

G2S Return to School Fall 2020

Q & A

The following questions and answers give an overview of the plan G2S has created for returning to school in the fall of 2020.

Will we return to face to face instruction?

If our region is in phase 4, 5, or 6, of the [MI Safe Start](#) economic engagement phases, we will be allowed to return to face to face instruction, but if we are in phases 1-3, we will only be allowed to offer virtual or remote learning. We are currently in phase 4.

Will there be different learning options available to students?

Students and families will have the flexibility to choose the learning option that works best for them.

1. **Face-to-Face** - Attend face to face classes in the building (if our region is in phase 4, 5, or 6)
2. **Virtual Face-to Face (Via Zoom)** - Attend classes live using Zoom.
3. **Remote Learning** - Complete coursework online following your own daily timeline (ideal for families wanting to homeschool).
4. **Customized Plan** - Develop a customized plan that combines elements of options 1, 2, or 3 (ie. if a student needed to work two days a week, they could do their work online before or after work those days)

What is the daily schedule?

- 9:00 to 11:25am
 - Flexible morning schedule with options for working in the Makerspace, advanced writing instruction, reading groups, presentation seminars, CareTeams, and electives
- 11:25 to 11:55am
 - Lunch
- 11:55am to 3:00pm
 - Monday through Thursday: Four 40 minute classes/10 minute breaks
 - Fridays: Flexible learning time and collaborative staff planning/PD

How will coursework be organized? We will use a digital tool called Trello to organize all of our courses. Using Trello, teachers will design a board for each course they teach, so students and parents can easily access all the information they need in one place. Students will use Trello to navigate daily assignments, communicate with their teacher, and turn work in.

What have you done to create a successful online learning experience?

Our staff spent four weeks prior to starting school in the spring studying best practice for online/virtual instruction, and all of our classes are developed with this in mind. Using these strategies allows students to have a more enjoyable and successful online learning experience, and has improved our overall instruction. Courses have been re-designed to fit our new model.

How will you create a safe learning environment with COVID-19?

We are developing detailed safety procedures that are in line with the guidelines provided by the [MI Safe Schools: Return to School Roadmap](#) and [Executive Order 2020-14](#). We are committed to implementing policies and procedures that will minimize risk related to the spread of COVID-19 in our building. Masks will be worn by students and staff in phase 4 (as required), and we will implement reasonable social distancing guidelines. Recommendations to increase hand washing and closely monitor staff and students for symptoms related to COVID-19 will also be followed. Since our facility is only four years old, we will be able to utilize modern technology related to air filtration and provide fresh air regularly throughout the building. Protecting air quality has proven to be an important factor in limiting the spread of COVID-19.

Are you still utilizing Project Based Learning (PBL)?

As we move towards more online options, we continue to make PBL the cornerstone of our instruction, setting us apart from other school districts. PBL is about learning by doing, and is a strong instructional model used at high performing schools across the country (High Tech High in San Diego, California). PBL uses relevant driving questions that push students to think deeply and make connections between what they are learning and the world around them.

What level of technology support will you provide?

We will provide all of our students with a chromebook, and work to ensure they have reliable internet access by working with local providers and supplying individual hotspots when necessary. Over the course of the last school year, we were able to secure consistent internet connectivity for almost 100% of our students. Our mobile "Tech Team" will travel to students' homes if needed to deliver devices and resolve technology issues that arise.