

***Please Note: The following protocols are a general guide and are subject to change without notice. We consult with the Lake County Health Department and follow their recommendations on each individual case.***

## **Gateway Christian School COVID-19 Protocols Updated (Beginning January 2021)**

### **Academics**

Parents will have the choice of the following:

- A traditional “brick & mortar” education
- A Synchronous Learning Model. Students will be participating in real time with their teacher and classmates via distance learning throughout the school day. For students to remain enrolled, they must attend class during school hours. Online attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class to verify participation. Exceptions will be made for students who must quarantine or become ill.

### **Things to Note:**

- Parents choosing Distance Learning will commit for the minimum duration of one academic quarter.
- Distance Learning families will sign a contract outlining expectations of teacher/parent/child before the beginning of the semester. Adherence to these guidelines will ensure their continuance in the program.
- All teachers will be using Canvas to post assignments and Microsoft Teams to deliver live instruction.
- Please understand (and be prepared) to move to a Distance Learning Model for all students in the event of an outbreak as per guidance from the Lake County Health Department.

### **School Devices:**

- All students (both in-class & online) will be issued their own laptop/iPad at the beginning of the school year.
  - However, in-class students will not be allowed to take their devices home unless they end up having to move to Distance Learning due to illness/quarantine or for an extended amount (as per order of the health department).
  - If the technology is not returned by May 31, 2021 or is returned in poor working condition, you will be charged a \$500 technology replacement fee. This fee will be billed to your account and would be payable within 30 days.

### **School hours:**

- Monday – Thursday from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Fridays from 8:00 am – Noon. Please note that dismissal will be at noon instead of 1:00 pm as has been in the past. This extra hour is for the purpose of connecting with our online students (a requirement of the Florida Department of Education).
- There will be NO AFTERCARE until further notice.
- Students who live with a family member who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not be allowed in the building.

**Drop off/Dismissal/Late Arrivals:**

- For continued safety, only essential staff will be allowed in the building.
- During the morning drop-off, please follow the flow of traffic and remain in your vehicle until completion of the wellness form has been confirmed.
  
- Wellness forms should be completed by 7:25 am.
- Students arriving late must be accompanied by a parent to the front door at which time, completion of wellness form will be confirmed before being allowed into the building.

**Classroom environment:**

- Class sizes will be limited to reduce risk of exposure.
- Protective measures have been taken to reduce the risk of COVID such as face coverings, face shields, and barriers.
- Students will be required to wear masks when interacting with other students/teachers/staff and moving within the building. They may remove the mask when working independently in their isolated area.
- Desks and common areas will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day by students and teachers. All cleaning products have been approved by the EPA and are non-bleach in order to preserve student attire.
- Classes will not interact with other classes unless in a cohort. The only exception will be in grades 5-8 when they switch classrooms. They will clean all surfaces before they leave to minimize risk.
- Lunch will be in the classroom

**If a child exhibits symptom(s):**

- He/she will be placed in quarantine and you will be contacted immediately.
- We ask that you pick up your child within the hour to minimize the risk of infection. After one hour, a quarantine fee of \$25/hour will be charged to be paid before returning to school.
- Symptomatic students and staff who have not been evaluated by a medical provider, tested positive for COVID-19, or diagnosed with another illness should follow COVID-19 isolation release criteria, as described (per Lake County Health Department):
  - Cases may return to school after at least 10 days have passed since the day of symptom onset and the case has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication and other symptoms are improving
  - Family members of this students should [also] be excluded from school for 14 days from last exposure to case while infectious.
  
- Please note that we are required to report all COVID-19 cases to the local health department.

Sources:

\*Lake County Health Department (as of December, 2020)

\*CDC Guidelines (December 2020)