



August 2020

Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! As you are well aware, school will look different in some ways this year, but our mission to educate all students remains the same. Our staff has been hard at work to prepare for your child's return to school, and student wellbeing is our main concern, as always. We will be utilizing the COVID-19 risk dial, which is updated each Tuesday by the Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD). For more information on the risk dial, please visit the PPHD website at www.pphd.org.

As we look forward to welcoming students back to school, we wanted to make you aware of some of the important changes and accommodations we will be implementing to prioritize the safety and health of all:

- Upon arrival, and prior to entering the building, students will be screened with temperature checks. To see more about symptom screening when elevated temperatures are detected, please see the COVID FAQ page on the district website.
- Masks will be worn upon entry to the building and throughout the day, whenever physical distancing of six feet or more cannot be achieved. They will also be worn at dismissal. A mask opt-out form is available at www.geringschools.net
- Each GPS building has created designated isolation rooms in partnership with healthcare staff and will have the ability to safely screen students with symptoms.
- Lunch and recess plans are being made at each building to ensure physical distancing. These plans will be communicated to students and practiced once school begins, but will likely include recess with single grade levels only, staggered lunch schedules, and seating charts during lunch.
- Student drop-off will look similar to the past, using the front entrance, but entrances and exits will be assigned to each grade level at the start of the day and dismissal to minimize the number of students entering and exiting through the same doors. Dismissal will occur based on students' assigned doors. **Please see the attached map for grade-level entrances/exits.**
- Custodial staff has been involved in training throughout the summer to ensure effective cleaning practices are occurring on a consistent basis.
- A health official will be on site at each building on a daily basis. Should symptoms of illness arise, protocol provided by Panhandle Public Health will be followed and communication will occur on an individual basis as appropriate.
- Extended Campus Learning (virtual) options are available for families. For more information, please visit www.geringschools.net.
- In lieu of a traditional Open House, each grade level in each building will be hosting a virtual meeting via Zoom to share important back-to-school information with families. Classroom teachers will share individual links to these meetings. The virtual Open House schedule is as follows:

KDG	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
8/14, 1:30 PM	8/17, 6:30 PM	8/18, 6:30 PM	8/19, 6:30 PM	8/20, 6:30 PM	8/24, 6:30 PM

We look forward to a fantastic school year and appreciate your continued partnership. Go Bulldogs!

Educationally yours,

Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Morris, Mr. Wiedeman - Gering Public Schools Elementary Principals