



Dear GDS Families,

I hope you had a nice weekend and are continuing to enjoy summer break!

Over the past few weeks, we have shared many of the changes for the 20-21 school year as part of our COVID-19 reopening plan. The campus will certainly look and feel different than when we last held classes in March. We understand that all of these changes and new procedures may be challenging for some of our students, and we want to ensure they have a smooth transition when starting school in just a few weeks.

For that reason, **we are planning to reopen school at 50% capacity for the first two days of school on August 13 and August 14.** We have divided the entire student population into two groups: Gold and Blue. We believe that having only half of our students come back to campus at a time will allow them to return to campus in a less overwhelming environment, learn the new procedures in small groups of their peers, and have more opportunities for check-ins with faculty about how they are feeling.

On Thursday, August 13, all students in the Gold group will attend a full day of classes with time devoted to learning new policies and answering questions. Students in the Blue group are not expected to come to campus this day and are not expected to “learn from home.” On Friday, August 14, all students in the Blue group will attend a full day of classes, while the Gold group stays at home. Both groups will then come to school together on Monday, August 17.

GROUP	THURSDAY, AUGUST 13	FRIDAY, AUGUST 14	MONDAY, AUGUST 17
GOLD	Return to campus (full day)	Stay at home	Return to campus (full day)
BLUE	Stay at home	Return to campus (full day)	Return to campus (full day)

This staggered start will also allow the faculty and administration an opportunity to test our new procedures and traffic patterns with time over the weekend to troubleshoot any areas as needed before we return to full capacity.

We will be sharing more information about the first days of school in a video that will come out the first week of August. Once you have reviewed the video, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to John Nussbaumer for Middle School and Kim Perlman for Upper School.

We hope you have a wonderful week!

Sincerely,

Kim Perlman & John Nussbaumer