

COVID-19 Updates and Instructional Plan Revisions

November 15, 2020

Community Engagement and Plan Development

GCCS relied on CREW to create sustainable plans for the 2020-2021 school year. The GCCS Reopening Task Force used the following measures to collect information from community stakeholders to make informed decisions for reopening the school.

Updated Community Engagement

- August, 2020 - Launched a new GCCS YouTube Channel for school videos about Reopening as well as Mental Health and Wellness.
- Held Virtual Open House for Grades K - 6 on Thursday, August 27th
- Held GCCS Orientation Days for Grades K - 6 on September 2nd and 3rd for students and families to see the classrooms, talk to or meet the teachers, and collect materials for remote learning (chromebooks, cases, books, etc.)
- Moved GCCS Curriculum Night to an earlier date on the evening of September 22nd. Recorded the evening for families to view on the GCCS YouTube Channel.
- Held a "Shedding Light with Shannon" Zoom Session for Families in October to informally converse with the School Leader about the reopening experience.
- Surveyed staff the week of October 26th and families the week of November 2nd to learn about the fall and determine next steps for the winter months.

Family, Staff, and GCCS Board of Trustees Survey Results - July 17, 2020

- Family Surveys - 63% returned
- Staff Surveys - 69% returned
- Board of Trustees Surveys - 43% returned

Family and Staff Survey Results - November 9, 2020

- Family Surveys - 65% returned
- Staff Surveys - 89% returned

Communication Progress

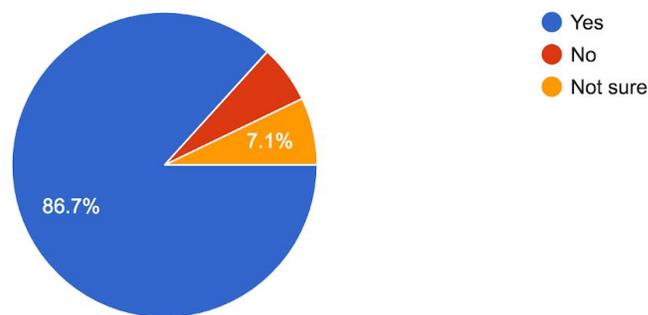
According to the most recent check-in survey, families continue to prefer communication by email or text messaging. However, 94% of families prefer email which is an increase of 20% since August. Text messaging has increased from 11% preferred to 50% for families. With this information, GCCS will be transitioning to the

use of School Messenger to streamline and increase communication to families through text messaging, automatic phone calls, and emails. Since over 85% of families would prefer communication from school 1-2 times a week, we will continue our trajectory of this level of communication throughout the next trimester.

Additionally, the most recent surveys revealed that most families are receiving enough information from school and teachers to know instructional expectations.

This fall, I received enough information from the school and my child(ren)'s teachers to know the expectations for instruction.

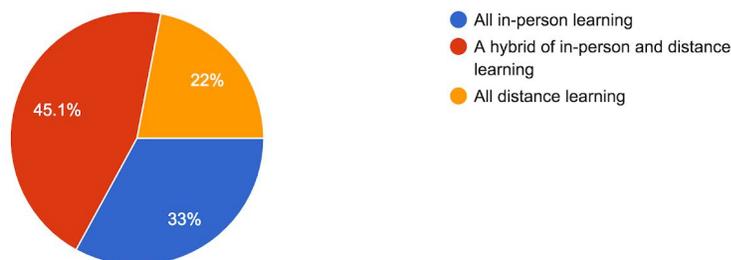
98 responses



Instructional Model Preference Updates

Assuming appropriate safety measures are in place, what is your preference for how your child(ren) return(s) to school in the fall?

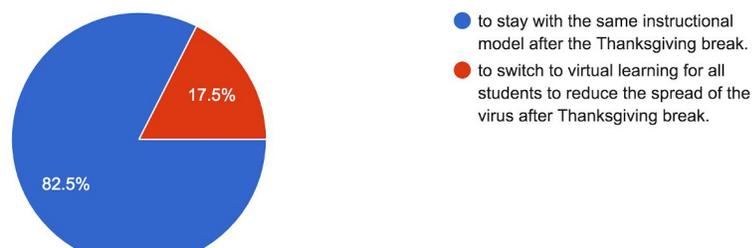
91 responses



**August,
2020
Instructional
Model
Preference
For Families**

Given the rising COVID-19 infection rate and most recent concerns by the health department, my family would prefer...

97 responses

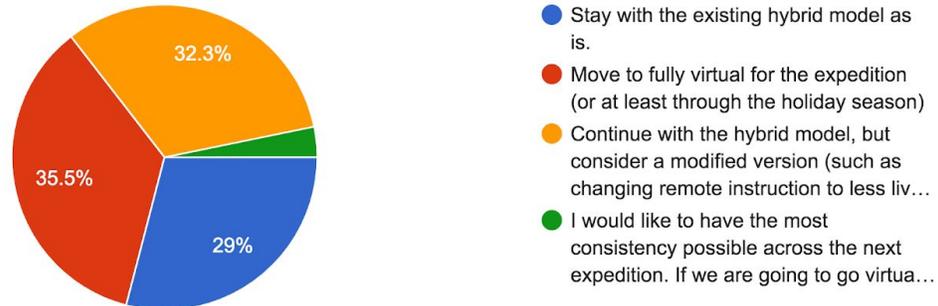


**Early
November,**

2020 Instructional Model Preference For Families

If given the choice for the winter expedition time-frame, which would you prefer?

31 responses



Early November, 2020 Instructional Model Preference For Teachers and Staff

Based on the most recent surveys sent to families and staff (see charts above and on previous page), 82% of families would prefer to stay with the hybrid instructional scenario and 61% of staff would prefer the hybrid option while half of that percentage would like to modify the model as it stands currently.

HOWEVER, on November 9th, 2020 and after the surveys were completed, Monroe County Executive, Adam Bello and the Public Health Commissioner, Dr. Michael Mendoza determined that most of Monroe County including the City of Rochester is identified in the Yellow Zone. Most students from GCCS reside in one of the named municipalities considered in the yellow zone. Yellow Zone restrictions (such as mandatory testing for 20% of staff and students weekly) will go into effect by November 16th.

The Reopening Task Force, Family Association Officers, Staff, School Leadership, and Board of Trustees met during various points in the week. Collectively, we determined that it was most important that students, families, and staff can be in control of a potentially reactive holiday season and want students to have a consistent and positive educational experience during this turbulent time. Therefore, the GCCS community should plan for remote learning through the Winter Expedition trimester (November 30th - March 12th).

What does this decision mean?

- **GCCS will be engaged in remote learning starting November 30th and will likely continue through mid January. The Board of Trustees and Reopening Task Force will reassess monthly to determine next steps.**
- **In the event that the infection rate decreases and/or testing compliance can be achieved for GCCS, then we will phase into hybrid learning after mid January through at least the end of the Expedition.**

Tentative Scenario Calendar

This schedule is subject to change based on the school’s ability to follow the “in-person” guidelines as found in the “Safety and Wellness” section.

| Fall Expedition (September - Thanksgiving Break) | Winter Expedition (December - Mid-March) | Spring Expedition (April - End of School Year) |
|--|---|---|
| Scenario 2: Hybrid Instruction for grades K-6 Continue Scenario 2 through Thanksgiving Break provided GCCS can maintain all in-person instruction requirements | Scenario 3: All Remote Instruction for grades K-6 for November 30, 2020 - mid January. We are planning for all Remote instruction through March 12th in case a longer closure is needed. | Scenario 2: Hybrid Instruction for grades K-6 OR Scenario 1: In-Person Instruction for grades K-6 |

Health and Safety

In order to reopen safely, Genesee Community Charter School must take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This section addresses the policies, protocols, and considerations the school will take to ensure our community’s safety.

Guidelines for In-Person Instruction at GCCS

Genesee Community Charter School may open and students can participate in Scenario 1 or 2 instruction if:

- The Finger Lakes Region is in Phase 4 of Reopening
- The infection rate for the Finger Lakes Region is below 5% August 1st - 7th

- If the regional infection rate remains below 9% over a seven day average
- There is enough space for students and staff to be socially distant in classrooms and/or on the Rochester Museum & Science Center Campus. Based on the square footage and rearranged floor plans, each classroom can accommodate 16 or less students maintaining a 6-foot distance apart.

GCCS will follow the Monroe County Department of Health Guidelines to determine who will need to move to virtual instruction if a positive case occurs during in-person instruction.

Genesee Community Charter School can **continue to remain in the hybrid scenario** if:

- The Finger Lakes Region and/or the Monroe County region is NOT identified as an orange or red zone (we must move to virtual instruction for at least two weeks based on Executive Order 202.68)
- GCCS is able to follow new guidance or restrictions for in-person instruction (i.e. “Yellow Zone” means weekly mandatory testing for 20-25% of staff and students at GCCS)
- GCCS student and staff testing yields a COVID-19 positivity rate that is less than our region’s positivity rate.

GCCS will utilize the following sites for infection rate information:

New York State Dashboard: <https://forward.ny.gov/covid-19-regional-metrics-dashboard>

Monroe County Dashboard:

<https://mappingmonroe.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/217749730f174776a3896b3e8950e03b>

To view the School’s Report Card, visit:

<https://schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov/#/schoolData:schBedsCodeId=261600860826;dsBedsCodeId=undefined:schoolType=Charter%20School;redirectToHome=true>

Transitioning to Remote Instruction

Genesee Community Charter School may transition to remote instruction for the following reasons:

- Advisement by the Monroe County Department of Health
- The Governor provides an Executive Order for the Finger Lakes region to close

- Rochester City School District's transportation department determines that they are unable to provide transportation to GCCS students
- Precautionary measure based on increasing trends of infection either in the city of Rochester or with the neighboring Curiosity Club or RMSC Preschool.