



August 5, 2022

Dear GVA Parent & Guardians,

Welcome back to a new school year! We are looking forward to a great year as we begin to find a new sense of normalcy after the last two years. COVID has left its impression on our lives and continues to be a point we must navigate as a school. Since COVID remains in our communities, we have worked to find a balance to maintain safety within our schools while continuing to keep students in the classroom.

Below you will find our protocols for the beginning of the school year that are adapted from the K-12 guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). As we have learned over the last two years, things can change quickly and we will update you as necessary.

### **Cleanliness**

Classrooms, restrooms and playground equipment will continue to be cleaned daily.

### **Air Purification**

Doors and windows may be opened as the weather allows to produce air flow. All of our HVAC systems are equipped with Bipolar Ionization Air Purifiers and we will maintain bi-monthly air filter changes to our HVAC systems.

### **Face Coverings**

Students and staff may wear face masks or clear face shields anytime. Face masks will be available in all classroom and office spaces for those who need them.

### **COVID Positive Cases**

Parents must inform the school office if their child tests positive for COVID. All COVID positive cases will be excluded from school for at least 5 days after testing positive. Only after the 5<sup>th</sup> day and only once they have tested negative may a student return to school. Per the CDPH, it is recommended that a face mask be worn for 10 days following the positive test. This is a GVA recommendation as well.

### **COVID Exposure Cases**

It is recommended that anyone exposed to COVID be tested within 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask. If experiencing symptoms, students must stay home until symptoms have subsided and the student has been fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. If your child is exposed, please watch for the onset of symptoms and test regularly to avoid sending your child to school with COVID.

### **Student Illness Protocol**

Keep your child home if they are experiencing any illness related symptoms. Students may only return once they are fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications and all symptoms are subsiding.

Students will be sent home from school if they experiencing a fever, vomiting, severe congestion, extreme exhaustion and/or an intense headache. All other symptoms will be handled on a case by case basis.

### **Communication**

Parents will be notified if their child may have shared the same indoor airspace with a COVID positive case. This communication will be sent via Parent Square. When necessary, an all-school communication may also be sent informing parents of a potential exposure.

### **Testing**

GVA will maintain the ability to test students and staff for COVID on our school sites. If you would like your child tested at any time, please contact your school office to be directed to the school Health Technician. To preregister and to provide consent for the testing, please complete the registration and consent form as soon as possible.

[https://my.primary.health/r/greatvalleyacademy?registration\\_type=student](https://my.primary.health/r/greatvalleyacademy?registration_type=student)

At-home tests will also be available for students who wish to test at home. If a student is sent home from school with symptoms, an at-home test may be provided.

### **Independent Study**

Students who are ill and must be out of school for 3 or more days will be offered Independent Study in order to maintain coursework while away from the classroom.

### **Questions**

Our campus Health Technicians are available during the school year to answer any COVID related questions regarding symptoms, testing, etc. Please feel free to reach out.

Thank you for your ongoing support of GVA as we have worked through COVID. These protocols are in place for the safety of our staff and students. We look forward to seeing you back on campus this year.

Sincerely,

Tom Anderson  
Superintendent/CEO  
Great Valley Academy

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