



April 30, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin the fourth quarter of this very unusual year, I have several plans-in-progress to share.

Bringing more “hybrid” students to campus each day

Now that most of our adults and many of our students are fully vaccinated, we are exploring the possibility of having all students currently on campus just two days a week (our “hybrid” students) start coming for four days: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. If we proceed with this, Wednesdays will be reserved for remote-only students and their teachers.

There are, however, many factors to think through, and I cannot guarantee we will be able to expand on-campus classes. I raise the possibility in part because some of you may not feel ready to have your child on campus four days a week, and you may choose for them to go fully remote for the rest of the year. If a large number of families make that choice, it will impact the way we do all-remote teaching and learning, and that’s also something we’ll need to plan for. **Therefore, if you think your child might shift to “fully remote” instead of being on campus four days a week, please email David Stearns to let him know (d.stearns@georgestevens.org). This is not a commitment on your part, just a way to give us a sense of whether we will see an increase in fully remote students.**

We will decide whether to expand days on campus to “hybrid” students by the end of next week. If we decide to adopt the four-day schedule, we will begin the week of May 24 at the earliest.

End-of-year events

We are well into planning our end-of-year events. We’ve polled the seniors and have done our own thinking about the best ways to celebrate their final year of GSA. More details will follow, and, of course, all planning is subject to change depending on new public health guidelines.

Class Night

We will hold Class Night in the gym, at the usual time. The program will be shortened. Because the state restricts the number of people who can gather indoors, we will have to limit the number of family members who can attend. I certainly regret this, but it is unavoidable. Also, everyone will be required to wear masks.

Commencement

Commencement will be on the lawn, as usual. Since it will be outside, the only limit on numbers will be the one imposed by the area of our lawn. We will designate a circle for each family of a

graduating senior, keeping the circles six feet apart. There will be no limit to the number of guests in a circle. There will be four chairs in each circle; additional guests will need to stand. If it rains, commencement will be in the gym with the same guest limitations as for Class Night.

Prom

At the request of seniors, the Student Council is planning a modified prom on Friday, May 21. It will be outdoors and will end before dark. We deliberately put enough distance between prom and graduation so that, should we have a positive case after prom, any required quarantining will be completed by graduation. Dancers will need to dance six feet apart (unless the six-foot guideline changes). Hardly ideal, I know, but it is the only way we can have a prom while adhering to the CDC guidelines. Sadly, there is no rain date.

Latest mask rules

The Maine Department of Education has updated the rules for mask wearing. Masks are no longer required when people are outside and at least six feet apart. Masks are still required outdoors when six-foot distancing cannot be maintained. Masks are required at all times indoors.

For outdoor athletics, masks are no longer required for outdoor practices and competitions when players are six feet apart. They are required for athletes on the bench where the 6-foot distance is not possible, and they are required when individuals are inside (e.g. in locker rooms, rest rooms, or on a bus). Spectators are not required to wear a mask at outside events as long as they maintain six feet distances.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I will send more information as we get closer to the events, including any changes to the guidelines we must follow.

Respectfully,

Tim Seeley