



July 16, 2020

Dear Parents:

Every summer in schools, there is much work to be done. We reflect on the year just past and get ready for the next. This summer, the amount of work we face has greatly increased, as we prepare to return to school with the coronavirus still a presence in Maine and around the world.

Our most pressing concerns are how best to ensure the health and safety of everyone on campus; how best to engage in distance learning, as we will likely need to do that for at least some students; and how to operate our boarding program safely.

Since shortly after graduation, a committee of representatives from across GSA, as well as a parent, has been thinking through every aspect of school, with student input as appropriate. Here are some of the questions we expect to have answered in early August.

- How can we adapt our programs to provide the best possible education to our students whether we are back in the classroom or have had to resume distance learning?
- How can we accommodate students who might be uncomfortable returning to campus even under low-risk conditions?
- What will our cleaning and disinfecting protocols be?
- How will we bring students and staff onto campus each day?
- How many students can safely be in each classroom?
- How will we feed students?
- How will we provide athletics, music, and other extracurricular programming?
- How will we meet students' social and emotional needs during any periods of distance learning?
- How will we support parents during any periods of distance learning?
- What procedures will we follow if someone in the school community tests positive for the virus?

The committee is drawing on resources from the Maine CDC, the Maine Department of Education, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and professional associations, as well as our own experience and careful judgment, to answer these questions and create a comprehensive plan for fall.

Another critical part of our work this summer is being undertaken by all our faculty members: the development of curricular and programming elements to address racism and other social justice issues. For more on our commitment to advancing social justice, visit [www.georgestevensacademy.org/SocialJustice](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/SocialJustice).

Respectfully,  
Timothy J. Seeley