



Grandville Calvin
Christian Schools

Loving . Learning . Serving

Preparedness and Response Plan for 2021-2022 School Year

Name of District: Grandville Calvin Christian Schools

Address of District: 3750 Ivanrest Ave., SW, Grandville, MI 49418

District Code Number: 41130 (Grandville Public Schools is our public school district)

Web Address of the District: <https://www.gosquires.org/>

Name of Intermediate School District: Kent Intermediate School District

Name of Authorizing Body (if applicable): Christian Schools International / MANS

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Preparedness Plan Introduction

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, we do so balancing the lessons we learned from the past school year with the realities of today. We were thankful to be in person all year in 2020-2021 (save for the one-month, statewide high school virtual learning period prior to Christmas break). We believe that in-person learning is the optimal learning environment for our students, and we want to ensure in-person learning while continuing to protect the health and safety of our students and staff.

We understand that COVID-19 continues to be something we must address as part of our school planning. We continue to carefully plan for school balancing the potential risks of infection and transmission of COVID-19 in students or staff with the importance of being in school and the importance of the mental, spiritual, physical, and emotional health of our students.

The Grandville Calvin Christian Schools' Plan for re-opening school has been informed by recommendations from the Kent County Health Department, [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), and [the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services \(MDHHS\)](#). We have also been regularly consulting with other private and public schools in Kent County and around the state of Michigan regarding their plans for returning to school, as well as consulting with the CSI Michigan Region and the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS).

We continue to monitor COVID positivity rates in Kent County and to work closely with the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) on questions that arise. By following the guidelines and protocols presented in our return-to-school plan, we are confident in our ability to start the school year on campus and to continue with face-to-face instruction throughout the year.

We also understand, however, that circumstances may arise throughout the school year—and sometimes potentially with very short notice—where GCCS will need to be nimble and respond to possible impacts of COVID on our campuses. As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, please be assured that our GCCS administrative team and the staff will continue to prayerfully make decisions with the most accurate information known at the time and will communicate efficiently and effectively with our families and staff to keep everyone up-to-date on any potential new developments.

We continue to plan for school with trust in our loving and sovereign God and with many prayers for wisdom and His leading. In consultation with state and local health and government officials--as well as with other area Christian and public schools--GCCS looks forward to returning to school in August to carry out our mission of equipping students to serve and glorify God.

Your partners in Kingdom service,

Eric Burgess
Head of School

Doug Bouws
Board President

Derek Braman
Elementary Principal

Janey Hoekwater
Preschool Director

Jason Folkert
Middle School Principal

Todd Henderson
High School Principal

GCCS's Five Guidelines for Decision-Making

In preparation for the 2020-2021 school year, Grandville Calvin Christian developed five basic principles that are considered to be non-negotiables in planning for school. We want to reiterate them here as we look ahead to 2021-2022 in order to remind our community of the principles we have used to guide our decisions:

- 1. We will be a Christian community of faith and learning.** Whether we are on campus or off-campus, we will partner together with your family to ensure that faith is central to who we are and what your children are learning. We want to keep our community strong and will care for the individual needs of our students and families. We will also provide regular opportunities for joining together in worship and fellowship as the GCCS community.
- 2. We will protect the health and safety of students and staff.** We will continue to comply with and closely monitor the guidelines and recommendations given to our area schools by the Kent County Health Department; the CDC; and local, state, and federal authorities. We will continue to practice health and safety protocols like regular hand washing and disinfection of surfaces and, as we review the various scenarios, we will take into account current guidelines regarding physical distancing. With emotional and relational health and safety in mind, also, we will encourage intentional schedules and rhythms for students and staff that keep life as “normal” and predictable as possible.
- 3. We will continue to meet the individual needs of our students.** We will meet students where they are at and will be flexible to meet their unique needs: spiritual, educational, social-emotional, and physical. We will provide time for recess and socialization as an important part of their days. And we will continue to hold weekly student support meetings to discuss how we can collaboratively meet student needs and will partner with families to serve all students well.
- 4. We will provide a rigorous and appropriate education for children.** As we have always done, we will have high expectations for learning and will utilize the most appropriate pedagogical (*i.e.*, teaching) strategies to engage students--whether we are in person or using a device.
- 5. We will continue to offer extra-curricular and other opportunities for students.** We value the importance of fine arts, athletics, theatre, and other opportunities for kids to use and develop their God-given gifts. We will make sure that we are offering these opportunities to the extent that we are allowed.

Preparedness Plan Assurances

Grandville Calvin Christian Schools (GCCS) agrees to meet all of the following state requirements with our plan:

- ✓ GCCS assures that when it provides in-person instruction to its students without disabilities, the district must also provide in-person instruction to its students with disabilities, consistent with their individualized education programs (IEPs) or nonpublic service plan.
- ✓ GCCS assures that when schools are closed to in-person instruction, GCCS must strive in good faith and to the extent practicable, based upon available resources, technology, training, and curriculum, as well as the circumstances presented by COVID-19, to provide equal access to any alternative modes of instruction to students with disabilities from birth through age 26. This assurance includes the provision of auxiliary services under section 1296 of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1296.
- ✓ GCCS assures that while any state of emergency or disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic continues, it shall comply with guidance from the United States Department of Education, including its Office of Civil Rights and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and the Michigan Department of Education concerning the delivery of alternative modes of instruction to students with disabilities in light of the impact of COVID-19.
- ✓ GCCS assures cooperation with the local public health department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and agrees to collect the contact information for any close contacts of the affected individual from two days before he or she showed symptoms to the time when he or she was last present in school.

Preparedness Plan

Guidance from State and National Organizations

Because COVID positivity numbers vary around the country, the information that has been shared throughout the summer has been issued as guidance and not requirements. Both MDHHS and the CDC have “[emphasized] the need for localities to monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies.”

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) personal hygiene protocols, and (3) routine cleaning to maintain healthy facilities. These three areas, as well as more detailed protocols in other areas, are shared below:

I. Health Screening Each Morning

GCCS asks each family to complete this [Morning Health Checklist](#) each morning as part of morning routines. Monitoring for symptoms is a key factor in preventing the spread of any illness.

Students must remain home if exhibiting COVID-19 or other illness symptoms. As is always the case--but particularly in the current health situation--it is important that

parents not send sick children to school. We are asking parents to partner with us in reviewing their children's health at home before sending them to school. In this way, we hope that children are being reviewed for symptoms by those they feel most comfortable with.

If a student is referred to the office (by self or a GCCS staff member), she/he will be treated as any other student complaining of not feeling well. On-site temperature checks will be done for any student coming into the office for health-related concerns. If the student (or a staff member) is identified to have a temperature of 100.4°F or higher, appropriate steps will be taken to isolate that person in a designated sick room, to arrange for the student to be picked up from school, and to perform proper cleaning and disinfecting.

II. **Personal Hygiene**

A. **Handwashing / Hand Sanitizer**

- Handwashing in sinks or with hand sanitizer will be done with frequency for all students and staff members throughout the day.
- Preschool and elementary classes will build handwashing into the routines of the day, and ample hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.
- Students at all grade levels will be taught the importance of and techniques for [proper handwashing](#).

B. **Physical Distancing**

- All JK - 12th classrooms within GCCS will be set up for feasible physical distancing while also creating an effective learning environment for students. The general guideline being used is three feet between each student.
- GCCS has established practices that minimize large-scale congestion, wherever possible.

III. **Facial Coverings** (section revised August 27, 2021)

On August 20, the [Kent County Health Department issued a public health order](#) related to mask-wearing for students age 4 and up through 6th grade.

Our schools will follow the health order guidelines; with regard to the medical exception, we will accept a written representation from a physician or a parent that a child cannot medically tolerate a facial covering.

For students in grades 7 - 12, mask-wearing is recommended by the health department, but the decision for mask-wearing will be ultimately left to students and to staff.

GCCS will create a learning environment at school where students are respecting the choices of each family regarding masks and where students respect one another.

IV. Routine Cleaning to Maintain Healthy Facilities

During the past school year, GCCS installed additional hand sanitizer stations throughout hallways and in each classroom. In addition, we have consistently used approved cleaning products, per recommendations, to clean and disinfect surfaces. Two key cleaning and disinfecting protocols that will be done daily are as follows:

- **High-touch surfaces** (e.g., door knobs or desktops) will be routinely sanitized each day.
- Regular disinfecting will occur daily in each classroom.

V. Vaccinations for COVID-19

As has been 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.

VI. Ventilation

In order to ensure adequate air circulation in classrooms, interior classroom doors and windows will be opened as much as possible to allow for fresh air to circulate. GCCS also consistently reviews air circulation with our contractors who service our equipment and facilities.

VII. Health and Safety Protocols for Staff

Health and Safety Protocols for GCCS Faculty and Staff can be found here: [GCCS Health and Safety Protocols](#).

VIII. Athletics

At this time, athletics in the fall are under no special circumstances or restrictions. We will utilize the lessons learned from the past year to ensure the safety of athletes, coaches, and spectators.

IX. Busing and Student Transportation

Buses will still be run by both Grandville Calvin Christian and Grandville Public Schools (GPS) for GCCS families. We have been communicating with GPS officials regarding routes and pick-up and drop-off points. It is probable that both GCCS and GPS buses will have to pick up at designated pick-up points as opposed to door-to-door service. More information will be communicated about this as routes and stops are confirmed.

Facial coverings will be required of riders and drivers on school buses (see the FAQ section of the [CDC order for public transportation](#)).

Hand sanitizer has been installed on the buses, and buses will be cleaned and disinfected regularly. In addition, buses will keep sanitizing wipes readily available to regularly clean high-touch surfaces (e.g., handrails).

X. Contact-Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine - Responding to a Positive COVID Test

We must be prepared to respond should a GCCS student or staff member test positive for COVID-19. We require that if a student tests positive, the family will report this to the school; similarly, if a staff member tests positive, she or he will also inform the school. We will work together with the family and/or staff person, as well as with local health officials, to ensure that the individual and her or his family is taken care of. (Note: Any GCCS student or staff member awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test should remain home until the results of the test are communicated to the individual.)

GCCS will continue to keep its "[Coronavirus Dashboard](#)" up-to-date to keep our community aware of positive COVID cases among staff and students.

Circumstances for a Student or Staff Member Displaying Symptoms at School

- Students who develop a fever or become ill with COVID-19 symptoms at school should be transported by their parent or guardian, emergency contact, or ambulance if clinically unstable, for off-site testing.
- GCCS staff who develop a fever or become ill with COVID-19 symptoms at school will be required to have off-site testing.
- Symptomatic students and staff sent home from school should be kept home until they have tested negative for COVID-19, or have been released from isolation according to CDC and Kent County Health Department guidelines.
- Families will be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home.

Circumstances for a GCCS Student or Staff Member Who Tests Positive for COVID-19

Any individual (and the immediate family members living with that individual) in the GCCS community testing positive for COVID-19 will be expected to quarantine for a period of time determined by the Kent County Health Department. In addition to quarantining, before a child can return to school or a staff member can return to work, she/he must stay at home until the individual has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers, other symptoms have improved, and at least 10 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared.

During a period of quarantine, the school will be in regular communication with the family to check on the health and well-being of the student or staff member and to help the student keep up with schoolwork (if the student feels well enough to do so). We know that these situations will be fluid and case-by-case, and our response will require on-going communication in order to meet the needs of the student and her or his family.

In addition, GCCS would work with the local health department to determine what would need to happen with the other students in the affected classroom with regards to appropriate next steps. The school will still conduct contact-tracing and notify families, but any student needing to quarantine will be determined in conjunction with the Kent County Health Department (reference [Kent County Health Department FAQs regarding Quarantine](#) and [KCHD Quarantine Guidance from August 2021](#)).

Any classroom(s) that the student or staff person is known to have been in will be vacated for a minimum of 24 hours in order to thoroughly sanitize the room(s). For this purpose, each campus will have rooms designated as “overflow” should we need to vacate a room for a period of time so that instruction can continue.

XI. Off Campus Learning Plans

We recognize that we still need to be prepared for “Off Campus Learning,” should we have an outbreak on a campus and it is determined, in conjunction with the Kent County Health Department, that we need to move students off campus for a time.

We learned a number of lessons in the past school year about how to do this effectively and to keep students learning and connected, and we will utilize those lessons and similar platforms in the 2021-2022 school year, should we have to move off campus for a time.

Because we understand that this is a possibility in the 2021-2022 school year, as we did last year, we will take opportunities during the beginning of the school year to familiarize students and families with platforms (e.g., Seesaw or Google Classroom) that we may use for off-campus instruction. This will be necessary both to be prepared and because we anticipate that some of our students may be off-campus at various times during the school year due to health concerns for the students themselves and/or for a family member.

Note: GCCS has consulted with the Kent County Health Department and other Michigan non-public and public schools to develop this plan. Here are a number of resources that have been consulted for guidance and recommendations in planning for the return to school:

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#) - Guidance for Safe Schools

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) - Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

[CDC - COVID Data Tracker \(by county\)](#)

[MDHHS - Recommendations for Safer School Operations](#) (August 13, 2021)

[KCHD Quarantine Guidance from August 2021](#)