Welcome Back! 2021-2022 School Year

GROWING GREATNESS

The Governor’s School for the Arts
The Opening Day of GSA will be live and in person for our students.

We will also live-stream the event to our YouTube channel.

Tune in at 2:30pm to https://www.youtube.com/user/GovernorsSchool

Opening Day at GSA is an exciting event! You will hear your peers welcome you and speak about the school, meet your faculty, and see live performances.

When you first arrive to GSA, you will go to your department for an orientation.

**BUSES**

Be sure to check with transportation at your home high school regarding buses to GSA.

1st shift buses (Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Southampton) will depart at 4:25pm and 2nd shift buses (Chesapeake, Isle of Wight, Suffolk and Franklin) will depart at 5:25pm
INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY

The Governor’s School for the Arts is prepared to provide instruction using three different models:

**Traditional model:** All GSA students are in the building for face-to-face instruction, five days a week, with transportation provided by our eight school districts.

**Blended model:** Students will be divided into two separate groups with in-person instruction two days a week and virtual instruction two days a week. The fifth day will be used for master classes and/or reflections.

**Temporary virtual model:** Students will participate in virtual instruction until it is safe to return to face-to-face instruction.
SCHEDULING AND INSTRUCTIONAL TIMES

GSA will begin the year with in-person instruction. If health conditions deteriorate or there is an outbreak at GSA, we will toggle between the available models of instruction.

Norfolk, Portsmouth, Southampton, and Virginia Beach students will have classes from 1:00 pm to 4:10 pm.

Chesapeake, Franklin, Isle of Wight, and Suffolk students will have classes from 2:00 pm to 5:10 pm.

Students will receive their class schedules during the first week of instruction.

TECHNOLOGY

GSA is committed to providing students with the appropriate technology needed to be successful in their art specialty.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

The GSA grading scale is outlined in the GSA Student Handbook.

Students will receive grades in all enrolled classes during the quarter.

Teachers will provide students with a syllabus of how they will grade their classes.

If virtual classes are necessary, they will be synchronous via Zoom, with asynchronous activities via Google Classroom.

Students will receive quizzes, tests, and other assessments, dependent on their art form.

When appropriate, students will be required to be in dress code. This dress code varies from department to department.

Students will receive progress reports, mid-way through the quarter, in classes in which they are not completing required work or performing below a C average.

There are four (4) grading periods, which are approximately nine (9) weeks in length. Students will participate in mid-year and end-of-year jury assessments. These juries vary from department to department.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are required to attend all of their GSA classes, regularly and on time. Daily attendance will be monitored.
Communication by parents/guardians is essential. Parents/guardians are asked to email absentee notes to the department chair and the administrative assistant whenever their student is absent from a scheduled class/activity.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided by our school districts; therefore, we encourage our families to contact their student’s home high school to determine procedures and safety protocols that have been established. Per a federal order, masks are required on all public transportation, including school buses.

SUPPLIES

Supplies vary from department to department and will be disseminated from GSA. A materials fee of $175 is due October 15, 2021. Families may submit a request for waiver or reduced fees. The form is located on the gsarts website or may be accessed HERE:

GSA is requesting specific supplies and would appreciate all families purchasing at least one item if possible. Access our wishlist on AMAZON.

PERFORMANCES & EXHIBITIONS

GSA is hoping to provide performance opportunities in person. These performances will vary from department to department.

A calendar of events will be published on our online calendar on our website. Link HERE
Located in Norfolk, The Governor’s School for the Arts typically follows the procedures and guidelines of Norfolk Public Schools, with some variations that best meet the needs of its students. COVID-19 has presented a host of challenges; therefore, GSA will follow the presented mitigation strategies, as well as those outlined by NPS, with the understanding that adjustments will be necessary to meet the needs of students and their home school district.

**Plan for health and absenteeism monitoring**
- Faculty and staff absenteeism will be monitored daily by department chairs and school administrators. Concerns will be reported to the chair of the superintendents committee and the Norfolk Department of Public Health (NDPH).
- Student absenteeism will be monitored daily by administration with communication between the parent and student’s home high school. Concerns will be reported to the student’s superintendent and the NDPH.

**Expectations for Parents**
Parents should:
- Keep students at home who have mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19, flu, or running a temperature over 100.4°F.
- Keep students home if he/she has had close contact with a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
- Provide their student(s) with a face mask to wear.
- Wash cloth face masks daily.
- Pick up their student immediately if contacted by the school.

**Information from GSA to Parents/Guardians and Home High School**
Information will be provided to parents/guardians, while maintaining confidentiality, if a staff member or student has symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The student’s home high school, superintendent and the NDPH will also be notified.

**Physical distancing:** We will increase space between students (when possible) during face-to-face instruction. Desks will be spaced three feet apart or protective desk guards will be used when necessary, with all desks facing in the same direction.

**Symptoms screening:** All faculty will be instructed on how to observe students and recognize symptoms of sick students. All students who appear symptomatic will be referred to administration and isolated until picked up by a parent/guardian. Students and staff are requested to not attend GSA if they are experiencing symptoms.
**Hand hygiene:** Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to exercise frequent hand hygiene throughout the instructional day. Hand sanitizing stations are located throughout the building and in each classroom.

**Student supplies:** Students are responsible for providing their own face mask; dancers are encouraged to have an additional face mask to replace one that has become saturated with moisture. Faculty will limit sharing of supplies, and disinfecting wipes/solutions will be used when equipment sharing is necessary.

**Facility cleaning:** Custodial staff will increase the frequency of cleaning and sanitizing of high touch surfaces each day. Students will be instructed to disinfect their workspace when they arrive and prior to their departure.

**Food:** The GSA Canteen will be open for students with a limited capacity (13) and time limitations (15 minutes). Additionally, departments will provide additional locations where students may consume lunch, should the canteen be at capacity.

**Plan for health and absenteeism monitoring**
Faculty and staff absenteeism will be monitored daily by department chairs and school administrators. Concerns will be reported to the chair of the superintendents committee and the Norfolk Department of Public Health (NDPH).

Student absenteeism will be monitored daily by administration, with communication between the parent and student’s home high school. Concerns will be reported to the student’s superintendent and the NDPH.
PREPARING, MONITORING SYMPTOMS AND SICK SPACE

Arrival and dismissal entrances will be designated by department.

Students displaying symptoms upon arrival will be sent to administration and will be isolated from students and faculty.

Students will receive further system checks by designated administrative staff.

The designated administrative staff person conducting assessment on a known ill individual must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which includes a medical grade face mask, gloves, gown, and goggles.

Students who are isolated will wear a face mask and sit in a designated area separated from all other students/faculty.

Parents/Guardians will be notified and asked to pick up their student.

Faculty and students should conduct daily symptom checks and should not come to GSA if sick or have signs or symptoms of COVID-19, even without documentation from a health care provider.

SYMPTOMS AREA

The conference is the designated area for students with possible COVID-19 symptoms.

All staff working in this area will wear masks and PPE.

Students will remain in place until parents are able to pick them up or if respiratory distress is identified. Non-contact thermometers will be used.

The student’s home high school and superintendent will be notified.

Disinfecting protocols will be followed.
ILLNESS WHILE AT SCHOOL OR HOME

All students, parents/guardians, and employees are encouraged to remain home if they experience symptoms of COVID-19, or have been in contact with a person diagnosed positive for COVID-19.

Possible symptoms:
Active vomiting/diarrhea.
Fever/chills/generalized body aches.
Cough/shortness of breath
Fatigue not associated with a known diagnosed medical condition.
Loss of appetite/smell.
Sore throat with one additional symptom
Undiagnosed new skin rash over a large percentage of the body.

ABSENCE DUE TO MEDICAL PROVIDER TREATMENT

To return to school/work faculty, staff and students must have a doctor’s note with a specific date of return.

Sick While in School/Work:
Any student/faculty who begins to feel ill while at GSA must notify the department chair and administration.

If any of the COVID-19 related symptoms are evident upon assessment, administration must be notified.

The student’s parent/guardian will be notified and requested to pick up the student. They will be placed in isolation while awaiting pick up.

The employee will be asked to go home.

The student’s parent/guardian, or employee, will be provided with an instruction sheet, based on CDC Guidelines, outlining when they can return.

When to Return after Illness:
Students/employees who have COVID-19 like symptoms or are diagnosed with COVID-19 may return to school/work after the following guidelines are met, and must present to administration their return to school/ work clearance.

Symptom-based
Must be at least 24 hours since fever without fever-reducing medication, and Improvement in respiratory symptoms, and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
Positive COVID-19 Test Result
Have a note from a healthcare provider to return to school/work.

Student/employee may return to school/work if 14 days have passed since last contact with the person testing positive for COVID-19 and have remained symptom free during that time.

CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is a disease control measure employed by the Norfolk Department of Public Health personnel and a key strategy for preventing the spread of COVID-19. GSA administration will assist NDPH with conducting contact tracing. GSA instructional staff shall maintain careful records of students’ seating assignments, performance pods, groupings, etc. to assist with the contact tracing process.

Students, parents, student’s home high school and faculty will only be informed that they may have been exposed to a patient with the infection. They will not be told the identity of the individual who may have exposed them.