



St. Gregory the Great Academy

A Ministry of the Church of St. Gregory the Great

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Rev. Michael Hall, Pastor

Dr. Jason C. Briggs, Principal

Mrs. Michele L. Rivera, Assistant Principal

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 3, 2020

TO: All Parents, Faculty, and Staff

FROM: Dr. Jason C. Briggs, Principal

RE: **Return to School Update #11**

I hope everyone is enjoying their afternoon! Tomorrow is a special day, as it is our first full day of school, our first day with bus transportation, and our first day of regular preschool classes! Since we are moving into a more solid phase of our soft opening, we will need to adjust a few procedures:

57. **Morning arrival**– (*we have buses now*) We will now have buses arriving with students. The bus stop will be in the back of the school, as indicated in the attached instructions. Only buses belong in the back; there is no longer any preschool drop off or pick up back there. Remember that buses need to have priority when moving through the parking lot. Students arriving by bus will be guided to the screening tent by staff members.

58. **Afternoon dismissal** – (*we have buses in the afternoon now too – car rider dismissal will be later*) Those same buses which are bringing the students in the morning will now be here in the afternoon at dismissal. Buses take priority in loading and departing because of the need to have time to sanitize before their next runs. As such, car rider dismissal may be as late at 2:45 pm for the next few days. We must make sure everyone is properly accounted for now that we have more than one dismissal type in the mix. So, please be patient.

59. **Early pick-up and dismissal changes**– (*these apply to EVERYONE – we are all the same level of importance*) Please note, **NO EARLY PICKUPS WILL BE PERMITTED AFTER 2:00 PM**. It takes much longer to prepare for dismissal now. For example, we must take actual attendance of who gets on each bus each day. Please do not come and try to pick your child up after 2:00 pm – it is not going to happen in the interest of safety. "*But, come on, it is only one child, and I need her right now.*" says the annoyed mother at 2:05 pm. "*Only one child, eh?*" says the principal. "*If we dismissal 432 students safely today, and we only misdirect or lose one child, and it happens to be yours, would you be cool*



with that?" I may not be Aesop, but the moral of this story is you need to respect our procedures to keep everyone safe.

If you are calling the school with a dismissal change, i.e. a bus rider who now needs to go car rider or a car rider who now needs to go bus rider, call the Main Office as early in the day as you can. **You must speak to a person (generally Mrs. Adams or Mrs. O'Neill) to confirm your change. DO NOT EMAIL OR TEXT OR FLY A BANNER PLANE WITH A DISMISSAL CHANGE** – teachers are teaching during the day and will likely not have time to see an email or a text message or a small plane before dismissal.

60. **School Lunch** – (*the menu is ready in the portal*) The menu choices are loaded and ready. Remember, ordering **MUST** take place in advance using the myschoolaccount.com portal. There are instructions on how to set up your account if you have not done so in previous years. (You will need your child's student ID number to set up the account, which can be found by signing into Parent Portal.) At this time, the myschoolaccount.com portal is open for setting up accounts. **No orders will be taken using paper through school;** however, you may order lunch as late as 8:00 am on the "day of."
61. **Amazon Wish List** – The wish list currently lists the supplies I need to build some "SGGA Model Air Cleaners." I can take no credit for the idea. A parent sent me an article about inexpensive steps that can be taken to help remove pollutants, including viruses, from the air. As it turns out, one can build a makeshift air cleaner using a box fan, some zip ties, and a high MERV furnace filter. Such a device will not capture all COVID-19 viruses, and it won't kill any of them. It will, however, capture SOME. Remember, dealing with COVID-19 is all about reducing risk, as it cannot be eliminated. So, I would like to build one of these little devices for each room as an additional mitigation tool. Even if it catches a little bit, it tips the scales in our favor. I think these would be especially useful for days when we need to stay indoors for snack and lunch. If you agree, please take a look at the wish list. If not, you can point out to me that one of the zip ties on my prototype is white because I only have 3 matching black ones left.

Current Wish List

Donations toward Penn Medicine arrival screening ([CLICK HERE TO USE A CREDIT CARD](#))

-OR-

[St. Gregory the Great Academy Wish List](#)