



June 25, 2020

Dear Gooden Community,

As we prepare to reopen our school this fall, we lead with three goals:

1. The health and safety of our students, their families, and our staff
2. Developmentally appropriate practices
3. Communication with our community

It seems that COVID-19 is unlikely to go away anytime soon. With that in mind, we must prepare ourselves and our students to live in a world where we do our best to mitigate the risk of the virus while taking into consideration the value and need of children to be in an educational setting where learning and social/emotional development can take place.

The Gooden School continues to collaborate with our accrediting associations and with local public health authorities to plan a responsive re-entry strategy that prioritizes the health and safety of our community.

While we are preparing for on-campus learning for the 2020-2021 academic year, we understand that some families may need their children to spend most or all of their time off-campus until public health conditions stabilize. With these realities in mind, we're building a comprehensive blended learning program that will ensure instructional continuity for all students over the course of the 2020-2021 school year, whether they are on- or off-campus.

Gooden students will begin the 2020-2021 academic year engaged in our campus-based blended learning program, with the expectation that specific health and safety protocols will determine each child's daily attendance. In the event that your child is unable to attend or conditions require campus closure, your child will transition to distance learning until campus attendance can resume.

We plan for grade levels to occupy common spaces, participate in their co-curricular experiential classes, and even enjoy modified field trips. We also hope to offer before and after-school care and study hall.

In order to achieve this plan, families and staff will be asked to follow new protocols, including as passive and active health screenings, social distancing, staggered drop-off/pick up times, reporting on temperatures before school, taking temperatures during school, teachers wearing PPE (personal protective equipment), more frequent hand-washing, and modified lunch and sports programs.

So that we are able to communicate with all new and returning families, we are arranging Zoom meetings for each grade level to discuss specifics with current parents. These meetings will be scheduled for early evenings in July and links will be emailed to parents in advance.

All our faculty and staff thank our whole community for their support this year. From helping your students manage distance learning, to additional gifts to our Annual Fund to support Gooden's programs, from notes, cards, and sweet treats for faculty and staff at the end of the year, it is so appreciated! Gooden exists because of our community, and we thank you and your children for being on this journey together with us. Please be sure to take a look at our distance learning statistics below to learn about the ways we connected with, supported, and engaged our students these past few months.

Salvete,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo-Anne Woolner". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Jo-Anne Woolner
Head of School