Saint George, Piscataway, NJ

Greek School

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021-2022

Greek school Committee

Very Rev. Nektarios Cottros, Presiding Priest

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Georgette Boulegeris, Secretary

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John Papanastasiou, Member

George Petrantonakis, Member

Dora Vasilatos-Hionis, Member

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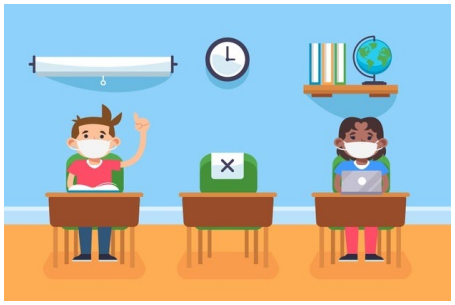
PROCESS & FINDINGS

The Greek School Committee held consecutive meetings to analyze and discuss State and Federal Guidelines, public health advisories and other key data relating to the operation of our Greek School for the upcoming school year.

The pandemic has significantly impacted in-person schooling, particularly due to the dimensions of our classrooms and the building's structure.

We follow the guidance of the NJDOH COVID-19 public health recommendations for school settings and as such we anticipate that physical return to classrooms will require a highly regulated/controlled space, **where masks are mandatory for all**. Maintaining six feet of social distancing is paramount, both for the overall safety of everyone in our community, and for our ability to reduce exposure of our students and staff to the virus. As such, our classrooms will be set up accordingly.

LEARNING MODELS

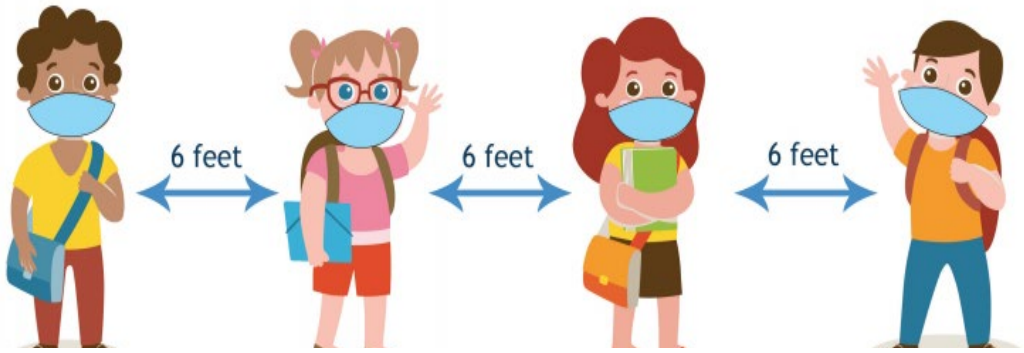


In- Person Method

Remote Method

In – Person Method

- *Projected date of in-person lessons: September 13, 2021*
- Attendance is mandatory, which means that absences will be marked.
- A student is allowed **seven (7) absences** per academic year, unless good cause is shown. The parent or guardian of a student will require to inform the student's teacher via email specifying the date of the absence and the reason.
- **No** snacks will be allowed in the classrooms. Each student will be allowed to bring his/her own water bottle, with their name clearly written on top. The water fountain will be shut off.
- We will continue to evaluate our learning/teaching model in order to improve the experience of all our students and teachers.



Remote Method

- **Students will switch to remote learning if and when State Guidelines require so. Until further notice however, classes will be held in person, unless otherwise specified.**
  In the event we switch to remote learning, please note the following:
- Each two-hour class, for students learning remotely will consist of a mixture of live instruction, break-out discussion, and interactive activities.
- Attendance is mandatory, which means that absences will be marked.
- A student is allowed **seven (7) absences** per academic year, unless good cause is shown. The parent or guardian of a student will require to inform the student's teacher via email specifying the date of the absence and the reason.
- Each student must have at his/her disposal, a fully charged device available during the two-hour lesson.
- Students learning from home will participate in class via Zoom. Skype might be used in case the Zoom server is down, or another issue occurs.
- If students have other family members learning and working remotely, then they should consider purchasing earbuds or headphones, to better hear and participate in the Zoom (and/or Skype) sessions.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The impact that COVID-19 has had in our community, country, and across the world has given us much time for pause and reflection. We understand it has fundamentally changed our way of living and has had long lasting effects on those who contracted it or those who lost a loved one to it.

The virus is spread from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets or by transferring the virus from surfaces and objects to the mouth, nose, or eyes. The best ways to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 are by wearing a face mask, frequent hand washing, avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, practicing social distancing, limiting group interaction, staying home when sick, testing and contact tracing. Only by creating a culture of healthy practices, will we be able to reduce the risk of transmission.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Our school will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. We have created specific plans and instructions for our janitorial staff, in compliance with CDC/EPA guidance, for cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces.
- All desks, chairs, restroom fixtures, and other high touch surfaces (light switches, doorknobs, bannisters, markers, etc.) will be cleaned before and after each lesson.
- Each classroom will be provided with cleaning supplies that staff can use to spray down desks as well, and with a solution containing a >70% alcohol-based antiseptic for the use of students and staff.
- Clear marks and signs will be posted throughout the building (classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, gym) to maintain adherence to state social distancing guidelines.
- Our heating and cooling system will be inspected, and new air filters will be installed where necessary, in order to improve air circulation.
- **Students will be required to wear a mask** and to bring a Ziplock with two extra masks – clearly marked with their name on it, which the teacher will keep in a safe place, for future use. These masks will be used if the student has forgotten or lost his/her mask.
- **All teachers and staff will be required to wear masks**.
- **The water fountain will be shut off**.

Q&As

Q: What other measures will be taken for everyone's safety?

1. Drop off of the students will be at the entrance door. Parents are not allowed to stay in the school building.

2. Pick up will be at the outside of the school building. Each class will exit with the teacher, and the teacher will send the child to the parent/guardian. **EXCEPTION: Kindergarten and 1st Grade students will have to be dropped-off and picked-up from their respective classrooms, one at a time.**

3. If you are late for pick up, the child will re-enter the school building and stay with the teacher or principal. You have to come to the school building door, in order to pick up your child.

4. No more than two children will be allowed in the bathrooms at a time.

5. The meeting room on the 1st floor will be specifically reserved for a child showing COVID-19 symptoms, and you will be required to come and pick up your child ASAP.

Q&As

Q: Will the parents be informed if there is a positive case of COVID-19 at the school?

A: Yes, everyone will be informed.

Q: What happens in a case where a teacher becomes sick from COVID-19?

A. The teacher will undergo medical treatment and remain in quarantine until she gets a medical release form that she can return to work. Parents will also be notified. Instruction will continue remotely for those students for a period of at least two weeks, either by their teacher or a substitute.

Q: What symptoms do I need to check if my child is to be excluded from school?

A: New Jersey Department of Health recommends that individuals with the following symptoms be excluded from school:

* At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigor (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR

* At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of smell, loss of taste.

Close Contacts and Quarantine

(Important Exception for the least amount of disruption)

The CDC has an exception for close contacts in K-12 indoor classroom settings as follows: "the close contact definition excludes students who are within 3-6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time." Therefore, if students are wearing masks over their mouth and nose indoors, there is no quarantine required for close contacts.

Q: What happens if the virus cases increase, and the schools are required to close?

A: Our teachers will continue teaching your children remotely.

Q: What can I do as a parent to help?

A: 1. Check in with your child each morning for signs of illness. If your child has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, they should not go to school.

2. Make sure your child does not have a sore throat or other signs of illness, like a cough, diarrhea, severe headache, vomiting, or body aches.

3. If your child has had close contact to a COVID-19 case, they should not go to school. Follow CDC guidance on what to do when someone has known exposure.

4. Review and practice proper hand washing techniques at home, especially before and after eating, sneezing, coughing, and adjusting a mask or cloth face covering. Make hand washing fun and explain to your child why it is important.