



GBPP Re-Opening Plans 2020/2021 School Year

July 14, 2020

Dear Parents,

In an effort to be proactive regarding the health and safety of our children, families, and staff during a pandemic, Great Bridge Presbyterian Preschool has developed a plan for opening, as well as policies and procedures to prevent, protect, mitigate and respond to an outbreak of a pandemic disease within the preschool. We have truly appreciated all of the support, prayers, and feedback while we have worked to develop this plan. We know that we will continue to pull together as a community to make the best of these circumstances, while providing a safe place for our children to receive a quality education.

Please note that the leadership of the preschool will make adjustments to these plans, policies and procedures as needed. Thoughtful, research-based decisions will be made using the most current knowledge and immediate impact of COVID-19 in our community.



Although we have moved into PHASE III in Virginia, we have thoughtfully anticipated many situations that may be possible during the 2020/2021 school year. In all situations, we will follow regulations set by the state and local governing agencies regarding how to safely open our preschool.

If we must move temporarily into Phase I because of a high risk of the spread of COVID-19, we will offer high quality distance learning to kindergarten students and have expectations for completion of the work provided. Other classes will temporarily close.

If we must move temporarily into Phase II because of a large risk of the spread of COVID-19, we will offer in-person learning to all Kindergarten and PK5 classes. Other classes will temporarily close.

If we are in Phase III or beyond, until further guidance is given to us by our governing bodies, we will have all classes in-person as regularly scheduled. No PK2 classes will be offered at this time, as we must use these staff members and this classroom to comply with the reduced class sizes for PK3.

If school closures occur, lasting longer than two weeks, the preschool board will determine if an adjustment of tuition is appropriate and feasible.

★ **We ask that you make a decision about attending our preschool in the fall as soon as possible.** If you plan to send your child to the preschool, please go to <http://gbprespreschool.org/facts-tuition-payment/> and sign up for the FACTS tuition payment plan **no later than August 1st**. If you decide to withdraw, please send an email to preschool@gbpres.org with your decision **no later than August 1st**. If we do not hear from you by August 1st, we will be contacting you to confirm your decision. If you are not signed up for FACTS, we will not guarantee your spot. Much of how we operate in the fall depends on enrollment, so we must have your decision as soon as possible.



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

In an effort to prevent an outbreak in the preschool and protect the children, families and staff, we will continue to enforce our Health and Illness policy as follows:

If a child becomes sick while at the preschool, that child will be removed from the classroom and isolated from others. A staff member wearing PPE will monitor the student while waiting for the parents to come pick the child up. You must arrange to have your child picked up within 30 minutes.

Should you or any household member have any of the following new or worsening symptoms, you should not send your child to school until they have been symptom free for 72 hours without medication, or medical clearance is provided by a physician indicating that the presenting symptoms are associated with a known non-COVID-19 illness.

- Fever of 100.4 F or higher, now or in the preceding 72 hours
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of smell or taste
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

Notify the Preschool office if your child has a contagious illness or disease so that we may take appropriate action to notify other parents, be alert to symptoms, and prevent the spread of germs. Individual student confidentiality will be maintained during this process.

If a student, staff member or family of GBPP has been exposed to COVID-19, the preschool will take the following steps:

- If exposure to COVID-19 has been confirmed, the preschool will work with the local health department and follow their guidelines which may include:

- Dismissing students and staff for 2-5 days or longer (either just a classroom or the whole school). The local health department will determine this depending on the level of exposure.
- Communicating with families while maintaining confidentiality of the students.
- Thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting the school and classrooms.
- Deciding on longer school closure if necessary; implementing continuity of learning plans as needed.

In addition to this policy, we will implement the following precautions as deemed necessary, following the guidance of the CDC and local health departments:

- **Daily Health Check** for staff and students will be required *before* coming to the preschool. We will be taking student and staff temperatures upon arrival and asking a series of screening questions before staff or students are admitted to the preschool.
- **Nonessential visitors** are not allowed into the preschool. Parents are only allowed in special circumstances and must wear masks, wash hands, and maintain a social distance from everyone except their own child.
- **Drop-offs/pick-ups** will take place outside, with children escorted to their classroom by preschool staff. We will utilize all doors to help with the flow of traffic. We will also stagger drop-off and pick-up times by class to reduce congestion.
- **Cloth face coverings** will be worn by staff when closer than 6 feet to students. Facemasks are not required for students, but we encourage students to wear facemasks when appropriate, especially students in the older classrooms.
- **Hygiene/handwashing** will be emphasized daily in the preschool and the classrooms. Children and staff will wash hands upon arrival and many times throughout the day. Although we will encourage and utilize handwashing with soap and water when possible, we will also utilize hand sanitizer that is at least 70% alcohol.
- **Reduced class sizes**, as determined by local guidance, in consistent groupings with consistent staffing as possible.
 - **PK3** will have no more than 12 people in a classroom, including staff.
 - Larger classes will use larger classrooms to allow students to spread out.
- **Social distancing will be practiced and encouraged** as much as possible in an age appropriate manner. Children will play and interact with each other, but will be encouraged to maintain their personal space. Classes will not mix with other classes in an effort to limit the sharing of germs. Only one class at a time will play on the playground.
- **Frequent cleaning and disinfecting** of high touch surfaces, toys, and laundered items will occur throughout the day. Toys that are not easily cleaned will be removed from the classroom. Items, such as playdough, will not be shared but each student will have their individual container. Children's belongings such as jackets will be kept in containers to keep them from touching each other. Each evening, church staff will disinfect each room with a non-toxic spray sanitizer.
- **Outdoor time will be limited** to one group at a time.
- **Classroom activities** will be adjusted to reduce sharing of items and spreading of germs. Large group activities will be replaced with small group or one-on-one instruction. Centers and activities will encourage children to spread out.
- **Spanish and Music** will be included in the curriculum by the individual teachers. We will not offer separate Spanish, music or computer class at this time.
- **Stay and Play, Soccer Shots, or Music, Move and Groove Class** or other after-school activities will not be offered at this time.

At home, you can help us by

- **Practicing good hygiene habits** with your children, such as covering your cough or sneeze and proper handwashing techniques. If possible and appropriate, such as for PK4, PK5 and kindergarten, practice wearing a mask and encourage them to wear one when close to other children. Talk with them about not touching their faces.
- **Cleaning and disinfecting** any items that your child brings to school on a daily basis, including jackets, backpacks or other items. We ask that all snacks/lunches be sent in ziplock bags, paper bags, or other disposable containers. No lunchboxes please except for kindergarten.
- **Don't bring unnecessary items to school.** Please keep children's toys and other belongings at home if at all possible.
- **Bring in supplies** to help us with these new procedures and policies. Cleaning supplies are always welcome, and teachers will send home supply lists at the beginning of the year that they will need for their class.
- **Keeping your children home if they are not feeling well.**

With all of these policies and procedures in place, we will continue to follow our curriculum objectives to provide a quality educational experience. No amount of precaution or preparedness can 100% guarantee the safety and health of students and staff, and we will ask parents to sign a waiver at the beginning of the year acknowledging this.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the preschool through email at preschool@gbpres.org or through a phone call, 757-579-4303.

Thank you so much for your support and prayers as we all pull together in this difficult situation to provide a safe, quality learning environment for our students.

Sincerely,

The Preschool Board and Becky Miles, Director

