



Re: Grimmway Academy School Reopening Plan Update

July 14, 2020

Dear Families of Grimmway Academy Shafter,

I hope you and your family are remaining safe and healthy throughout these past several weeks.

Before I update you on our reopening planning, I want to begin by outlining the commitments that shape our approach to educating your children in the upcoming school year:

- **Your child/children(s) safety – and the safety of our faculty and staff – is our top priority each and every day.**
- Despite an unprecedented global pandemic that is forcing us to radically alter our model for the near future, **we at Grimmway Schools will not compromise on our promise to deliver a rigorous and engaging learning experience for our scholars.** Whether it is distance learning, in-person, or a combination, we will continue to hold high expectations for our scholars – and for ourselves.
- **Your child's social and emotional learning (SEL) is just as important as their academic learning.** In fact, SEL is an integral part of the academic learning process.
- **No school has every answer right now.** However, I promise you that we at GS will continue to work tirelessly on identifying solutions to every new challenge this pandemic thrusts upon us. From CDC safety guidelines to best practices in a hybrid approach to learning - one of our academic cornerstones is a commitment to continuous learning. This does not just apply to our scholars, but to ourselves as well.
- **Everything is subject to change.** If there is one thing this pandemic has shown us, it is that at this upcoming school year will be dynamic and

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rapidly evolving. How we begin the school year is likely to look far different from how we will finish it. Either as a result of our own reflection and revisions, or as a result of decisions from public health officials, all of should expect a school year that changes and evolves in real time.

Our goals over the past several months has been to develop a plan that ensures that when we will reopen schools in a way that ensures as safe an environment on campus as is possible - while at the same time delivering an as engaging and rigorous a learning experience as possible for our scholars.

Grimmway Schools Reopening Plan Update

Our plan is to reopen our schools on August 3rd with a limited amount of in-person education combined with distance learning. Our reopening plan has been developed based upon guidance provided by the State of California, along with feedback from our various stakeholders -including feedback from the parent survey. **Further details will be provided at the Mutual Promise Meeting on Friday, July 17th (Session 1: 10:00 AM; Session 2: 6:00 PM).** The meeting will be via Zoom. The link will be provided later this week.

At this point, Grimmway Schools is planning to begin the school year with what is called an "A/B Daily Hybrid" schedule consisting of a limited number of in-person instruction each week: two days of in-person learning and three days of distance learning.

Scheduling:

The A/B Daily Hybrid approach consists of dividing the student body in half: one half attending on the "A" designated days of the week, and the other half attending on the "B" days of the week. Dividing the campus in half is how we are able to meet the CDC guidelines of 6ft. of distancing between students and teachers in each classroom.



Here is the projected weekly schedule:

A/B Daily Hybrid Schedule	
Days	On Site
Monday/Thursday	"A" (DL: Tuesday/Friday)
Wednesday	All Scholars DL
Tuesday/Friday	"B" (DL: Monday/Thursday)
** DL = Distance Learning	

Details will be forthcoming as to which group your child will be placed. We will make every effort to ensure that siblings and family members attend on the same days.

Safety protocols

- Mandatory mask wearing for scholars, faculty, and staff.
- Maintaining safe social distancing (6ft.) between students and staff. This will require us to be creative in terms of staggering when students are on campus given our classroom space constraints.
- Staggered drop off/pick up times to ensure safe distancing.
- Implementation of a screening protocol for allowing students on campus. We already have protocols established for child supervision that we have been using for the past three months. However, we will have to scale up to accommodate more students.
- Healthy respiratory hygiene protocols for students and staff (similar to those we had in place before our schools shut down)
- Strict cleaning and disinfecting protocols for classrooms per CDC guidelines

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Additional details on our reopening model and all safety protocols will be provided at the Mutual Parent Meeting on Friday, July 17th, including:

- Pick up and drop off logistics
- Student daily screening stations
- Protocols for safe hygiene
- Cleaning and sanitation protocols
- Attendance
- Child Supervision
- Technology needs

Principal Search Update

The search committee has been interviewing candidates for principal for the past week. We are in the final stages of the process, and are engaging in the final vetting of each candidate. Our goal is to have the new principal in place within the next week – and perhaps even be able to introduce her at the Mutual Promise meeting this Friday. Our school community deserves only the most effective leader possible.

In the interim, Ms. Sabrina Reimert has continued to be the acting administrator in charge and ensured a smooth transition to the next principal.

Flexibility and Patience

One thing that I believe we have all learned throughout the past several months is the importance of being patient and flexible. As I looked back on my parent letters in March at the early stages of the shut-down, I noticed that I used the term “this is a rapidly changing and fluid situation” on many of those early correspondences. Well, as we look ahead to schools reopening, it is



important to note that the guidance provided by the State of California for schools reopening can be superseded by state or county health officials based upon events on the ground relating to COVID cases.

As of July 13th, Kern County has been taken off the "Monitoring List" (Click [HERE](#)). While this is a positive development – *it can only be maintained by each and every one of us following health and safety guidelines, including wearing masks when coming into close contact with someone outside of our home, maintaining social distancing, and maintaining healthy hygiene by washing our hands frequently.* The more disciplined we are in adhering to these guidelines, the sooner we will reach a point where all of the restrictions can be lifted.

So, as we all look ahead to what promises to be a unique and unpredictable school year, I ask for your patience, flexibility, and grace. Thank you for your continued support.

With considerable optimism,

Casey Yeazel
Executive Director
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Guiding Documents

- (a) CDE Guidelines (Click [HERE](#));
- (b) CDPH Guidelines (Click [HERE](#)); and
- (c) Assembly Bill 77 (AB-77) & Senate Bill 98 (SB98) (Click [HERE](#))