



Grand Rapids Christian High School
2300 Plymouth Ave. SE | Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.574.5500 | grcs.org/highschool

Dear GRCHS Families,

We pray that your family is healthy and enjoying a summer free from the busyness of the school year. There is no denying that we are living in difficult times where many of us are experiencing increased anxiety and stress of many kinds. The GRCS theme for 2020-2021 is **"All Things. Hold Together."** It comes from Colossians 1:17 that says, *"He is before all things, and in Him, all things hold together."* What an important time for Christian education, where we can model for our students that God goes before us, holds us together, and that our hope is in Him!

As you might imagine, we have been working hard to plan for the August 19 start date. We recognize that there are many ongoing questions about what this will look like. Our promise is that we will boldly advance our mission of preparing students to be effective servants of Christ while providing both a safe in-person learning environment and flexible options for families who choose to begin the school year learning off-campus.

Hopefully, you have had a chance to watch the back to school videos that GRCS released recently. They provide some clarity around what school will look like. This letter provides more specific information about the high school's plan for safe and flexible learning. Next week, GRCS will submit its official reopening plan to the state. All families will receive a copy of this as well.

All classrooms and spaces that are occupied by students are set up in a way that emphasizes physical distancing. Any time that students share a table, there will be plastic dividers in place. We are prioritizing air circulation with open doors, windows, and a greatly increased amount of outdoor air cycling through the building.

The daily schedule will also look a bit different to make our school as safe as possible. You can find a copy of the new daily schedule [here](#). Please note the following details about our schedule adjustments:

- Each day will start with a "late start" at 8:35 to encourage a staggered arrival.
- We will run two lunches to reduce the amount of students in the lunchroom together.
- Passing time will be only five minutes and the hallways will have directional tape to control traffic.
- Chapel will be broadcast into classrooms and/or run in small groups during Focus Period.
- A "chime" will sound with five minutes remaining in each period signaling students and staff to go through cleaning procedures where they disinfect their hands and workspace.
- Our first day, Wednesday, August 19, will have on-campus instruction, but after that, Wednesdays will be off-campus learning days for all students where teachers may choose synchronous or asynchronous instruction. We will build upon successes from last spring to make this a valuable part of students' learning experience.
- There may be unique circumstances where some students benefit from being on campus on Wednesdays. Counselors or program coordinators are available to explore this option.
- The building will be deeply cleaned both on Wednesdays and over the weekend.
- Students will be asked to exit the building by 3:00. Students with after school activities must report to their designated areas.

As mentioned above, we recognize the need for flexibility in learning formats. Each family has the option to choose off-campus learning for their student. Please note the following details about off-campus learning:

- Each classroom will feature technology with high-quality video and sound that allows students to watch class from home.
- Each class will also be recorded and uploaded at a later time to Google Classroom.
- Although students' ability to ask questions during class may be limited, teachers will be available during Focus Period to interact with students who are learning at home.
- Online instruction is intended to provide a seamless transition back into the classroom if a student's circumstances change.
- More information is coming soon about how families choose this option.

In addition to all these details that are unique to this school year, there are many other pieces of information that will be important for you to be familiar with:

- Orientation Details and Freshman Launch Information
- Please review the Parent/Student Handbook as a family
- Each student is assigned a counselor
- Parking Regulations and Application
- Senior Picture Information
- Technology and Parent Portal Information
- GRCS Family Calendar and GRCHS Student Calendar
- Lunch Details and Lunch FAQ
- Athletics Website and other Student Opportunities
- The Portrait of a Graduate is a picture of who we want our students to become

We recognize that some things will look different this year, but we also want to assure you that the values and mission that drive us are stronger than they have ever been. We remain committed to being a Christ-centered, inclusive school, where all students learn at a high level and are prepared to use their gifts for lives of service. We are honored that you continue to partner with us in this important work!

We look forward to seeing you at orientation on August 12 — 18. Look for more communication in early August about the process for choosing off-campus learning. Do not hesitate to call the office at any time with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. P. Mockabee", with a stylized, flowing script.

Bradley P. Mockabee, Principal