

# Griffith Public Schools

Superintendent of Schools, District Discipline Advisor  
Michele Riise

**Board of School Trustees**  
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Panther Families,

As parents, I understand the anxiety as decisions are made as to whether you will send your child/ren back to school in the fall. Many factors come into play when making that decision, and as superintendent and a mom, I support whatever decision you have to make for you and your family. As I reviewed the survey data, here is what I discovered:

Overall results reflect the following:

### **Parent Survey Results:**

Homeschool - 27/822 responses families - 3%

Distance Learning - 104/822 responses families - 13%

Homeschool/Distance Learning Breakdown by number of students:

Kind - 10 students  
1st Grade - 22 students  
2nd Grade - 17 students  
3rd Grade - 21 students  
4th Grade - 14 students  
5th Grade - 21 students  
6th Grade - 27 students  
7th Grade - 24 students  
8th Grade - 11 students  
9th Grade - 16 students  
10th Grade - 19 students  
11th Grade - 17 students  
12th Grade - 7 students

In Person - 691 families/822 responses - 84%

### **Teacher Survey Results:**

16 teachers are unsure of returning

1 classified staff member is unsure of returning

### **Student Survey Results:**

Preparation for eLearning:

1 (Poor) - 16%

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- 2 - 13%
- 3 - 27%
- 4 - 28%
- 5 (Great) - 18%

Amount of time spent completing work for eLearning:

- 1 (Very little time) - 18%
- 2 - 20%
- 3 - 29%
- 4 - 9%
- 5 (LOTS of time spent) -7%

More time meeting with teacher

313/615 want more time - 51%

eLearning was good - need nothing

32%

Need reliable internet access

17%

Here are the results from the Teacher Survey:

% of students who checked in each day

0 - 50% of the time = 34%

51 - 100% of the time = 66%

% of students who completed assignments

0 - 50% of the time = 15%

51 - 100% of the time = 85%

Lastly, here are the Parent Survey Results:

417/822 (51%) responses rated their preparation for eLearning Poor (1) to Average (3)

49% rated their preparation good (4) to great (5)

Type of Communication Helpful:

Newsletter - 2%

Website - 3%

Personal Calls - 17%

Combination of all - 19%

Social Media - 9%

Swift call - 50%

Concerned about Child's social and emotional wellbeing:

1 (Low) - 12%

2 - 13%

- 3 - 20%
- 4 - 15%
- 5 (High) - 40%

Overall experience with eLearning:

- 1 (Bad) - 15%
- 2 - 14%
- 3 - 29%
- 4 - 26%
- 5 (Great) - 16%

Child felt supported:

- 1 (Low) - 13%
- 2 - 15%
- 3 - 28%
- 4 - 24%
- 5 (High) - 20%

Child had many opportunities to interact with teacher and students in classroom:

- 1 (Low) - 9%
- 2 - 19%
- 3 - 29%
- 4 - 23%
- 5 (High) - 20%

eLearning plans were simple to follow and easily accessible:

- 1 (Strongly Disagree) - 15%
- 2 - 17%
- 3 - 29%
- 4 - 24%
- 5 (Strongly Agree) - 15%



Consistent and timely information sent to families and students:

- 1 (Strongly Disagree) - 10%
- 2 - 10%
- 3 - 32%
- 4 - 28%
- 5 (Strongly Agree) - 20%

**The following is the summary of today's address by Gov. Holcomb:**

**GOVERNOR HOLCOMB MANDATES THE WEARING OF MASKS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

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All students in third grade and above, teachers, and school staff will be required to wear masks when they return to Indiana school buildings this fall. The new requirement, announced by Gov. Eric Holcomb on Wednesday, is part of a larger statewide mandate.

Starting Monday, everyone across the state age 8 and older will be required to wear masks while in public indoor spaces.

The governor, who will sign the order on Thursday, works as follows:

- Applies to anyone 8 or older in indoor public spaces, commercial entities or transportation services, or outside public spaces when people cannot socially distance.
- Mask use in schools required for Grade 3 and higher for faculty and staff, volunteers and anyone in schools. Masks also will be required for co-curricular and extracurricular activities, with exceptions for strenuous physical activity.
- Exceptions will be made for medical purposes, strenuous physical activity, eating, and drinking.
- Masks are strongly recommended for ages 2-7.

Failure to wear a mask under the order will be a Class B misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to 180 days in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000. But the governor added that “the mask police will not be patrolling Hoosier streets.”

Determining factors for the creation of the mask mandate:

- Get children back to school and keep Indiana businesses open and operating.
- Increase in COVID-19 positivity rate.
- Increase in number of Hoosiers hospitalized for COVID-19.
- Additional counties seeing more cases.
- Increase in cases and positivity rates in neighboring states.



**In the event that Griffith’s decision is made to open virtually by an Exec. Order by Gov. Holcomb or recommended by our local or state health departments, this is an outline of how virtual/eLearning learning will occur this year. There are major changes and is the reason why I am offering the second option to parents as stated in the email.**

**Griffith Public Schools is developing and refining a rigorous and engaging distance-learning opportunity for our students if in person is not an option due to increases of positive cases of COVID-19 in our county/state. There are details to still be created; however, this provides the framework to support the decision I have made. Griffith Public Schools is striving to make our eLearning/Virtual experience better than what it was in the spring, and here are the expectations for each stakeholder if you, the parent, decide to choose the virtual/live streaming option for the fall:**

**Student Expectations:**

1. 180 days of instruction. School is in session each days as shown on our 2020/21 GPS District Calendar.

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2. Be an active participant in Schoology! Students must be present on the screen.
3. General school rules and regulations will be followed in virtual/eLearning option, such as work prepared, on time, attendance, discipline, etc.)
4. Be an active participant during instructional day! Students will be expected to follow a daily schedule. For grades 6 – 12, students will need to log in and zoom into classrooms throughout the day. For grades K-5, we expect them to zoom into daily ELA and Math instruction at least. To be excluded from this expectation, permission MUST BE obtained by principal.
5. There will be no parent contact during virtual classroom time unless previously arranged with the teacher or student having issues with technology or logging into Schoology or URL.
6. Assessments must be completed and various online platforms may be utilized depending upon teacher. Parents are not expected to complete or assist student in assessment.
7. Students are expected to complete assignments on time and at the designated due dates.
8. Attendance will be taken in accordance with our policies and handbooks.
9. Students are to be logged in and ready for the day in each classroom! After 10 minutes, he/she will be counted absent.
10. Grades – Be actively on top of own grades and classroom performance.
11. Grades will be earned by students as if they were in a traditional in person model.
12. Internet access is a must!
- 13. A signed Virtual Learning for COVID Related Reasons has to be signed by all stakeholders.**
14. Due to the nature of the CTE classes, some in person. Hands on work/activities will need to be completed by student.
15. Student assignments will be completed independently or in collaboration with others as previously done; however, there may be changes due to safety and health concerns.
16. Students should not schedule work time during the school day! For those students employed, there should not be ANY working hours scheduled during school hours for those enrolled in high school classes at GHS.

### **Parent/Legal Guardian Expectations**

1. When students have questions or concerns regarding content during instruction time, they are directed to contact their teacher(s) or ask during screen time.
2. Parents should not participate in LIVE instructional sessions.
3. Parents are asked to supervise the child so the work is completed on time and the best effort of the student is provided. Contact the teacher if there are issues.
4. Provide a learning environment for students that are free from distractions, such as TV, toys, and outside responsibilities.
5. Parents are asked to attend parent/teacher conferences as needed or requested. This may be done virtually.
6. Griffith Public Schools will provide ongoing virtual and in person parent training on Schoology, PowerSchool grades, etc.

7. A signed Virtual Learning for COVID Related Reasons has to be signed by parent/legal guardian.

**Teacher Expectations:**

1. 180 days of instruction
2. Active Engagement has been stressed by IDOE. Please refer to IDOE COVID-19 resources. There are tons of resources available to teachers on IDOE website.
3. Digital toolkit is being provided by IDOE to assist teachers in preparation for this type of virtual learning experience for students.
4. Student COVID and mask videos on first day of school in all classrooms!
5. Instructional Best Practice videos for teachers during eLearning/virtual are provided by IDOE.
6. 5 hours of instruction daily for students in Grades K-5 and 6 hours for students in Grades 6-12.
7. Teacher is on campus unless Gov. Holcomb issues an Exec Order as he did in the spring.
8. Zoom/Videoed all day long so students can tune in LIVE for instruction.
9. OWLS are to be turned on and off each day. OWLS are to be left on throughout the day, except for lunchtime and prep times.
10. Grades are updated weekly
11. Co-teachers, special education and Title teachers, are expected to teach alongside the gen ed teacher.
12. Title 1, Special Ed, and EL Schedules are to be approved by building principal.
13. EL will provide push in services and pull out for students attending virtually.
14. Collaboration is still vital for student learning.
15. Relationship building is expected from day one.
16. Desks will be facing one way.
17. Daily/period attendance for students is expected and if there are concerns, building principal should be contacted.
18. Assigned seats with a seating chart able to be provided upon notice of health department
19. Special education and Title teachers are in classrooms.
20. Schoology Expectations:
  - a. All content must be up-to-date daily
  - b. Assignments are included
  - c. Tests are included
  - d. Communication with parents/students are provided
  - e. URL provided at end of day so the students who can't tune in LIVE for unforeseeable reasons or approval by principal

In addition, there will be a policy approved at our next board meeting in August regarding the virtual/eLearning option. Please find it also attached.

In sum, I hope that these two options for our families will alleviate the anxiety and allow for you and your family to begin preparing for a wonderful learning experience this fall at Griffith Public Schools! Let us know if you have any questions!

Have a terrific evening!

Mrs. Michele A. Riise, Superintendent  
Griffith Public Schools