



September 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

**COVID-19 Symptom Screening**

By now, you should have received an email invitation to download MyMedBot, our health screening app. If you have not received that email invitation, please contact Attendance Clerk Debbie Davis at [d.davis@georgestevens.org](mailto:d.davis@georgestevens.org) or (207) 374-2808.

Prescreening is required every day a student comes to campus, including next week's orientation days. If you do not have a smartphone or tablet to which to download the app, or if you are unable to use MyMedBot for any other reason, please ask Debbie Davis this week about an alternative screening method.

About MyMedBot: Starting at 5 a.m. EACH DAY, that day's screening report form will be available for a parent or guardian to complete with their child or children. Please complete the screening no later than 6:45 a.m. so that Debbie Davis has a chance to review the reports before the first bus arrives, usually shortly after 7 a.m. Parents/guardians of juniors and seniors with "senior privilege" who do not have to arrive on campus for first period should complete the screening by the same 6:45 a.m. deadline.

At this time, all-remote students will not need to be screened. Once fall athletics begin, a screening report for all participants will also be sent. This ensures that students who are not on campus for classes are still screened to participate in sports that day.

Notifications: MyMedBot will send a notification every 30 minutes starting at 6 a.m. to remind you that that day's report is available to be filled out. Please manage your app notifications well. Most smartphones/tablets allow you to choose whether you receive sound notifications, badge notifications, or both. It is possible on some devices to make the banner notification "persistent," which means that a notification banner remains on the screen until you take action or dismiss the notification. This is helpful if you have sound notifications turned off. Whenever you check your phone, that notification should be on screen.

Please do not turn notifications for the app off unless you have another way to remember to open the app and fill out the report before 6:45 a.m. each day. One way to do so is to set a reminder alarm on your phone/tablet.

A student should STAY HOME if they are told by the app or alternative screening to do so. Of course, they also should stay home if they are sick with symptoms that the screening app doesn't ask about. Now more than ever, it's important for students and staff to stay home when sick.

Once we are familiar with how this new system works, any student who comes to campus without having completed the prescreening will not be allowed to enter school. They will be referred to an administrator, and their parents will be contacted to pick them up. For orientation week, while we all are adjusting to this new system, a student who arrives without having been screened using MyMedBot or the alternative screening will be screened at the appropriate entrance.

### **Arrival of Screened Students**

All students who arrive before 7:45 a.m. should go to the gym through the rear parking lot entrance. They will check in with an administrator/faculty member and be reminded to stay socially distanced, wear their masks, and sanitize/wash their hands after entering. At 7:45, they will be dismissed to their first period classrooms.

All students who arrive after 7:45 a.m. should go to the entrance for their grade, listed below. They also will check in with an administrator/faculty member and be reminded to stay socially distanced and wear their masks. After that, they will be directed to their first period classroom and reminded to sanitize/wash their hands after entering that building.

9<sup>th</sup> Grade: the cafeteria door closest to the brick science wing, accessed from the courtyard\*

10<sup>th</sup> Grade: the Academy Building main entrance on Union Street (front steps)\*

11<sup>th</sup> Grade: the High Street entrance beneath the library walkway\*

12<sup>th</sup> Grade: rear parking lot entrance by the gym/music room\*

### **Health and Safety Guidelines/Mask Requirements**

You and your children should be familiar with our Health and Safety Guidelines, which are available online at <https://www.georgesteveacademy.org/backtoschool>. Health and safety protocols will be reviewed during orientations, but they should be sure to review the section on wearing masks, as they will be expected to have them on as they arrive at the appropriate entrance. I have included that section here.

#### ----WEARING MASKS

----Everyone must wear a mask while in buildings, except when eating or drinking. This is an absolute requirement for students in regular classes. A student with an IEP may have a different arrangement, which will be handled through our Special Education Department, following special protocols.

----Masks may be homemade or commercial, cloth or disposable. They must be at least two layers. They may not have "exhalation vents." Bandanas are not permitted. As of this writing, "neck gaiters" are not permitted. This is under review as new research and guidelines come forward.

----When people are outside, and at least 6 feet apart, masks are not required.

----Teachers may arrange for outdoor "mask breaks." During mask breaks, students must maintain 6 foot distances.

----We will have a limited number of masks for visitors or for students who have forgotten their masks.

----All visitors must wear masks. We will have good signage to tell people our requirements.

----Students who refuse to wear masks, or whose families do not want them to wear a mask, will need to do all classwork online from home.

----Students who do not comply with mask-wearing protocols, or who repeatedly forget to bring a mask to school, will not be allowed on campus, and will need to do all classwork online from home.

**Other reminders**

Please be sure your child arrives with two full water bottles. There will be opportunities to refill those bottles as needed later in the day.

Students will not be permitted (nor is there time in the schedule) to go to Merrill & Hinckley, so students should bring snacks with them to eat. There is no longer a break in our daily schedule, so teachers will provide opportunities during class when students may eat a snack, possibly at the same time they take “mask breaks” outdoors.

Because teachers may take students outdoors for class or breaks, students should bring whatever clothing they need to stay comfortable, which could include an extra shirt, a coat, perhaps even a raincoat if some teachers plan to work outside in misty weather. Sunscreen, a hat, or other ways to protect skin from the sun are also recommended.

Thank you for your patience and assistance as we start our school year in an unprecedented way. There are many new elements designed to protect the health and safety of our community, and I am confident that they will all be familiar and comfortable soon.

Respectfully,

Timothy J. Seeley  
Head of School

\*Those of you who are unfamiliar with our campus should [click here](#) to see a satellite image of our campus with the entrances marked, as well as pictures of those entrances.