



GREAT OAKS
A C A D E M Y

Safe Opening Plan

Learning Scenarios: Overview



As a public charter school, Great Oaks Academy will follow the parameters determined by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to implement a safe opening plan for our school that prioritizes the health and well-being of students and staff, while also endeavoring to provide the highest quality classical education. Great Oaks academy reserves the right to modify the learning scenario.

The three Learning Scenarios set forward by MDE are dependent upon the local county case rate for COVID-19:

- **Scenario 1**–In-person learning for all students. Staff and students will reduce close contact and follow all requirements outlined by MDH for this model.
- **Scenario 2**–Hybrid learning. This model implements strict physical distancing and limits the classroom capacity, following all requirements outlined by MDH for this model.
- **Scenario 3**–Distance Learning Only. Students and teachers will connect in daily teaching and learning activities via technology.

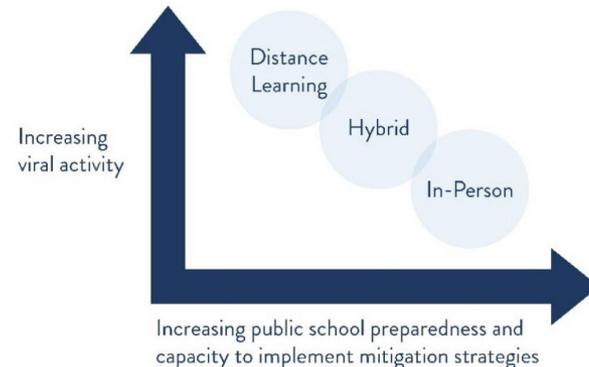
Learning Model Parameters

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence	Learning Model
0-9	In-person learning for all students
10-19	In-person learning for elementary students; hybrid learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid learning for elementary students; distance learning for secondary students
50+	Distance learning for all students

Learning Scenarios: Overview



- Great Oaks Academy will monitor the impact of COVID-19 on the surrounding community and maintain ongoing communication with local public health authorities to determine if our model needs adjustment.
- Decision-making regarding school format will remain fluid and dependent upon the COVID-19 case numbers for Dakota county in order to prioritize the safety of staff and students.
- Parents may opt-out of in-person or hybrid learning, due to medical or safety concerns. Per the Governor’s executive order, Great Oaks Academy will provide an “equitable distance learning model” to all such families that prefer a distance learning format.
- In Scenarios 1 and 2, staff and students (6 and older) physically present in the school building will be required to wear an acceptable face covering (cloth, disposable, or a face shield, per the Executive Order 20-81. Great Oaks Academy will provide one cloth face mask and have disposable face masks on hand.



Learning Scenarios: Overview



- At the time of publication, the current number of cases per 10,000 in Dakota county was within the range that allows for Scenario 1, In-Person Learning with physical distance, symptom monitoring, and safety protocols in place.
- Given that the number of cases has steadily increased in the last few weeks, and considering the disruption that may occur when transitioning between models, **Great Oaks Academy leadership has chosen to begin the year in a modified Scenario 1, with shortened, In-Person learning days, Monday through Friday, Hybrid learning.** This model is close enough to our Hybrid model that it will allow the Academy to remain consistent in an educationally stable format for as long as possible, even if the case numbers increase.
- The Academy will monitor the number of COVID-19 cases and reserves the right to modify or change the scenario per guidance from our Regional Support Team.

Learning Scenario: In-Person



- **In-Person learning for all students**

- This scenario will be implemented when the county case rate for COVID-19 is less than 20 cases per 10,000 people.
- In this scenario, close contact will be minimized and physical distancing will be observed where possible.
- Masks will be required according to the statewide mandate for staff and students (ages 6+), except where legal exemptions exist (see here for more information on exemptions).
- This model allows for the highest quality of classical education.
- In this model, Great Oaks Academy will proceed with traditional classical learning models as much as possible, with modifications according MDE and MDH guidelines for physical distance, sanitation, and occupancy.
- School days will be shortened to minimize the amount of in-person contact and make mask-wearing more feasible for small children. Despite a truncated school day, we will still achieve the desired number of student contact hours.
- Classrooms and public areas will be modified to provide for physical distancing.
- Class sizes are small enough to allow us to operate near or under 50% maximum occupancy.
- Lunch and recess procedures will be adapted to prioritize the safety of staff and students.

Learning Scenario: Hybrid



- **Hybrid Learning Defined**
 - Hybrid learning is a strategic combination of in-person learning and distance learning.
 - This model allows for limited vital face-to-face instruction, but uses technology to supplement and extend in-person instruction.
 - Class instruction time will prioritize authentic learning and collaboration opportunities.
 - Distance components may involve educational multimedia, learning practice, discussion, and check-ins with teachers.
- **Synchronous Learning**
 - Synchronous learning occurs in real-time. Teachers engage students in a specified virtual environment (e.g. Zoom, Kahoot, etc.), to accomplish a specific learning goal (e.g. direct instruction, discussion, review, etc.), at a specific time. Teachers may accomplish online synchronous learning in a variety of ways, including video conferencing, live chatting, or live streaming classes. This type of digital learning allows for greater teacher-student engagement, and educational depth, but it is less flexible than asynchronous learning.
- **Asynchronous Learning**
 - Asynchronous learning allows for flexibility, since it does not occur in real-time. Teachers may provide pre-recorded content and learning materials for students to view, assignments to complete, or tests for evaluation, and students may access and complete tasks within a given timeframe. Asynchronous learning methods may include streaming instructional video, posting a video or written response to a question or text, or completing a self-guided module or task. Asynchronous learning does not allow for as much rapport, but gives students the ability to work through lessons at their own pace.

Learning Scenario: Hybrid



- **Hybrid Learning**

- This scenario will be implemented when the county case rate for COVID-19 reaches 20+ cases per 10,000 people.
- In this scenario, MDE requires schools to limit the total number of people in the school facility and busing to 50% maximum capacity. Adequate physical distancing must be observed at all times.
- This model utilizes a combination of in-person and distance learning. Great Oaks Academy will facilitate half day in-person learning that follows MDE and MDH requirements from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every day, for all enrolled students. The remainder of the school day will be via distance learning. The distance component of this model will feature easy to implement take-home activities, with clear instructions, as well as possible virtual meetings with teachers to round out each school day.
- Bus arrival times in the morning will be from 8:30-9:00 a.m. Dismissal will be at 12:30 p.m. with transportation available. (*These times are subject to change and dependent upon the finalized schedule from the bus company.)
- Students receiving school lunches will be provided these to take home in sealed “to-go” packaging.
- Partitions, cohort grouping, and other strategies may be implemented as needed to ensure physical distancing protocols.
- This scenario has a secondary stage that implements an AM and PM student cohort to retain the M-F half day format. The Academy will reserve this option as a resort to delay a move to full distance learning in the case of increased cases.

Learning Scenario: Distance Only



- **Distance learning for all students**
 - This scenario will be implemented when the county case rate for COVID-19 is 50+ cases per 10,000 people.
 - In this scenario, all in-person education will cease and the Academy will deliver instruction via distance methods.
 - The Academy will continue to provide lunches for qualified students.
- **Distance learning defined**
 - In this model, classroom instruction occurs entirely online. Teachers may use synchronous or asynchronous methods as defined above.
 - The Academy will provide clear communication and implement an effective, simple system for content delivery, scheduling, and submission of completed assignments. The intention would be to continue to provide as much hands-on learning as possible and maintain healthy screen time expectations for students.
 - The Academy will use a Learning Management System (LMS) or pick-up/drop-off options to provide students appropriate educational materials.
 - This model requires equitable access for all students, according to MDE guidelines. The Academy will work with families to ensure this access.
 - The Academy will have a limited number of devices available to support access for qualified students.

Operations: Protective Measures



- **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

- Surfaces that are commonly touched, will be regularly sanitized at a minimum of two hour intervals.
- The school facility will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized nightly in accordance with MDH guidelines.

- **Face Coverings**

- Staff and students will be required to wear a face covering over their mouth and nose within the building, and during drop off and pick up when physical distancing is not possible.
- Students will be provided one reusable cloth face mask by the Academy.
- Staff members will be provided with two reusable cloth face masks by the Academy.
- To comply with the Statewide face covering policy, disposable face masks and face shields will be acquired by the Academy.

- **Daily Health Screening**

- Before entering buses or the school, students and staff will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms in accordance with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommendations for health screening.
- Staff members or students experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 or who are presumed positive for COVID-19 will need to contact the Academy Office for next steps.
- The Office and our school nurse will work with MDH to determine next steps based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and MDH guidance in symptomatic or positive cases of COVID-19.

Operations: Protective Measures



- **Daily Screening Questions:**

- Have you had any of the following symptoms since your last day at work or the last time you were here that you cannot attribute to another health condition? * (See next page for list of symptoms)
- Has your child had close contact in the past 14 days with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or someone who is waiting for COVID-19 test results? *



Operations: Protective Measures

Symptoms	Yes	No
A new cough	If they answer Yes to this symptom- they should get a message to contact the school nurse prior to sending student to school	
Shortness of breath	If they answer Yes to this symptom- they should get a message to contact the school nurse prior to sending student to school	
Fever (100.4 degrees F or higher), or feeling feverish	If they answer Yes to 2 of the symptoms below- they should get a message to contact the school nurse prior to sending student to school	
Chills	If they answer Yes to 2 of the symptoms below- they should get a message to contact the school nurse prior to sending student to school	
A new sore throat	If they answer Yes to 2 of the symptoms below- they should get a message to contact the school nurse prior to sending student to school	
New muscle aches	If they answer Yes to 2 of the symptoms below- they should get a message to contact the school nurse prior to sending student to school	
New headache	If they answer Yes to 2 of the symptoms below- they should get a message to contact the school nurse prior to sending student to school	
New loss of smell or taste	If they answer Yes to 2 of the symptoms below- they should get a message to contact the school nurse prior to sending student to school	
Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea	If they answer Yes to 2 of the symptoms below- they should get a message to contact the school nurse prior to sending student to school	

Operations: Protective Measures



- **Hand Hygiene**

- Staff and students will be required to wash their hands at a minimum of two hour intervals and after touching commonly shared surfaces.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed at each entrance and at multiple locations throughout the building.
- Hand sanitizer is for use when hand-washing is not available.
- The Office will reserve a quarantine area for students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

Operations: Physical Environments



- **Modifications**
 - Furniture in common areas will be arranged to encourage physical distancing.
 - Classroom furniture will be arranged according to MDH physical distancing guidelines.
 - Class movement in hallways will be coordinated to ensure physical distancing and limit interaction between classes.
- **Sanitizing Stations**
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be placed in each classroom, in high traffic areas, and at each entrance to the building.]
- **Physical Distancing** (aka Social Distancing)
 - During in-person learning, staff and students will observe physical distancing whenever possible.
 - During hybrid learning, staff and students will observe strict physical distancing.
 - Students will remain in small classroom cohorts when possible while in the building.

Operations: Physical Environments



- **Signage**

- The Academy will provide signage at all entrances to inform those entering of the expectations within the building.
- Signs in bathrooms and sanitation stations will be provided to inform students and staff of the importance of proper and frequent hand hygiene.
- Signs around the building will remind staff and students of physical distancing.
- Directional arrows may be used to reinforce physical distancing and minimize interaction in high traffic areas.

- **Shared Materials**

- Students will provide classroom supplies for personal use.
- Classrooms will not use community supplies.
- Commonly touched objects will be sanitized between uses.

Operations: Day to Day



- **Arrival and Dismissal**

- Morning drop-off and bus arrival times will be 8:30-9:00 a.m. (*These times are subject to minor change and dependent upon the finalized schedule from the bus company.)
- Students will wear face masks on the bus.
- Students will wear face masks when entering or exiting the building in high traffic areas.
- Dismissal time will vary depending on which learning scenario is in place (12:30-1:00 p.m. for Hybrid, 3:00-3:30 for In-person).
- Staff will be on hand to facilitate drop off and dismissal.
- Parents will not be allowed into the building during drop off or dismissal. Parents will be asked to wait outside of the main entrance. They must wear a face covering and practice physical distancing.
- Signage, directional arrows, and or other means may be used to direct students. Students will be directed to pre-class recess upon arrival at the Academy, and will enter the building in staggered groups.
- Students will be escorted from the building as they are released from their classroom.
- Students will not be allowed in the building prior to 8:30 a.m. or after 12:30 p.m.

Operations: Day to Day



- **Visitors**

- Visitors will be limited to essential services and by appointment only.
- The Academy will require Visitors to follow safety protocol.
- Visitors will sign in to provide contact information.

- **All School Gatherings**

- All school large group gatherings will be temporarily suspended.

- **Meetings**

- The Academy will use virtual formats, such as Zoom, when possible.
- In-person meetings on campus will require physical distancing.

- **Field Trips & Extracurricular Activities**

- Field trips and extracurricular activities will be put on hold temporarily.

- **Food Service**

- School breakfast and lunch will be provided.
- During in-person learning, students will eat in the gym in small, socially distanced cohorts.
- School meals will be individually pre-packaged.

- **Recess**

- Students will participate in regular recess.
- Classes may have recess in an alternative between indoor and outdoor spaces.
- Students will be encouraged to practice physical distancing.
- Students will not be required to wear face coverings while outside for recess.

Transportation



- **Great Oaks Academy Busing**

- Capacity of buses will be limited to 50% of riders.
- Students and drivers will wear a face covering while on the bus.
- A health screening will be administered to students and drivers, before boarding the bus.
- Assigned seating will be required in a manner that loads the bus from back to front.
- Upon arrive, students will be released from buses in a staggered manner to allow for physical distancing as students enter the building.
- Buses will be sanitized and deep cleaned in accordance with the guidelines established by the Marschall Bus Line and MDH.
- Bus times are subject to change and dependent upon the finalized schedule from the bus company.

Transportation



- **Self-Transportation**

- Parents are encouraged to provide transportation for their children if possible. Parents will follow the drop off and pick up procedures provided by the Academy.

Extracurricular Activities



- **Activities**

- To be announced.
- The Academy will explore safe options for extracurricular opportunities for small groups of students. These will be announced once the Academy has verified that they can be implemented in accordance with MDE and MDH parameters.