

Dear GCS Parents,

Today, Governor DeWine announced that he is issuing a public health order (not a recommendation) that all students in grades K-12 will need to wear face shields, face coverings, or face masks at this time. Preschool students are not included in this order and are not mandated to wear masks; however, they are welcome to wear masks at the discretion of parents. The order has not officially been posted onto the public health official's website; therefore, we are communicating this information as we understand the details at this time. We await the full order to understand the details completely.

Since we are starting school tomorrow on Wednesday, August 5, please be advised that all students in grades K-8 at GCS will join all of the teachers and staff in wearing face shields, face coverings, or face masks when in the school buildings. As Governor DeWine suggested, there may be occasional mask breaks taken in the classroom. The Governor additionally explained that masks will not need to be worn when outside for recess, during lunch periods or when outdoor classrooms are in session.

Teachers will remind students to wear their face coverings, however, they will not physically adjust, put on or take off student face coverings. We are ordering child and adult lanyard mask holders that will hopefully be available next week. We are working with a supplier to achieve a very reasonable price for the mask holders; these mask holders can be used during lunch, when at recess, and during outdoor class sessions. We will communicate when these items will be available for purchase in our online Warrior store if you wish to purchase one for your child.

According to Governor DeWine, there will be a few personal medical exemptions permitted for students who cannot wear face coverings. Our nurse, Sandy Nolen RN, will be communicating what those exemptions are (according to the Governor's health order). Please reach out to Sandy Nolen (sandy.nolen@gcsblacklick.org) with any questions you have regarding exemptions. She will be managing this process for GCS.

I am reminded that our God is not chaotic. In Psalm 46, God's word says "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" I know there is so much that has happened in the last few months that can seem chaotic, confusing, and out of order. Always remember, the sun rises and sets precisely every day at the command of our Heavenly Father. This is the God we love, honor, and serve. That's a pretty awesome truth.

If there are details about the Governor's order regarding face coverings that change, we promise to keep you updated.

Grace and peace,

Cindy Phillips