

Head of School Newsletter

The latest GCCS news and announcements

In This Issue

Note from Head of School

Returning to School for 2021-22

Board Report

GCCS website



Dear GCCS Family,

I hope that this message finds you enjoying a wonderful start to summer and enjoying the beauty of God's creation with family and friends!

I want to thank our community again for your support over the past year and for your on-going partnership in the lives of your children as we continue to equip our students to serve and glorify God with their lives.

I want to introduce our GCCS theme for the 2021-2022 school year: "**Serving. Together.**" This theme encapsulates two important callings of our Christian school community: to serve God's Kingdom by serving those people that God places in our lives *and* to build community while doing so. Our theme verses come from Ephesians 4:11-13, "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Our theme helps ground us in our mission. Please join me in prayers for clarity, unity, and a recommitment to our individual and collective roles as God's Kingdom servants in the year to come. Grandville Calvin Christian is a community of faith and learning that serves together.



Eric P. Burgess
Head of School



Returning to School for 2021-2022

On June 25, schools in Michigan received return-to-school guidance from MDHHS. The information is issued as guidance and *not* requirements. Based on what this guidance states and on our plans already communicated for the start of the next school year, I am thankful to communicate that school will feel like a "return to normal" in August. As we continue to look ahead to 2021-2022, GCCS plans to emphasize three main protocols: (1) keeping students home when they are sick or displaying symptoms, (2) frequent hand-washing, and (3) routine cleaning to maintain healthy facilities.

As we have previously communicated, masks will *not* be required this coming year and--while we will pay attention to spacing in classrooms--we will not have any mandated physical distancing.

There have also been questions about mandated weekly testing of all students, but that will *not* be required, and GCCS does not plan to participate in that testing. (We are still waiting for the MHSAA to give guidance on athletics for the fall; we will communicate more later this summer once we get more information from them.)

As we have also previously communicated regarding vaccines for COVID, GCCS believes that the decision to get a COVID vaccination is a family decision. The school will *not* require COVID vaccinations for attendance at school or for participation in school-related events.

We will continue to seek guidance from the Kent County Health Department and other area schools as we plan ahead, and we will continue to be thorough and focused in our review of protocols in order to keep students and staff safe and healthy as we return to school in August.

After a full year of protocols, contact-tracing, quarantine, and so many other unique circumstances, we are thankful that we can look forward to the upcoming school year and getting back to a more direct focus on our mission of equipping students to serve and glorify God and to the outstanding job that our staff does in helping to build community and partner with families in the education and faith growth of our students.



Board Report

Each month I will be sharing the GCCS Board Report with you. This report will allow you to know what I am communicating to the Board, as well as providing regular updates on the Strategic Plan implementation.

[You can view the June Board Report here.](#)

