



Dear GDS Community,

First, allow me to thank you for your partnership during this challenging period we face. Our community has proven to be resilient and caring. Your response during our shift to virtual learning in the spring allowed our students and your children to continue learning, and we were able to adapt and deliver a superior education and active social connection.

I want to answer a vital question I've received a lot lately: *"What does next year look like?"*

We heard in the survey that you want us to offer options, be safe, and to take precautions. Our COVID-19 Operations Team continues to work with healthcare experts and educational associations to determine what a safe and healthy school looks like. I want to update you on plans we are developing for Gaston Day School next year.

### **LEARNING OPTIONS**

We know the ideal vision for next year is to have a traditional learning setting on campus. We are preparing for different scenarios that include reopening campus with in-person learning for the entire school year. To ensure we are doing everything we can to make Gaston Day safer, this involves changes to the daily schedule, smaller class sizes, and adjustments to classrooms/spaces to allow for physical distancing.

We are also preparing for scenarios that include virtual learning. We recognize that some families would like the option for their students to continue learning from home. We also recognize that new health policies may require both teachers and students to have increased absences. Finally, we are preparing for the possibility of sustained outbreaks and the Governor issuing a stay-at-home order. All of our models allow for continued instruction if someone is unable to be on campus for any reason.

No matter what the circumstances, Gaston Day will provide an education of the highest quality. We have learned a lot this year about virtual education, and we continue to improve. We will also continue to concentrate on supporting student wellness, fostering social growth, and maintaining a sense of community. I believe we are well prepared to deliver any of the above educational models.

Gaston Day continues the **Parent Education Series** next week with a video from the division heads outlining the different scenarios as well as reviewing recommendations from the CDC and the local health department.

### **TUITION**

Tuition and fees set in January will remain unchanged for the upcoming year; to reduce tuition means weakening the educational product. We hope you see the value in what we deliver: a superior education and an active student life second to none. Gaston Day is making unprecedented investments to strengthen and expand the delivery of our education. We understand that many families are facing difficult circumstances due to hardships created by the COVID-19 crisis. If you have concerns regarding tuition and financial obligations, please contact us. We are here to work with our families and develop solutions. Please reach out to us prior to June 30, 2020 to discuss your concerns.

### **IMPROVEMENTS IN SAFETY**

We want to be honest with you and tell you that the coming school year **IS** going to be different. Until a vaccine is developed for COVID-19, this crisis will still be with us. Physical distancing requirements and other health considerations compel us to make changes and improvements to keep our community safe and healthy. You should expect lower classroom capacities, student and employee temperature monitoring, cleaning and disinfecting adjustments, and many more safety precautions.

As always, we will continue to update you with any news and information. Thank you for your continued support and dedication. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [rrankin@gastoday.org](mailto:rrankin@gastoday.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard E. Rankin, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Richard Rankin, Jr.  
Anderson Davis Warlick Head of School