



August 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

All students will be doing some remote learning this year, either because they have chosen to be fully remote, or because our “hybrid” model includes remote elements. I am pleased to let you know that Jenn Jackson, our 9th grade seminar teacher, will also serve as GSA’s Remote Learning Coordinator (RLC). As RLC, Jenn has three main roles: First, she will be the contact person for any connectivity issues. If you need a hotspot or data plan for your child, please reach out to her. Second, she is the point person if you are having issues with remote learning—challenges getting into or using Canvas, trouble connecting with a teacher, and the like. Third, she will have weekly contact with our fully remote students.

GSA is beginning the 2020-21 school year using a “hybrid” model in which academic classes are conducted partly in-person and partly remotely. Most students (“hybrid” students) will attend their classes on campus in person two days a week, meet one class with their teachers and classmates online on Wednesdays, and will spend two more days studying class material remotely. We will also offer one-on-one remote meetings (“virtual office hours”) for students and teachers as needed.

Some students, however, may choose to study entirely off-campus and remotely for all or part of the school year. This document describes our policies for those GSA students who choose to take their academic classes entirely from off-campus rather than in person. We refer to these students as “all-remote students.”

Key points about all-remote students

- All-remote students continue to be full-time GSA students.
- Successful completion of all-remote classes will fulfill GSA graduation requirements.
- In addition to taking academic classes remotely, all-remote students may participate in some in-person school activities and functions, such as athletics, if offered.
- All-remote students with IEPs and 504s will continue to have IEP and 504 arrangements and accommodations while doing their classwork remotely.
- Students may begin the school year remotely and later choose to join their in-person classes on campus; or they may begin taking hybrid classes and later choose to do all their classes remotely. Either way, all-remote v. hybrid switches should be made at the beginnings/ends of a quarter, rather than mid-quarter. However, special circumstances may make a mid-quarter change necessary, and should be discussed with Dean of Curriculum & Instruction David Stearns.

- In the event that GSA has to close campus and move to all-remote, rather than hybrid, teaching and learning, students who have been studying all-remotely will continue their classes remotely with their classmates.

Remote Learning Coordinator (RLC)

GSA has appointed Jenn Jackson as Remote Learning Coordinator. She will act as a direct liaison between all-remote families and students, and students' teachers. All-remote students will have regularly scheduled check-ins with the RLC. Participation in these check-ins is mandatory. Jenn may be reached at j.jackson@georgestevens.org.

All-remote weekly schedule

- All-remote students will follow the same weekly class schedule as Group B "hybrid" students. Group B* students take in-person classes on campus on Thursdays and Fridays, attend remote classes with teachers on Wednesdays, and do classwork remotely on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- All-remote students will be given new coursework (including lessons, activities, and assignments) on Thursdays and Fridays, and will meet with their teacher and classmates remotely on Wednesdays.
- All-remote students will use Thursdays and Fridays (when Group B students are meeting classes in person on campus) to study the material they have received from their teachers.
- On Mondays and Tuesdays, all-remote students will do the same homework that their Group B "hybrid" classmates are doing remotely.
- Every Wednesday, all-remote students will participate with their Group B "hybrid" classmates in whatever remote assignments, lessons, and activities the teacher has prepared for that day.
- In addition, all teachers will have virtual office hours on Wednesday afternoons, for all-remote students.
- Teachers may require their all-remote students to meet with them during those hours by video, email, Canvas chat, or telephone.

Bell Schedule

- All-remote students are expected to follow the weekly GSA bell schedule even though they are not physically on campus. For example, if a class meets on campus on Thursdays and Fridays from 8am until 9:20am, all-remote students enrolled in that class should be doing work for that class on Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00am until 9:20am.
- All-remote students are expected to participate in video events and activities scheduled at specific times during the school day.
- All-remote students should be available to meet remotely for any activities scheduled during the bell-schedule periods for the classes they are enrolled in. (Use the link below to see the bell schedule for all students.)
- Like their on-campus "hybrid" classmates, all-remote students should expect to have afternoon, evening, and weekend homework.

Alternate classes for all-remote students

- Most GSA classes offered in 2020-2021 will be available for all-remote students. However, all-remote students will not be able to enroll in electives that necessarily require hands-on participation that cannot be adapted for remote learning.
- If a student who was taking a hands-on course has to move to all-remote learning, we will find a way for that student to finish that course for credit.
- However, all-remote students will not be able to start a quarter in a hands-on course. (Use the link below to see these classes.)
- If a particular hands-on class is especially important for a remote student, it may be possible to design an Alternative Course Contract (ACC) opportunity for that student in that subject area.

New opportunities for independent learning projects

- GSA has long offered two ways for students to learn independently: Alternative Course Contracts (ACC) and Independent Study (ISIP), traditionally scheduled in February.
- This year, the February period for ISIP has been suspended. Instead, our ISIP Coordinator, Dr. Megan Flenniken, will oversee year-round ISIP and ACC projects that every GSA student is eligible to engage in: self-designed learning projects of 60+ total hours, completed during an academic quarter, semester, or year.
- We invite all students (9th-12th grades) to participate in an independent learning project.
- All-remote students may consider replacing hands-on elective courses for which they are not eligible with an independent project. All-remote students interested in this option for the first quarter should get in touch with Dr. Flenniken as soon as possible.

[Link for Bell Schedule](#)

[Link for list of In-person only classes](#)

Respectfully,

Tim Seeley, Head of School