



GLOBAL SCHOLARS ACADEMY

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Greetings Global Scholars Academy Family,

We first want to THANK YOU.

You all have supported, partnered, encouraged, and challenged your leadership team, your faculty, and your students and as a result we have successfully closed out the 2019 – 2020 school year together and in a way that wholly demonstrates what we are about at GSA.

We are proud of our ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis in a way that made sure every student could continue to learn and grow remotely. We are proud our students and families stayed engaged with us, after schools were closed in March, all the way through to the end. Our school community continued to show up every day, committed to teaching and learning. We are especially proud of our Kindergarten, 5th and 8th grade graduates – these students are making big transitions in the midst of an enormous amount of instability and doing so with a fearlessness that has become standard for GSA.

Crisis often brings out the best and worst in us. While we were able to quickly shift to online learning and effectively close out the year, the pandemic has uncovered some gaps. We are determined to close those gaps heading into the 2020-2021 school year and increase our ability to consistently provide the high-quality education our students deserve. We can do more with technology, digital resources and curriculum and more with professional development and support for our teachers and staff, and we intend to. Over the next few weeks, GSA will complete a full review of our curriculum and instruction plans, engage in faculty and staff training and development, seek feedback from our students and families, and continue to plan for the opening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

We are also thinking about the best way to kick off the school year given the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and the high likelihood of a second outbreak. We know one of the biggest questions on parents' minds is whether we will return to school in person at the start of the new academic year. The answer at the moment is unclear. We expect to receive some State guidance soon and will consider that guidance in the context of our school's unique needs to develop a plan that works specifically for our students and families. We are considering three options:

1. **Extended Remote Learning:** In this case we are unable to safely return to the building and students will continue to attend school 100% virtually.
2. **Blended Virtual/Live:** Students and Faculty adopt a part-time online, part-time in-person schedule that allows for live engagement in small groups, with social distancing. PPE and new safety procedures and requirements will apply when in building.
3. **100% Live In-Person:** All students and faculty and staff are able to safely return to the building – with the use of PPE and new safety procedures and requirements.



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We are preparing for building reentry by adjusting the facility layout, updating standard procedures, adopting new safety requirements and purchasing PPE for students, faculty and staff, among other things to ensure at whatever point we return, it will be safe to do so.

As we sign off for this year, we ask that you do three things over the break:

1. Keep a lookout for a survey in the next week that will ensure we have parent input as we plan for the new year.
2. Stay tuned to Class Dojo, Facebook and RoboCalls for critical information, particularly as we approach the first day of school.
3. Enjoy a wonderful summer break!

If you have any questions or concerns – we always want to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

James H. Johnson, Jr.
James. H. Johnson, Jr., PhD
Chairman of the Board