

# The Fine Arts Center

Greenville County Schools  
102 Pine Knoll Drive  
Greenville, SC 29609



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June 29, 2020

Dear FAC Family:

I hope that this email finds you and your family enjoying a healthy and happy summer. If you attend a GCS High School, you may have received a similar communication from your home-base school Principal. Here is an update on the most current information we have relative to the opening of the 2020-2021 school year.

- The decision on how we open school ( in-person learning, eLearning, or a hybrid schedule) will be based on state-issued guidelines. GCS intends to announce plans for a return to school by late July/early August. This timeframe allows us to make our decisions using the best possible data and updated information on the level of community spread. I have full confidence in the leadership provided by Superintendent Royster and his District-level team - they will always act in the best interest of our students and staff, and I know that they will make the right decision for our community.
- The SC DHEC (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) has released objective scientific/medical metrics to measure low, medium, and high community spread. These labels (Low, Medium, High) match language in the AccelerateED Task Force recommendations related to when in-person school activities are and are not appropriate and specifics regarding numbers of students and the appropriate cautions to be put into effect. This mirrors the language used by several other states. Greenville County is currently “High” in all three categories used by DHEC to determine community spread. AccelerateED Task Force Recommendations are for no in-person school activities when community spread is rated High. Therefore, if the school year were to start today, we would not be able to resume in-person learning. Fortunately, there still is time for conditions to change, and I have full faith that our community will do what needs to be done in order to overcome this unprecedented challenge.
- Because of rapidly changing conditions, GCS is preparing for a variety of options ranging from 100% full-time school to 100% eLearning. The Flex Option Plan provides a framework for GCS to move along a continuum, with options in which 25% of students attend each day (in person one day per week), 50% of students attend each day (in person two days per week), all students attend four days per week, or all students attend five days a week. **The Fine Arts Center Administration is preparing for all contingencies, and we will ensure that a high-quality, pre-professional educational experience is in place for our students, no matter which scheduling option is in place.**
- Based on predictions, it is safe to expect changes to school protocols and procedures throughout the 2020-21 year as conditions in our community and state change. This may be as minor as limiting visitors

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and school assemblies or as significant as full-time eLearning for all students. We appreciate your cooperation and flexibility as we adapt to these changes.

- Please note - eLearning in the Spring of 2020 was launched under emergency conditions. Should we engage in eLearning during the 2020-2021 School Year, grading guidelines will return to expectations that are similar or the same as in-person learning. Any future full-time eLearning will include live or recorded lessons, all new material, and regular grading of assignments and tests in keeping with the State's Uniform Grading Scale. Students will be graded not only on the completion of assignments and their engagement with the instructors, but also by all of the other "normal" grading criteria - adherence to deadlines, quality of work, expectations for growth and improvement.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions. We will be in touch with updates as we receive them, and will be contacting you in late July for the completion of online/paper forms that we need for the start of the school year. In the meantime, keep persevering through this...together, we can overcome this challenge and return to an educational environment that our students and staff hold so dear.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Popat

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