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December 21, 2020

Dear Parents,

As incredible as it sounds, we are halfway through the school year. To say that it has been a challenging year is an understatement. COVID-19 has changed the way we carry on our daily lives, including school. Below are some items for your clarification as we move into second semester:

COVID-19 Safety

For the safety of your children and our staff, we have had to take some drastic measures, including cancelling many of our traditional GCS bonding activities (Agape Feast, Field Day, Bonfire Vespers, Christmas program, etc). It is my hope that things will eventually go back to normal in the near future. However, for the time being, that is not the case.

Recently, I received an updated plan for COVID in our schools from the Lake County Health Department. Most requirements will remain the same (for example: masks must continue to be worn); however, they are no longer requiring us to take temperatures. This will be left to the parents. For purposes of contact tracing, we will now include that on the wellness form to be filled out daily.

Rather than check your child's temperature in the morning, we will verify that you have submitted the wellness form before your child can enter the building. For this reason, we are asking that this be filled out before your arrival. We will print out the list just before 7:30 am for verification. If you forget (which we know happens sometimes), you can fill out the paper form when you arrive. Attached you will find the new, updated COVID protocols that will be put into effect beginning January 4, 2021.

Distance Learning

We just got word from Step Up that they will continue to honor Distance Learning for second semester for those with health issues. We simply need confirmation from those families before January 4th.

If you wish to move your child from distance learning to brick & mortar (or vice versa), this is the time to do so. For the sake of continuity and less confusion, we ask that once a decision is made that you stay with that form of learning for the duration of a full quarter. Please understand that this is not something that can change from week to week. Even though our numbers are smaller this year, our teachers continue to work extremely hard to give your child/children a quality education. We ask that you work with us in this area to maintain as much consistency as possible.

A contract is being sent home that outlines the expectations for online as well as brick & mortar students. We ask that you read it over carefully and sign upon your child's return to school on January 4, 2021.

Finally, we will be accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year beginning in January. Please keep this in mind as you head into Christmas and the New Year.

Thank you for choosing Gateway Christian School and entrusting us with the academic, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of your child/children. We take that responsibility very seriously.

In His continued service,

Sharlene Curet

Sharlene Curet
Principal