GRPS Distance Learning Plan Overview

GRPS Board of Education
Academic Achievement Committee
August 5, 2020
Distance Learning Plan Overview

- Virtual Learning for the first 9 weeks of school
- 1:1 Computer/Internet access for all students
- Learning Management Platforms - Seesaw (PK-5) and Google Classroom/G-Suite (6-12). Schoology pilots for some schools.
Distance Learning Plan Overview

- During Phases 5 and 6, and possibly Phase 4, when the district resumes face to face instruction, we are recommending an A/B schedule. This schedule would allow approximately half of our students to attend school every other week or two consecutive days per week face to face. Students not attending in-person will continue attending through distance learning. As we update the district’s plan we will continue to collaborate with stakeholders before making a final decision. All safety guidelines pertaining to the MI Safe Schools: Michigan 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap will be followed.
Meal Distribution

- All GRPS students are eligible for meals (Parents/students may pick up).
- Meal distribution will begin August 24.
- Students will have the opportunity to receive a breakfast and a lunch for each school day.
- Days of Distribution: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- There will be multiple distribution locations throughout the city.
- Locations: Alger, Buchanan, Burton, Campus, Cesar Chavez, City High/Middle, Dickinson, East Leonard, GR Ford, CA Frost High, Harrison, Kent Hills, Ottawa Hills High, Sherwood, Sibley, Westwood
- Time: 12 pm - 1:30 pm
Building Access for Staff

- Increased hours for staff members to access buildings
- Monday-Thursday (4 days)
- No access on Friday
- Full classroom access for staff during regular business hours (8:00 AM - 3:00 PM)
- Cleaning and sanitizing will take place every evening and on Fridays
- Staff members will follow cleaning protocols when accessing their classrooms
Parent Empowerment

- Schools are the first point of contact
- Tech Support - Online Platforms (Seesaw and Google Classroom; Schoology Pilot): (616) 301-1111 or distancelearninghelpdesk@grps.org
- Parent Support with Student Engagement: parents.grps.org (Parent University)
- Social Emotional Learning - parents.grps.org
- Translation/Interpretation (EL Office) - (616) 819-2129
- Role of the PAL/KSSN/Family Support Services
- Questions regarding 504 Plans/IEPs - (616) 819-2185
GRPS Device Distribution and Internet Access

For the 2020/21 school year, GRPS will move to a 1:1 device per student district.

Internet Recommendations

● Home internet recommended to be a minimum speed of 10 Mbps download / 2 Mbps upload
  ○ If these speeds aren’t available, a phone may be used to dial into calls

Acceptable Devices

● Any brand phone, tablet, laptop, desktop, or other device that has the following capabilities:
  ○ Internet access via wifi or hardwire ethernet connection
  ○ Internet browser (preferably Chrome)
GRPS Device Distribution and Internet Access

- Recognizing that some families may have the capability for home internet access and distance learning, but lack the resources, GRPS is working on several variations of a plan to provide as equitable a learning environment as the situation allows. This includes but is not limited to:
  - Identifying families with connectivity barriers that can be solved with devices or infrastructure solutions
  - Utilizing existing/new GRPS student devices to distribute to families via sign in/sign out protocol
  - Provide additional hardware not currently owned by GRPS to support families (i.e. wireless hotspots, wired internet, additional devices for PK-1 students)
Device Distribution

- A letter was mailed to families to provide notification regarding technology distribution and technology support.
- Distribution will take place August 17-October 23.
- Regional Distribution Sites: Gerald R. Ford, City, Harrison, Burton Middle School, and 1340 Thomas SE (formerly known as Campus Early Childhood Center).
- Dates: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.
- Device Access: Students and families who do not have access to the above requirements should contact (616) 301-1111 or email distancelearninghelpdesk@grps.org for instructions on how to determine if GRPS device distribution is a solution or to get information about the non-technology alternative learning packets provided by the classroom teacher(s).
Professional Learning

GRPS will provide ongoing synchronous and asynchronous professional learning and training sessions on how to use the district’s digital systems and tools to provide high quality remote learning.

Sessions will include:

- Covid 19 Safety Protocols
- Schoology (Pilot)
- Seesaw
- Microsoft Teams
- G-Suite Tools (Google Classroom, Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, etc.)
- Video Conferencing (Zoom, Google Meets, or similar tools)
- Synergy
- Integrating Curricular Tools
- Setting Up Your Virtual Classroom
- Student Engagement
Professional Learning (continued)

Other professional learning sessions will include the following topics

- Social Emotional Learning
- Trauma-informed best practices
- Identification of students at risk
- Equity
- Implicit Bias
- Culturally Responsive Education

Teachers will be able to share instructional strategies, best practices, student assessment data, questions, and workload suggestions through PLCs and District online forums. Resources will be provided on self-care to promote holistic wellness and resilience and to prevent burnout and vicarious trauma.
Special Education

- High expectations for learning remains in place for all students
- Instruction will be synchronous and/or asynchronous with accommodations for no/low tech when needed
- The general concept for students with disabilities is that while their disability remains constant, their needs may be different for distance learning than they are for in person learning
- IEPs will be revised to reflect student’s needs following a period of assessment
- IEPs will continue to be offered via phone conference or other digital platforms
Special Education (continued)

- Face to face will be for evaluation purposes only during this nine week period
  - Outside of the formal evaluation process, a related service provider may need to meet with a student for the purpose of assessment [only]. This will be on a scheduled, periodic basis for the purpose of assessment [only] for the safety of students and staff alike
- Compliance and protections offered to students remain intact
- We are adhering to IDEA, Michigan Administrative Rules, and CARES Act governance, as well as guidance being provided by Michigan Department of Education
English Learners

● Ensure ongoing academic achievement for all English Learners by promoting English language proficiency through meaningful instruction that integrates both content and language learning, and by valuing our students’ rich language and cultural backgrounds.

● Instruction will be synchronous and/or asynchronous with essential grade level English Learner language supports.

● Engage families by providing communication in both English and the home language. Translations and interpretations will be available.

● To further support our English Learners and families we will communicate and engage with community agencies.
Assessments

Within the first few days of school, every student will be assessed on their understanding of prerequisite skills and grade-level proficiencies using formative assessments, screeners, or diagnostics.

Existing assessment examples include but are not limited to:
- Fountas and Pinnell
- DIBELS Deep
- MAP Reading Fluency
- ReadyGEN diagnostic assessment
- GoMath assessment
- Grade level/content specific unit pre/post assessments
After School Programming

- 20 schools in the LOOP program
- Distance Learning format
- Start Date: September 8 (4 days a week - Monday through Thursday)
- Academic support and enrichment activities
- Online enrollment
Athletics

Although the district plans on beginning the school year using virtual learning, we plan to continue in-person athletics.

The district will follow all mandates, requirements, and protocols set forth by the State of Michigan, the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and the National Federation of State High School Associations for any and all athletic and extracurricular activities.

The district will implement a “checklist” of strict guidelines and safe practices for daily operation (currently in use for summer programming and used by all member schools of the OK Athletic Conference) for any and all activities that include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Paperwork and Policy Management
- Staff Management
- Sports Equipment Management
- Event Management
- Pre-Workout Screening: All checklist items must be checked before participation is approved.
- Limitations on Gatherings
- Facilities Cleaning
- Physical Activity and Athletic Equipment
- Hydration
- Hygiene

The district will continue to follow the recommendations and guidelines of the MHSAA regarding any changes that may occur once the school year has started in terms of risk level for operating any and all athletic programming based on listed risk level.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spring 2020</th>
<th>Fall 2020</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Computer Distribution and Internet Access** | ● Ipads (grades PK-1)  
● Chromebooks (grades 2-12)  
● 2:1 Student/Device ratio per family based upon device requests  
● Wifi Hotspots/Internet access for families upon request  
● Distributed at defined regional locations across the city | ● Ipads (grades PK-1)  
● Chromebooks (grades 2-12)  
● 1:1 Student Devices  
● Wifi Hotspots/Internet access for all families upon request  
● Distributed at defined regional locations across the city |
| **Student Attendance**          | ● Monitored Participation or contact                                        | ● Attendance will be taken during synchronous learning periods in a similar manner to attendance procedures followed during face-to-face instruction. The district is seeking guidance from MDE to determine how attendance will be taken during asynchronous learning times. |
| **Student Grading**             | ● Participation only, limited grading at High School. Participation/Credit indicated on 4th MP report cards. | ● Mandatory grading of assignments and assessments. Letter grades (A-E) on 1st MP report cards. |
| **Digital Platforms**           | ● Elementary (PK-5) - Seesaw  
● Secondary (6-12) Google Classroom/G-Suite | ● Elementary (PK-5) - Seesaw  
● Secondary (6-12) - Google Classroom;  
● Schoology LMS integrated with G-Suite (Pilot) |
| **Teacher Access to Schools**   | ● One day to collect personal items  
● No additional building access (buildings closed) | ● Monday-Thursday (4 days)  
● Full classroom access during regular business hours (8:00 AM -3:00 PM)  
● Cleaning and sanitizing will take place every evening and on Fridays |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Synchronous Hours</th>
<th>Asynchronous Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Teacher Planning, Teacher Preparation, Staff Professional Learning</td>
<td>Assignments, projects, assessments, review, reading, etc...</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Asynchronous Assignments for Students; <strong>asynchronous Art, Music, PE</strong></td>
<td>Time to (Art, Music, PE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td><strong>Synchronous Hours</strong></td>
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<td>Time with Teacher of Record</td>
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<td>Time for whole group;</td>
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<td>Time for small group (times may be modified PK-2) or 1 hour (Art, Music, PE)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Time for (Art, Music, PE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td><strong>Student Assessments, Asynchronous Learning, Student Interventions, Office Hours, Asynchronous Staff Professional Learning, Staff Meetings (weekly)</strong></td>
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## Weekly Schedule of Instruction

**Synchronous time 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

*see Preschool and ECSE schedules for PK

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Teacher Planning, Teacher Preparation, Staff Professional Learning, Asynchronous Assignments for Students; Asynchronous (Art, Music, PE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Synchronous Time (3 Hours)</td>
<td>2 hours whole group, 1 hour small group (times may be modified PK-2) or 1 hour (Art, Music, PE)</td>
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<td>Asynchronous Time (3 Hours)</td>
<td>3 office hours (includes 1 hour of Art, Music, or PE)</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Synchronous Time (3 Hours)</td>
<td>2 hours whole group and 1 hour small group (times may be modified K-2)</td>
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<td>Asynchronous Time (3 Hours)</td>
<td>3 office hours (includes 1 hour of Art, Music, or PE)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Synchronous Time (3 Hours)</td>
<td>1 hour whole group, 1 hour small group (times may be modified PK-2), 1 office hour</td>
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<td>Asynchronous Time (3 Hours)</td>
<td>3 office hours (includes 2 hours of Art, Music, or PE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Student Assessments, Asynchronous Learning, Student Interventions, Office Hours, Asynchronous Staff Professional Learning, Staff Meetings (weekly), Asynchronous (Art, Music, PE)</td>
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<td>DAY</td>
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<td>Schedule Details</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
<td>• 1st Hour Class-Synchronous (9:00 - 9:50 a.m.)</td>
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<td>• 2nd Hour Class-Synchronous (10:00 - 10:50 a.m.)</td>
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<td>• 3rd Hour Class-Synchronous (11:00 - 11:50 a.m.)</td>
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<td>• 2 Office Hours (Intervention/Enrichment/Advisory/Communication with Families)</td>
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<td>• 1 Prep Hour</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
<td>• 4th Hour Class-Synchronous (9:00 - 9:50 a.m.)</td>
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<td>• 5th Hour Class-Synchronous (10:00 - 10:50 a.m.)</td>
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<td>• 6th Hour Class-Synchronous (11:00 - 11:50 a.m.)</td>
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<td>• 2 Office Hours</td>
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<td>• 1 Prep Hour</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td>• 2 Office Hours</td>
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<td>• 1 Prep Hour</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
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<td>• 2 Office Hours</td>
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<td>• 1 Prep Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>6 hours</td>
<td>• Student Assessment</td>
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<td>• Asynchronous Learning Support</td>
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<td>• Professional Learning</td>
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<td>• Small group intervention</td>
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Class Schedules and Teacher Assignments

PK-5 and PK-8 students will receive notification regarding their classroom assignment (teacher name) by next week Thursday, August 13.

Middle and high school students’ class schedules will be mailed by next week Thursday, August 13.

*Principals and school-based staff will be following up with families pertaining to these items.

*Parents MUST OPT-IN to receive text messages, robocalls, and emails
School and District Communication

Schools are the first point of contact. Parents/guardians should contact their student’s school with questions and concerns.

District Information:

- Main Phone Number: (616) 819-2000 (general questions)
- Distance Learning Hotline Phone Number: (616) 301-1111 (for tech support and related)
- Website: [www.grps.org](http://www.grps.org)
- Distance Learning Support: distancelearninghelpdesk@grps.org
- Listening Sessions with Superintendent Roby and members of the GRPS team (Quarterly)
- Living FAQ on [www.grps.org](http://www.grps.org)
- Feedback/Clarifying Questions: communications@grps.org