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An update to GD families regarding COVID protocols.

Greetings GD families,

We hope you have been enjoying these beautiful summer days with your children. I am hearing from many of you that have your own countdowns going on, lol. We are getting ready to bring your babies back to school and start a wonderful 2022-23 school year.

We have received the updated COVID-19 protocols for schools sent from NYSED and NYSDOH this week. As you can read, in the two documents for families, [What Parents/Caregivers Should Know about COVID Mitigation Strategies for the 2022-2023 School Year](#), and [2022-2023 Frequently Asked Questions related to COVID-19](#), many of the recommendations are the same as when we left school in June such as:

- * Masks are not required
- * No quarantining is necessary if you are a close contact
- * Stay home when you are sick
- * If positive, stay home for 5 days and wear a mask on days 6-10 when returning

We are excited to see that some of the protocols have been relaxed which will allow us to bring back some of our traditional routines and activities.

With the removal of the physical distancing requirements, some exciting new transformations will happen in the lunchroom as we move back to tables and in the classrooms where we have new rug areas and tables to work with small groups and teachers.

Along with the removal of physical distancing and quarantining, we encourage you to take advantage of our transportation department so that students can arrive together at 8:00am and leave the building at 2:30pm, maximizing our instructional hours.

K-8 students who would like to eat breakfast will be allowed to go straight to the cafeteria and eat before heading to class. Pre-K students will eat in their classroom.

Mrs. Cornell and GD's faculty will hold in-person open houses for elementary families on Tuesday, September 13th and on Wednesday, September 14th for the middle school families where we will be providing much more information on our updated routines and procedures. This will include the many mitigation strategies that will remain in place as well as what to do if your child becomes sick and how we will keep them caught up with their assignments if they are out of school for an extended period of time.

We will continue working hard this week to remove floor stickers, move furniture, and get ready to open our doors. I want to thank the buildings and grounds team and our cleaning crew from Building Care Systems for the countless hours they have spent this summer getting this building so clean. The building is just shining from corner to corner. What an outstanding job by all!

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work our way back and carefully pivot from the world of COVID and get back to what is important, our students and their academic, social and emotional success.

Here is to an exciting and wonderful upcoming school year. I hope to see you all at the PTA sponsored *Welcome Back to School Celebration* on September 1st from 2:30-5:30pm.

Enjoy these last summer days!
Dr. Mary Yodis