



Dear GDS Community,

Today, we are sharing a video from our [Parent Education Series](#) about [Planned Virtual Learning and the Learning From Home Option](#) for our Middle and Upper School Divisions. As we prepare for the fall, it is important to note that COVID-19 has created constantly changing circumstances. This video will inform you of our plans in case we have to shift learning models due to changing situations. Our commitment to academic excellence still prevails during these unexpected challenges we face.

We continue to monitor events and will make any adjustments that our public health agencies or local and state government require. Our number one priority is to keep our community safe. We continue to add details to our [re-opening webpage](#) throughout the summer and let you know by email about significant changes. Please check back often and stay informed.

As we look forward to starting school on campus on August 13th and 14th, we would like to share our guiding document for a healthy and successful reopening of campus. Click on our [Policies and Procedures Manual](#) to review our plans for creating a safe and successful learning environment.

Each of us has an important role in creating a safe and healthy school. Please follow basic requirements to stay healthy: wear a mask, avoid large crowds, practice physical distancing, wash your hands, take your temperature, and stay home if you're sick.

I encourage you to watch our next **Parent Education Series** on Thursday, July 30, 2020 with a video from Dean of Students, Candyce Owens, and Athletic Director, Casey Field about Student Life & Athletics. This video will cover topics that include staying connected and social emotional health, GDS community events, clubs, athletics and virtual athletic teams.

I am confident that our community can have a successful and safe return. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [rarkin@gastonday.org](mailto:rarkin@gastonday.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Richard E. Rankin, Jr.' in a cursive script.

Richard Rankin, Jr.  
Anderson Davis Warlick Head of School