

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GRACE BAPTIST ACADEMY'S REOPENING PLAN FOR FALL 2020

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Q How has GBA been developing plans for reopening?

A Over the past months, the administration has spent hours researching and interacting with a range of professionals in both the education and health fields. Our leadership is committed to following mandates published for our situation and also to do all we reasonably can to implement precautionary measures for the good health of our students and staff. We recognize this is a fluid situation that will require much flexibility by all of us in the days ahead. We are grateful for the good results of our health protocols experienced throughout this past summer with Camp Grace and Golden Eagle Athletics.

Q Why did GBA choose *Ascend*, and does it connect to GPS contact tracing apps on phones or GBA software programs?

A No, *Ascend* does not use GPS contacting tracing in any way, and there is no connection to other GBA systems that contain personal information. It is a stand-alone system that is used for **daily health screenings** and **is our primary attendance tool** for students and employees. Not only are a number of other local private schools using this system, but GBA believes it is the best tool available to assist us in keeping students and employees home when sick. We also chose *Ascend* because of their capacity to keep protected health information secure. Daily health screenings are more than a temperature check and are critical to GBA being able to keep all students on campus all year, learning from their teachers in-person.

Q What should I do if I am having trouble accessing my *Ascend* profile or can't complete my daily medical screening?

A Contact *Base Camp Health* and their *Ascend* support desk by phone at **423.680.6262** or by email at **support@basecamp-health.com**

Q Do I really need to do the *Ascend* daily health screening every weekday and even when I am not on campus? Why?

A YES, the *Ascend* daily health screening must be done accurately every weekday to provide the greatest likelihood for us to keep students on campus, every day, all year. Being able to assess health patterns across the whole school, by school division and by grade levels, is critical information to make decisions about the safest way to remain on campus. We believe that along with other health precautions, this is the best way to ensure our campus is open and learning is happening face-to-face.

Q Can I complete the *Ascend* daily health screening the night before?

A NO, *Ascend* daily health screenings must be done each morning BEFORE you arrive on campus. It is recommended that you complete the screening between 6 AM - 8 AM.

Q What happens if I forget to do my child's daily health screening?

A Unfortunately, your student will not be able to enter the school building without an approval by *Ascend*. Employees will also not be allowed in the building without completing their *Ascend* daily health screening. You will be expected to go and park your car and complete the daily health screening. GBA will not complete any *Ascend* daily health screenings for students. GBA will not conduct temperature screenings for entry to campus for any students or employees. To attempt this would be a great hardship to get students checked in and to class on time.

Q What should I do if I enter incorrect information into *Ascend* by mistake?

A Contact our school office at 423-892-8224. Our administrative assistants will respond as soon as possible to help correct the information and get your child on campus. Until then, your child will not be eligible to be on campus. Please be patient in this situation and consider the volume of work that our staff will be handling on a daily basis.

Q How are you going to ensure parents and employees are truthful when they complete the *Ascend* daily medical screenings?

A We can't guarantee people are truthful, but we have confidence in the parents of GBA and will continue to advise and implore parents and employees that the best pathway to health and wellness for the whole community is to take the appropriate time each morning before you come to campus to honestly and accurately complete a medical screening. We will be reminding parents and employees about the critical importance of this protocol frequently. It is vitally important for public health that employees and students stay home when sick or when they are known to be exposed to someone who is confirmed COVID-19 positive.

Q Who has access to the information entered into the *Ascend* daily health screening?

A GBA follows FERPA guidance in the confidentiality of student health information. Only GBA Principals and school nurse have direct access to the information entered into *Ascend*. The GBA Headmaster, appropriate principal, and the child's teachers can be given information as needed in order to provide the correct level of care and support for the student during their educational experience. Any other access to health information would require consent from the parent.

DAILY PROTOCOL

Q Can I make a daily decision about whether my student comes on campus or stays at home? How will I inform the school of these decisions?

A Yes, parents are able to decide daily if their children will come on campus. If you are keeping your child home, simply fill out your *Ascend* daily health screening and indicate your child will be home. GBA will be notified through *Ascend* of daily absences. If you are planning on keeping your child home for extended periods, please contact the appropriate principal and explain your extended plans. This enables us to work together on accommodations to ensure continued academic progress.

Q Can visitors enter campus buildings?

A Only essential visitors will be allowed in the buildings as we start back to school in August. At this time, we do not consider lunch visits, pastoral visits, birthday parties, etc. to be essential. Visitors will receive a temperature screening at the welcome center of Morris Hill Baptist Church and will be required to answer the health screening questions in *Ascend* before they are allowed any further access to campus. **There are no exceptions to this practice.**

Q What will be different about GBA daily start and end times?

A Under Plan A: All school day start and end times continue normally as in the past.

Start of School Day

- M, T, TH, F doors open at 7:30 am and class begins at 8:00 am
- Wednesday doors open at 8:30 am and class begins at 8:45 am *Early Stay begins at 7:30 am

M, T, W, TH school days end

- 2:45 pm for PreK-2nd grades
- 2:55 pm for 3rd-5th grades
- 3:00 pm for 6th-12th grades

Friday school days end

- 2:15 pm for PreK-2nd grade
- 2:25 pm for 3rd-5th grade
- 2:30 pm for 6th-12th grade

Under Plan B: All school days start and end according to our normal M, T, TH schedule with **no late start on Wednesdays.**

Q: Plan A states: “Students and staff will be expected to maintain appropriate physical distance from others.” How will this function during a normal school day on campus?

A: Lower School will stay within individual classroom groups, and at times, within a grade level group. Students will be expected to stay arms-length apart as much as possible.

Upper School will expect students to stay arms-length apart as they move through hallways and will keep students grouped by classes and grades in a limited section of classrooms to limit crossover between ages.

Q: Will students and teachers be required to wear masks at school?

A: No, we are not requiring teachers and students to wear masks, however some may wear a mask depending on their comfort level and the teaching situation at the time. If a mask is worn it must be **one solid color**. *Hamilton County currently has a variety of mandates in place during July, August and early September. These mandates do not apply to schools in Hamilton County. Each school is responsible for making the best decisions for their school.

Q: Due to the current health concerns will additional sanitation measures be implemented?

A: Additional staff have been secured to assist with cleaning. As school begins, we will be sanitizing student restrooms on an hourly basis. Morris Hill Baptist Church also implemented enhanced cleaning of all their facilities.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Q Will my child be ineligible to come to campus if we are exposed to someone who thinks they have COVID-19 while they wait for test results?

A No. You are ineligible to be on campus for the number of days specified by *Ascend* ONLY if you are directly exposed to someone who has been confirmed positive by a COVID-19 test.

Q What will GBA do if a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19?

A A student or employee who tests positive for COVID-19 must enter that information into the *Ascend* daily health screening and will not come to campus until released by *Ascend*'s daily health report. GBA will communicate with our school community when there are known COVID-19 positive students, employees, or visitors who have been on campus. GBA will also immediately move any students who have been in direct contact with this student to Plan C (i.e. class section/grade level) for 14 days. Parents and employees may also contact our school nurse, Mrs. Rebecca Simpson, for guidance. All communication will comply with HIPAA and FERPA requirements where they apply.

Q What is the definition of “direct contact or exposure” to someone who tested positive with COVID-19?

A Exposure is defined as being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time (at least 15 minutes) without the use of a mask. You will select “Not Applicable” in the *Ascend* screening if you have not been exposed to your knowledge.

Q Will GBA conduct contact tracing?

A No, the Hamilton County Health Department is the agency that conducts contact tracing. GBA will communicate as described earlier and will assist the Hamilton County Health Department as appropriate but will not conduct contact tracing.

Q Will my child be disciplined for not following the expectation of appropriate physical distancing?

A Every effort will be made to gently encourage, inform, and teach students the importance of the health precautions being taken. We recognize these precautions are difficult, and in many cases uncomfortable. We also recognize there is significant diversity of opinion among our parents and employees regarding the necessity and efficacy of these health measures. At the same time, we are requiring these things for specific reasons and if students act in ongoing ways that demonstrate a lack of consideration for what is required, we will work directly with parents to find the best ways to provide accountability for the student to follow the stated requirements.

Q Who should I contact if I have questions or concerns about GBA’s plans for reopening or ongoing operations?

A Please contact:

Lower School Families: Mrs. Nancy Cooper (ncooper@mygracechatt.org)

Upper School Families: Mr. Scott Hicks (shicks@mygracechatt.org)

Q How will GBA make and communicate decisions about changes from the current plan?

A: GBA expects to start on August 17 operating according to Plan A. The administration will monitor and respond to the data provided by *Ascend*, as well as our government officials. When a decision is made to adjust to a different plan, we will use our parent alert system, including text and email to notify our school family. It is our intention to notify our families as far in advance as possible.