet, telephone communication, and/or hard copy learning materials
- Schedules will be developed and aligned by school site with direct teacher input

Phase 1 -- Learning at Home

- Elementary Staff will work to establish clear practices by grade level with content instruction. Current Concept:
 - Morning/Before Noon- Grade level content instruction
 - Afternoon- Reteaching and small group opportunities scheduled

- Middle School Staff will provide instruction in core content and elective courses on a block schedule format. Current Concept:
 - Morning/Before Noon- core content area instruction
 - Afternoon- Electives, Reteaching and small group opportunities scheduled

Phase 1 -- Learning at Home

- Student attendance and engagement will be monitored and support will be provided to ensure success
- Small group and targeted support will be designed by classroom teachers to assist student progress
- Student assessments will be used to guide instructional support
- Classroom teachers will provide regular communication to students and parents regarding academic progress consistent with established practices during traditional in-person learning.
- Please Note - any live virtual instruction provided will not include identifiable student information

Phase 2 - Additional Details

Phase 2 -- Hybrid Model

- Reduced student numbers for part day on-site classes with students in cohorts
- Two days of in person instruction and three days of learning at home
- Alternating days of student at school learning (e.g. Cohort A=Monday/Tuesday and Cohort B=Thursday/Friday)

- Specific details for this instructional model are being defined by staff teams
- We may not be able to provide the full details of this until after the school year officially begins.
- The soonest possible time we could be in this format would be on September 28th.
- Transition to this format will be based on County Public Health Guidelines with Board recommendation/action

Phase 3 - Additional Details

Phase 3 -- Traditional School with Safety Precautions in place

- All safety practices and guidelines as outlined by the Nevada County Public Health Department and CDC will be followed
 - Full school day of instruction, on campus 5 days a week
-
- Specific details for this instructional model are being defined by staff teams
 - We may not be able to provide the full details of this until after the school year officially begins.
 - Transition to this format will be based on County Public Health Guidelines with Board recommendation/action

Frequently Asked Questions

- We received 109 questions/responses from our community and we have organized them into a frequently asked questions [\(FAQ\)](#) document.
- Reminder: While we may not have detailed answers to all questions at this time, we will continue to work to finalize our program structures to ensure parents, staff and community members have the information they need to start the school year

Next Steps

- Continue to finalize preparations and communicate scheduling details to parents and staff
- Complete MOU bargaining with our district associations
- Provide training and support staff to ensure high quality supports and structures are in place to ensure engagement and access for our students
- Provide districtwide updates in August with class placement and schedule details
- Provide districtwide updates following the September 8 Board meeting