



GOBLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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“Excellence by Design”

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11-AUG-2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Being mid-August and only about two weeks before the return of teachers and staff, three weeks before the return of students, I understand why so many are anxious to know the details of the Return to School Plan. In a “normal school year”, information would have already been disseminated, and we would be much further ahead than where we are this school year. But this is not a “normal school year”, and the level of complexity necessary to bring students back to school that must be considered and addressed, at times have been overwhelming. Just about the time we felt we finally have a solution, a plan that will work, another twist would be tossed into our plans forcing us to back-up and start all over again, again, and then again. Simply, we struggled through a heavy lift, considered all aspects of educating the students of Gobles, and developed a plan that may not be perfect but will accomplish the mission of safely educating our students in person; a primary concern expressed by the parents/guardians of our students in a survey taken at the end of June.

Admittedly, over the last month we have been silent regarding the development of the Return to School Plan. But it is only appropriate that the Board of Education hear and approve said plan before information is packaged out to the school community; and before we can place a plan before the Board of Education, data must be gathered, research must be conducted, Executive Orders must be reviewed, facilities must be investigated and adaptations made, and plans have to be placed on paper and vetted. Now that this has been completed, and the Board of Education has reviewed, dissected, and then approved the plan at last night's Board Meeting, I am now prepared to divulge the specific details of the Gobles Return to School Plan. Below please find details of the Gobles Return to School Plan (additional details will be forth coming):

- Full in person school, with students, will begin on Monday the 31st of August.
- All students are invited back to school, and school will be full day, every day Monday through Friday.
- A K-12 virtual option is available for those who are uncomfortable with having their students report to school for in person learning.
- Bus transportation will be available. But, because the Health Department recommends a limited number of passengers on a school bus to maintain social distancing, two bus runs have become necessary. With this, one bus run will pick up Middle/High School students, and the second run will pick up Elementary students. As a result, the two building levels will have staggered start times.

- The Elementary will start at 8:45am and end at 3:10pm
- The Middle/High School will start at 7:30am and end at 2:00pm
- All Teachers will monitor students during lunch, and student lunches will take place in classrooms.
- Both libraries will be closed until further notice.
- In each classroom a handwash sanitizer dispenser will be made available, and teachers will inform students on a regular basis of the importance of utilizing the sanitizer.
- Social Distancing will be followed, at Gobles this means six feet apart.
- In the Elementary, 4th and 5th grade will be in the gym. The gym will be divided into quadrants, and each instructor will be assigned a quadrant. This being a large space, up to 30 students can be assigned per quadrant.
- In the Elementary, grades K, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd will have an additional instructor (long-term substitute) to assist in reducing student numbers in the classroom. These additional instructors will be assigned a classroom. With this, no more than 16 students will be assigned per classroom, establishing cohorts of students.
- In the Elementary, specials will still be conducted. Two paraprofessionals will be assigned to the special's teachers (one for music, one for PE/Technology) to maintain the cohorts as established by the additional instructors described above.
- In the Elementary, Title programs (Title I ELA, Title I Math) will be push in, not pull out. Meaning the Title I staff member will come to the classroom and provide interventions, as opposed to pulling kids out of class.
- In the Elementary, 4th and 5th grade will have tables, and K, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades will have student desks.
- In the Elementary, teachers will monitor students during recess, and maintain cohort groups with social distancing.
- In the Elementary, teachers, students, administrators, and all school personnel will wear a face mask. Students are permitted to remove their face masks only within the confines of the classroom, if and only if the proper 6 feet of social distance is maintained.
- In the Elementary, teachers will sanitize desks and table on a regular basis. As a “rule of thumb”, with each change of subject matter (Math, Science, etc.), it is time to sanitize desks and tables.
- In the Middle/High School, twelve large spaces have been identified. The twelve large spaces are the Main Gym (4 quadrants), the Middle School Gym (4 quadrants), the Wrestling Room, Dr. Carlin's room, Mr. Piller's room, and the Weight Room.
- In the Middle/High School, teachers who have classes larger than 16 students will be assigned a large space to utilize. Teachers who have classes with 16 or less students will hold class in their normally assigned classroom.
- In the Middle/High School, the Band will go outside (weather permitting). If not able to go outside, the Band will utilize the Band room; it is capable of holding a larger group.
- In the Middle/High School, PE classes will go outside (weather permitting). If not able to go outside, PE classes will be held in the Weight Room.
- In the Middle/High School, students will not be assigned lockers. During passing time, students will be “pushed” along from class to class, encouraged to move quickly to their next class and not linger in the halls.

- In the Middle/High School, gym locker rooms will not be utilized, and thus will remain closed.
- In the Middle/High School, teachers, students, administrators, and all school personnel will wear a face mask at all times.
- In the Middle/High School, teachers will sanitize desks and tables between each class period.

Sincerely,

Tommie D. Saylor Jr.

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Gobles Public Schools

