



Global Experience Magnet School

# Reopening Plan: Snapshot (2020-21)

Bloomfield Public Schools Raising the Bar is Taking us Far

## A Message from Mr. Bernabe



Dear GEMS families:

We are excited to rejoin our students as we return to school for the 2020-21 school year. We understand that you may have some hesitancy and some reluctance about sending your children back to school.

Bloomfield Public Schools and GEMS will be following strict state and federal health and safety guidelines to allow all students and staff the opportunity to return to school full time. Our mission is for all children to receive high quality instruction in a safe and healthy environment.

As children and staff return to school, there will be several protocols in place to support the safety of students and staff. Students and staff will be encouraged to:

- cover coughs, wear a face mask, and use hand sanitizer and/or wash hands often.
- practice physical distancing on the bus, in the halls, and in the classrooms.

As additional precautions, we will be sanitizing bathrooms and other common areas several times throughout the school day and we will remind families to keep children at home if he/she is running a fever or has other symptoms of illness.

## A Message from Mr. Bernabe (cont.)



Despite significant changes in a normal school day GEMS remains committed to providing our students with a rigorous curriculum, high-quality engagement with teachers and preparing them for college and meaningful careers.

For those families who choose to “opt-out” and decide that your children will not return to school in the fall of the 2020-21 school year, GEMS will make available to you a Distance Learning curriculum.

In conjunction with the Bloomfield Schools, GEMS has been planning for three re-entry options:

- All students in school everyday for in-person learning.
- A hybrid learning model that combines in-class instruction with distance learning.
- A continuation of a revamped Distance Learning plan similar to what was started in March 2020

We will continue to follow the guidance from the leadership of the State of Connecticut and the Bloomfield Schools and re-open in a way that will maximize student learning while also keeping our students and staff safe.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Bernabe  
Interim Principal



# Calendar



## DAYS: 0

**31** Teacher Professional Development

AUGUST 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## DAYS: 17

**1-4** Professional Development  
**7** Labor Day: schools & offices closed  
**8** **First day of school**  
**8-11** *Early Release Prek-12*  
**30** Professional Development: *early dismissal PreK-12*

SEPTEMBER 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	<del>7</del>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

On our website, under “Parents and Students” find [“District Calendar”](#)



## GEMS' Key Missions



- Provide appropriately challenging instruction to students using consistent platforms through
  - ▷ in-person learning and/or
  - ▷ distance learning with live instruction
- Provide special education, support the learning of students with disabilities, and support English learners
- Establish rigorous grading standards
- Account for student attendance/participation
- Provide social & emotional learning, embedded and directly
- Provide extracurricular opportunities
- Provide support to teachers, staff, & families



## At the Bus



- Students must wear masks at the bus stop, upon entering the bus, and for the entire ride.
- Student should sit in a seat by themselves, whenever possible – and should choose a seat furthest from the front-beginning in the back to minimize students passing each other.



## Arrival at School



- Student will file off the bus six feet apart and wear facial mask.
- Masks must be worn in the building at all times.
- Students will be reminded to stay six feet apart while entering and in the school.
- Breakfast – students will have an option to take the “grab-and-go” breakfast at the cafeteria doors.
- Lockers will not be used. Students will use their backpacks to carry their academic and personal items.
- Students will proceed to their assigned classroom following the arrows that show the one-way traffic to move through the building.



## Wearing of Masks/Face Coverings



### Masks

- ▶ the wearing of a mask is to protect others.
- ▶ with at least 2 layers of cloth must be worn in the building at all times.
- ▶ a mask break area will be designated outside on the cafeteria side of the building.
- ▶ students will be reminded that proper wearing of a face mask covers both the nose and mouth and snug against the face.
- ▶ masks with a valve are NOT allowed (a valve allows for the easy flow of air out of the mask; this does NOT protect others).







## Minimizing Interactions between Students



- Class sizes will be smaller than usual.
- In class, students will be spaced six feet apart, as feasible.
- Students will be in cohorts and remain in one classroom for most of the day (possible exceptions include art class and world language [HS only]).
- Teachers will move from class to class.
- Using our 90 minute block schedule will minimize mixing of students.



## Daily Schedule for the Week



All students in school everyday (100% model)

	M	T	W	Th	F
7:50 – 9:25	Per 1	Per 2	Periods 1 – 7 (~30 min. classes)  12:30 dismissal	Per 1	Per 2
9:30 – 11:05	Per 3	Per 4		Per 3	Per 4
11:10 – 12:30	Per 5 / lunch	Per 5 / lunch		Per 5 / lunch	Per 5 / lunch
12:35 – 2:10	Per 7	Per 6		Per 7	Per 6



## Meals

- Meals will be made available to all students who want or need a meal.
- Students will eat meals in their classrooms.
- Lunch will be pre-ordered in the morning and then transported to the classroom.
- After lunch, when possible, teachers will be able to coordinate to leave the building for a quick recess/break.



## Bathroom breaks

- Students will be able to use the bathroom on their floor.
- While in the bathroom, students will still be required to wear a mask .
- Custodians will clean bathrooms at regular intervals throughout the day.
- Signs will be posted in the bathroom to remind people to wash their hands with soap.



## Health Practices and Protocols

- Staff, student and family trainings will occur to ensure proper practices and protocols are followed on hand washing, respiratory etiquette, use of PPE (face coverings), and proper social distancing.
- Sharing of learning materials and surface areas will be almost entirely eliminated. Students will complete work digitally, use their 1:1 computer, etc.
- Staff members responsible for cleaning and disinfecting will be provided training on the appropriate and safe use of all provided cleaners and disinfectants and PPE.
- Guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education indicates all students will be required to update immunizations and health assessments
- All staff and students are recommended to schedule appointments to obtain flu shots.



## On the bus ride home

- Student must wear masks upon entering the bus and for the entire ride.
- Student should sit in a seat by themselves, whenever possible.
- To minimize students passing by one another, seats will be assigned so students who get off the bus first will have seats near the front.



### Ill Students/Staff at School

- Will be evaluated by the school nurse. If COVID-19 symptoms are exhibited, the student or staff member must be excluded from school immediately.
- GEMS' isolation room is across from the Nurse Powers' office.
- Students or staff will be asked to wait in the isolation room until picked up by parent/guardian, responsible person, or released to another health care facility.
- Students will not be left unattended in the isolation room.



## Ill Students/Staff

They must not attend school or work and must inform the school if they are sick with COVID-19 related symptoms or if they have had contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

### COVID-19 symptoms include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever above 100 degrees
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

If a student or staff member has had close contact with someone with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, the student or staff member must remain home for 14 days and self monitor.





## Special Education

- All mandated services will be provided according legal requirements of IDEA/ADA law.
- Inclusion into regular education cohorts is best practice. Special education teachers and related service providers will provide services to students within the regular education classroom within their established cohort to the maximum extent possible.
- Students from different cohorts will not be grouped together for pull-out services.
- Service for students requiring substantially separate programming will continue to be offered in accordance with the IEP.
- When there is a service provision requirement to use communal space for related services, the space will be cleaned according to DPH/CDC guidelines .



## Extracurricular Activities

- Clubs and other student groups are part of a well-rounded educational program.
- At this time, it is our plan to send students home right after school and use distance learning techniques to meet with student groups remotely for extra-curricular activities which include: clubs, homework help, student leadership groups, etc.

## Concluding Thoughts



We are in a dynamic situation. I encourage you to stay tuned to Bloomfield's updates by email and on our websites.

We are aware of concerns not just about the health and safety of your child, but also your concerns about your child's learning whether in an in-person or distance learning environment. We also understand how our learning model impacts your family situation with your ability to work, childcare, etc.

Our goal remains to prioritize the safety of your child and also provide a high quality, rigorous education.

Thank you for being a part of the conversation!