

The Fine Arts Center

Greenville County Schools
102 Pine Knoll Drive
Greenville, SC 29609



July 10, 2020

Dear FAC Family:

I am writing to you with our second update of the summer - below is the first one I sent, included in this email for your convenience. If you have not read that email, please start there before continuing on with this one.

First and foremost, I hope this email finds you and yours well. While there is a lot of stress given the current state of flux that we are in, I am fully confident in the steps that our school district is taking towards making a final decision regarding the opening of school. As a parent of three children, we are also facing the anxiety that comes with the unknown. There is no playbook for a situation like this, but I do know that we have strong leadership in the Greenville County Schools that is experienced and innovative. They are the people I want to make a decision for the livelihood of my own children.

Secondly, here is where we are relative to the FAC:

You may have seen through the various GCS communications on social media, including yesterday's Facebook Live event, that the FAC and Career Centers will only be offering in-person instruction. What this means is that if a student chooses to participate fully in the new GCS Virtual Program their academic classes will be provided online but their arts instruction through the Fine Arts Center will only happen in-person. Our programming cannot be replicated in a full virtual platform long term, so we need to be in a position to offer hands-on instruction when it is safe for us to do so. Please note that our method of operation is dependent upon the metrics in place by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). The experts at DHEC will determine when it is safe for us to return to face-to-face instruction. Therefore, our students will experience rigorous, pre-professional instruction as follows:

- If community spread continues to be "High" - FAC will open in an eLearning format. This means the FAC staff will reformat instruction to be delivered online since it has been deemed unsafe to hold in-person classes. This will be similar to what we did in the Spring, but with improvements to our practices and methods of instructional delivery. We learned a lot from our first go-around, as we only had 48 hours to prepare for eLearning in the 2019-20 school year. Our teachers are collaborating within their departments, participating in professional development, and brainstorming ideas to make this a valuable experience for our students. They are to be commended for their continued dedication to the kids. If we open in this learning model, you will receive full details on exactly what it will look like and what is expected of students.

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- If community spread lowers to “Medium” - the District will likely move to a Hybrid method of instruction. This format includes a mix of in-person and eLearning. Details are being worked on relative to how we can maximize this for our students. You can be assured that we will have a system in place that is safe for the students and faculty, as well as educationally effective.
 - If community spread lowers to “Low” - the District will likely move to full-time in-person learning. This is the goal that we all have - a return to normalcy. It will be done when it is deemed safe to do so.

I thank you for your patience during this unprecedentedly challenging time. You can be assured that the Greenville County Schools will continue to regularly communicate with families, sending details on the above scheduling models, and much more, over the next few days and weeks. You can also be assured that the FAC is unwaveringly committed to keeping our promise to students of a world-class pre-professional educational experience, regardless of the format.

Sincerely yours,
Mr. Popat
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