

Alamance-Burlington Schools Success '21

 ONE ABSS

Graham Middle School



For those families that have chosen for students to return to school buildings for in-person learning, please review the following information.

New Protocols

As we return to our school buildings, ABSS has implemented many safety protocols [outlined by NC Department of Health and Human Services](#), to maintain the health and well-being of staff and students during this time. A detailed list of protocols is available on the [ABSS website](#) and a few of the important updates are [highlighted in this video](#).

Graham Middle School has new cameras installed on our campus to help us maintain security and safety at all times. In continuing with safety and protocol, we will have a new procedure for late arrivals and early dismissals. When scholars are late to school, parents will sign them in at the office next to the front door outside. A GMS staff member will assist the parent/guardian from the window labeled, GMS Late Arrivals/Early Dismissals. Parents will not need to come into the building during this process. A GMS staff member will ask the scholar the COVID-19 screening questions and do a temperature check prior to the parent/guardian leaving to ensure the scholar does not have a temperature.

For Early Dismissals, the parent/guardian will come to the window labeled “GMS Late Arrivals/Early Dismissals” and provide the necessary credentials. Once the parent/guardians’ information has been verified, our GMS staff member will call the scholar’s classroom for early dismissal. At no point is a scholar or parent physically using the Ident-A-Kid computer. Our GMS staff member will enter all of the necessary information in the system for our scholars who are late or leave early.

Scholars will *only* be allowed to use their cellphones in the front office for emergencies with the permission from GMS Administrators or the front office staff. Scholars will not be permitted to use cell phones in the classrooms, Falcon’s Nest, hallways, bathrooms, gym, or outdoor classroom space.

The district has pulled together [frequently asked questions and answers](#) for your review, but please feel free to reach out to the school with any questions.

Cleaning

The district works with the Budd Group to provide cleaning technicians at every school. These employees are dedicated to cleaning high touch surfaces throughout the school day. Additionally, the Budd Group completes cleaning in the evenings, after students and staff leave for the day.

Face Coverings

While on school property, inside or outside, students (aged 5 and up) and all adults will be required to wear cloth face coverings over their nose and mouth. Throughout the day, students will have opportunities to remove their cloth face coverings, when eating breakfast and lunch. Students will also wear masks during PE and recess. Students are not permitted to wear bandanas, neck gaiter, or head wrap as a face covering. Only proper cloth or disposable face masks may be worn. The district has delivered extra face coverings to each school for students and staff who may be in need.

Please begin working with your students on wearing face coverings at home so that they are ready when they return to the school building.

Meals

Meals will be pre-packaged and delivered to the classrooms for students to eat. Students may still bring their own lunch to school if they wish. However, there will be no microwave access to heat lunches. At this time, all school meals are **free**. The district will provide two bottles of water per day for each student. Water fountains will not be in use throughout the day.

Scholars will eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms. They will be provided with a bagged breakfast and bagged lunch. As stated above, scholars who choose to bring their own breakfast and/or lunch may do so, but there will be no refrigerator or microwave to keep food cool or heat up. Students will pick up their breakfast upon arrival to the school, and lunch will be delivered to the classrooms starting at 11:20am by grade level. During breakfast and lunch, scholars will be allowed to remove their mask for the purpose of eating. They should refrain from talking while they are eating. Once they have finished eating and place their mask back on, they will be allowed to talk until their teachers give them directions to discard their bags. Since the district is providing scholars with two bottles of water, each teacher will allow a 30 second- 1 minute mask break during each class. Scholars will be allowed to drink water and sit quietly.

Wait and Wash

Social distancing is a key component of returning to school safely. Social distancing (“physical distancing”) means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home.

In common areas around the buildings, there will be clearly marked areas to remind everyone to remain socially distanced, 6 feet apart.

In addition to social distancing, students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently with soap and water, or hand sanitizer as much as possible.

Graham Middle School has social distancing signage throughout the building with 6ft markings. We have hand sanitizer stations on the walls in the hallways, and teachers have been provided with sanitizer as well. Our classroom desk will be marked with a green or orange dot per class block. For example: During 1st core in Ms. Jones’ class, Jim will sit at the desk marked with the orange dot. During 2nd core in Ms. Jones’ class, Michelle will sit at the desk marked with the green dot. While 2nd core is taking place, our Day Porter will go to each classroom and wipe down the desk with the orange dots in preparation for Ms. Jones’ 3rd core class. The Day Porter will not spray directly on the desk, but in the cleaning cloth preventing any chemicals from touching our scholars.

During class transition, there will be staggered times preventing a lot of scholars being in the hallways at one time. All teachers and Administrators will be in the hallways during this time to keep our scholars moving safely to their next class.

Each teacher will be provided a bathroom break schedule to ensure multiple classes/scholars are not utilizing the restroom at the same time. Our staff will ensure there will not be more scholars in the restroom than there all stalls/urinals. For example: If there are 4 stalls in the Girl’s Bathroom, there will only be 4 girls allowed in the restroom even if the 5th girl only needs to wash her hands.

Health Screenings

Students and staff returning to school buildings will be required to have an annual attestation form on file. Parents/Guardians can complete this form online for each student returning to campus. [Please use this link to complete the form.](#) Families should not send students to school if they are exhibiting signs of COVID-19. If students have a temperature above 100.4, they will have to return home with their parent or guardians.

Car Riders will **remain** in the car during the screening process. The parent/guardian will help the student answer the attestation questions. Once the student passes the screening, they will receive their wristband.

Scholars will be dropped off no earlier than 8:25am *only* in front of the building. Scholars are not to be dropped off on the side of the building, the graveyard, or other areas on campus. If scholars arrive after 9:00am, parents need to walk with them to the window to sign-in. During that time, a GMS staff member will check the scholar's COVID-19 questions and provide a wristband. For PM pick-up, we ask that parents have their child(ren) name(s) in the window, so we can call the scholars from the classroom as soon as we see their names. This will keep the line moving swiftly. Parents are to pick up their children in front of the building; not on the side of the building or other areas of campus. As always, safety is first priority.

Bus riders will be socially distanced on the bus, only one student per seat unless they are siblings. Everyone must wear a mask while riding any school transportation. Bus riders will complete the health screening when they reach school.

Once our scholars arrive on the bus, they will enter the gym lobby where they can properly social distance. Staff members will ask them the COVID-19 questions and put a wristband on them. We will have additional staff members directing our bus riders to their homeroom classes. In the afternoon, our scholars will remain in their classrooms until their bus is called over the PA System. It is very important scholars listen to the bus announcements, because we are dismissing the bus after scholars have been called and released. We are *not* holding all buses and releasing at one time. A scholar will not be permitted to ride a bus he/she is not assigned to. All bus riders must adhere to the driver's rules and expectations. If the scholar does not adhere to the bus driver's rules set forth by the ABSS, then the scholar will forfeit his/her seat on the bus.

COVID-19 Symptoms

If a student shows symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day, they will be sent to an isolation room and Parent/Guardians are called to pick up their student immediately. If the parent/guardian consents, the school nurse can complete a COVID-19 rapid test. This test will provide results within 15 minutes. The school nurse will be in full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Communications

The district has a communication guide that has helpful information about if/when families will be notified if there is a COVID-19 case at school. Additionally, the district shares data in a dashboard updated weekly. You can review the [communication guide and dashboard here](#).

As always, please email your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns pertaining to their academics, and/or reach out to administration if you have academic or other concerns. Please allow 24 hours for someone from GMS to respond.

Classrooms

Students will transition with their classes and cohorts and classrooms will be set-up to help students engage with their teacher and classmates while following social distancing protocols. **Our teachers at Graham Middle School will continue to engage our scholars, but effective engagement will look different. The majority of our academic work will be done on their computers. There will be no shared packets, collected work packets, or shared materials. We will provide all scholars with a pencil pouch with basic materials they would need each class. That pencil pouch will be left at school in a designated area each day. We will continue with small group instruction, but it will be done in our breakout groups or whole group if the in-person class is small. Teachers could do a breakout session with our remote learners while our in-person learner could also do a group.**

Our scholars will continue to have ENCORE classes, and each scholar will have an assigned bag of supplies if required for that class. Scholars will not dress out for PE, and they must keep their mask on at all times during PE. We have hand sanitizer stations on the walls in the hallways, and teachers have been provided with sanitizer as well.

