

## **Grass Lake Middle School Frequently asked questions**

In order to be as transparent as possible, I have tried to give as much information here as possible. Please know these answers pertain to what we know right now and being in phase 4. If we move to phase 3, all students will be virtual. We have been working hard to create our Learning Plan and first semester plans that will focus on strong academics, social and emotional wellbeing and safety for each of our students. Our Learning Plan can be found on the Grass Lake Community Schools website. <https://bit.ly/2VDYB4T>

### **What will Virtual Learning look like?**

Any student that has chosen virtual learning, or if we move to phase 3 and everyone is virtual, we will be providing daily, not weekly, lessons. Students will be expected to master content and grades will be given for their work. Students must stay up to date in their learning in order to proceed to the next grade level at the end of the year. For students choosing virtual learning, they will be taking classes through Edgenuity. They will have ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies (8th grade will also have Spanish). Edgenuity lessons are self paced and have a mixture of direct instruction videos and supported and independent practice. Generally speaking, the kids can expect to work about an hour a day in each class. There is not a set time that students need to be working on this. We just encourage a consistent learning environment and schedule so students will stay on pace. We will set the class up for the semester. Parents and students will be able to see their pacing and progress. There is a GLMS teacher for each grade that will be checking on their progress and reaching out if there are any concerns. All grades can be seen in Edgenuity, I will hand enter the final grade into Power School at the end of the semester. Teachers have been given the Scope and Sequence of these courses and are encouraging students to email them with content questions.

### **Is my virtual learner included in Grass Lake Middle School Extra Curricular Activities?**

Yes, as stated above, there will be a GLMS teacher checking on your child's progress and seeing if they have any technical issues. Students are encouraged to email core teachers if they have content specific questions. All students are enrolled in a GLMS Leadership Course. There is no grade for this course, but it provides an avenue for all students to have a Grade Level Schoology page to get school announcements, attend virtual team building activities etc...

### **When can I drop off my student?**

Middle School begins at 8:10 and ends at 2:31 this year. Under the governor's plan, no students may congregate in large groups. This means that we cannot have any students dropped off before 8:00. All students will need to be picked up by 2:45. Students may not stay in the building after that time. Students may use the doors by the rock as well as the front entrance.

**What is the procedure for picking up my student early?**

If your child has an appointment and needs to leave early, please call or email in the morning to let us know and we will have him or her in the office at that time. When picking up your child, please pull up out front, call 517-867-5551. Let us know you are here, what car you are driving in and we will visually check that you are here. We will then sign your child out and send your student out to you. A reminder, parents and guardians are not allowed in the building.

**What does Lunch and breakfast look like?**

Breakfast will be a grab and go. Students who get breakfast will grab their breakfast first thing in the morning from the cafeteria and then eat in the classroom. There will be a cold and hot option at lunch. In order to spread out, lunches will be held in the gym and cafeteria. Each grade level will have their own lunch and spread out in both the cafeteria and the gym. 6th grade will eat 11:57-12:27, 7th grade 11:17-11:47, and 8th grade 12:40-1:10.

**What will gym class look like?**

Students are not allowed to use the locker rooms, so students cannot change into gym clothes. Since students will be eating in our gymnasium, ½ will be partitioned off for lunch. Gym class will take place outside weather permitting. Otherwise they will be using the other half of the gym or the classroom on bad weather days. Students still need to wear proper shoes for gym class.

**What will band and choir look like?**

Band and choir will be playing instruments and singing outdoors only. There will be no in person performances the first semester. The Band and Choir teachers will be sending out information for their plans shortly.

**What is the attendance and tardy policy?**

Students should stay home if they are feeling ill at all. Parents are supposed to monitor their child's temperature daily and pay attention to symptoms of illness: sore throat, coughing, shortness of breath and loss of taste and smell.

**Can my student use a locker?**

6th graders will not be issued lockers for the first half of the year. This is due to the number of students that need help with combinations and too many hands touching one surface. They will be allowed to bring a small bag to class with them, no wheeled bags allowed. Students will be keeping their bag or materials in the classroom during lunch. 7th and 8th graders will only be going to their lockers before school and after school and before and after lunch (everything remains in their lockers at lunch, no books, phones etc...). Students will not be going to lockers between classes. At the end of the day, everything must be taken home, nothing is to remain in the lockers. For the start of the year, we are not allowing students to decorate their lockers or bring in shelving, magnets, mirrors etc...

**Does my student have to wear a mask all day?**

Yes, except when eating and if outside with his/her class. Please refer to the full back to school plan on the school website for more information. Masks need to be worn to cover both the nose and mouth. Students will not be allowed to enter the building in phase 4 without a mask. We will be taking an aggressive approach to mandating all students and staff wear masks all day but when eating. Students are allowed to wear Face Shields as an additional safety measure, however, masks must be worn under them.

**What do class sizes look like?**

We don't know actual sizes yet until we get the list of those going virtual, but in previous surveys, it looked like roughly 20% of students are going virtually. With the shortened day, some classes were able to add a section to also lower class sizes. Each class will have students face in one direction and maintain as much space between them as possible. Sanitizing wipes will be used between classes to sanitize desks and chairs. Hand Sanitizing stations will be in each classroom as well.

**What has been done to keep students and staff safe?**

Clear polycarbonate sheets have been installed in the office, library and bathrooms as a means for separation between sinks and office spaces. Desks and chairs will be sanitized between classes. Each class will have hand sanitizing stations and sanitizing wipes. Classrooms are arranged so all students are facing one direction. Virtual instruction on Wednesdays allows for deep cleaning of our building. An additional lunch has been added and two areas will be used for each lunch. We will not be using bells so we can stagger hall times. Locker usage will be minimal. Students will not be sharing calculators, pencils and other supplies. Drinking fountains are turned off, except the bottle filler station, please provide your own water bottles. There will be very minimal hallpasses given out, these will be electronically as a Google form. Students will not be going to the library to check out books.

**How are students checking out books:**

Students will not be going to the library to get books, students will either tell their ELA teacher of a book they want from the library or they will use the classroom library to check a book out. Students will return books to a bin and those books will be left in a closet for three days before returning into circulation. We are encouraging all students to get a Jackson District Library card which will give students a vast array of online books. This information will be sent home next week.

**When will students get their devices and masks?**

We will be handing out Chromebooks the week of August 17th. We will get more information next week. 6th Graders will be picking theirs up at Orientation on August 18th. During this pick up, Insurance paperwork will be filled out and insurance fees collected. Chromebook, charger, and a mask will be distributed at this time. Parents can also fill out any Back to School Paperwork and Free and Reduced Lunch Papers.

**How long will school look like this?**

This plan will run for the first semester. It accommodates Phase 4, which is the phase we are currently in. We are also prepared to step back into Phase 3 should that become necessary. We will continue to look at state requirements and make modifications that are necessary to keep everyone safe and succeeding academically and emotionally.