

March 12, 2020

Dear Grand Peak Academy Families and Staff,

We are partnered with D49 and continue to monitor the coronavirus outbreak. We continue to rely on credible, medical authorities for guidance on decisions and practices. Thank you for your attentiveness and partnership as we work diligently to prevent the spread of illness, and stay prepared to serve the GPA family through this time of shared concern.

As always, if your children are diagnosed with an illness, such as flu, strep or pink eye we request that you inform our school so that we can monitor illness levels in the building. In addition, if a family member tests positive for Coronavirus please inform the school.

What we are doing:

- We are in regular contact with the D49 lead nurse. Her school health services team is in frequent contact with the [El Paso County Public Health Department](#) and [Colorado Department of Public Health](#).
- We continue to promote the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and our state and county health departments that our top three protection strategies are to be vigilant about covering coughs and sneezes, keeping our hands washed and sanitized, and cleaning contact surfaces frequently and thoroughly.
- We will continue to disinfect our school during and beyond our upcoming spring break to ensure thorough cleaning of surfaces and equipment. We have increased the cleaning of doorknobs, railings, and lunch tables. We are planning a deep clean of the entire building over spring break.
- We are encouraging and educating our staff and students to utilize waves instead of hugs, handshakes and close contact.
- We are also working with families who make the choice to keep students at home. Whether they are sick, or parents have chosen the precaution of social distancing from school settings, we intend to support our students' learning needs.
- We have developed plans to facilitate e-learning that will allow students to continue to access education if our school is directed to close or students self-separate from school settings. We already have many remote-learning systems in place, including Google Classroom, Lexia, ALEKS Math, ThinkCERCA (middle school) and a wide range of class or school-specific tools.
- We are issuing guidance and developing procedures for staff members who may be directed by a credible, medical authority to follow quarantine protocols.
- We will follow D49 guidance on contingency feeding plans in case of an extended closure impacting students who depend on the school for some meals.
- With the district closing next week for their two-week spring break, we are still anticipating holding classes as normal. D49 will still be monitoring the situation and updating us as necessary.
- Following the D49 decision to cancel afterschool sports and activities, we decided to postpone upcoming evening activities for this week and next to include Kindergarten Round-up, the PTO Dance, Middle School Talent Night, Landsharks, Boy Scouts and z Ultimate Defense, and Kid Chef cooking class.

What we are not doing:

- Although we are monitoring travel guidance carefully, we have not issued travel bans to individuals or groups. We expect any professional travel or travel on district or school-sponsored trips to comply with the travel restrictions and guidance published by the CDC at their travel site: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>
- For our upcoming 8th grade Washington D.C./New York City trip, for now, we will defer to the organizer WorldStrides on guidance. Should that change we will be in contact with those parents and students affected.
- As of now, all field trips are continuing as scheduled. We are monitoring field trip destinations to determine if they are still open as well. If that changes, teachers will be in contact with parents.
- At this time we are not directing any staff members or students to quarantine. That direction should come from a doctor, department, or other external credible, medical authority.
- We are not currently planning to close our school or convert to e-learning. If circumstances warrant, or a credible, medical authority directs us to modify those plans, we will communicate that direction immediately and decisively.

Summary:

We are taking all developments seriously, while also keeping them in perspective. We will act with purpose and composure—not panic and chaos. As we stay current with the latest information, we are also following the standard guidance from D49 and our local public health agencies to keep our campuses healthy:

- Wash your hands with soap and water or, at minimum, use an alcohol-based hand rub (preferably with at least 60% alcohol), which may be less effective than soap and water.
- Get your flu shot, and stay up-to-date on other routine childhood and adult immunizations.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Please be alert for messaging through all our channels—the GPA App, Facebook, and email. We will stay proactive to ensure students, staff and visitors find a safe environment in our school building. As always, we thank you for your trust and understanding.

Sincerely,

Scott Hunter & Serena Brizic

Grand Peak Academy Principals