



**GERMAN
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SCHOOL | Boston**

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57 Holton Street, Boston, MA 02134 | P 617.783.2600 | F 617.783.2605 | www.gisbos.org

July 17, 2020

Dear GISB community,

With this “mid-summer-email” I would like to keep you updated and informed about our ongoing work during the summer vacation to prepare GISB for the fall school start.

I hope it goes without saying that our priority as a school is, and will always be, the safety and well-being of our students, staff and families. However, we are, of course, also looking to offer as much in-class teaching as possible and our focus is to find solutions to this while providing the safest environment possible for everybody involved.

As you already know, GISB started early preparing for this by setting up a taskforce in May already in order to prepare for an end-of-August reopening. This taskforce consists of representatives from the faculty, the administration team and the leadership team. We have also invited the parent representatives from Preschool, Kindergarten, the Elementary-, the Middle-, and the High School. The input from all of these representatives has been and continues to be invaluable to restructuring the new concepts we must draw up, and we continue to work through the vacation so that we can start school in the fall as prepared as possible. I am incredibly grateful for all the help and constructive work being done by everyone even through the vacation period. It is a truly inspiring aspect of the school community.

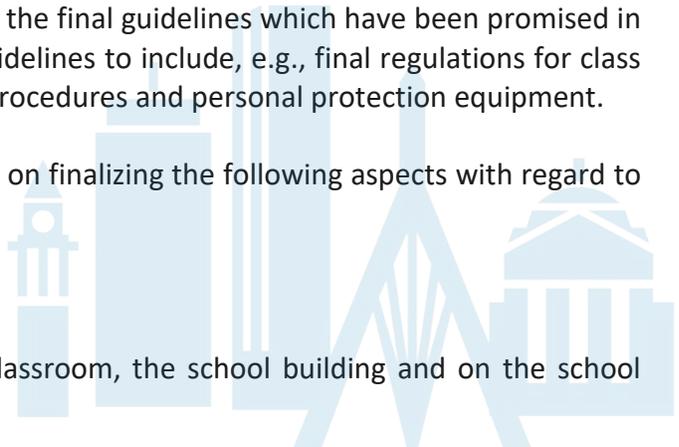
Since the first meeting and also based on the “Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance” from June 25, our taskforce has been concentrating on different scenarios, which we have also discussed with the Parent Council and in our General conference in June. We have also been stocking up on supplies and preparing changes to our facilities at Western Avenue and Holton Street. A model classroom has also been put together as we test our facilities.

All schools in Massachusetts are now awaiting the final guidelines which have been promised in late July or early August. We expect these guidelines to include, e.g., final regulations for class sizes, social distancing, hygiene and cleaning procedures and personal protection equipment.

Our taskforce will then be able to concentrate on finalizing the following aspects with regard to GISB:

General health and safety aspects

- Regulations for distancing in the classroom, the school building and on the school grounds





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- A requirement for face-masks at school including regulations for “masks breaks”
- Additional cleaning and sanitizing
- Access to the school building
- Regulations for students or staff exhibiting symptoms
- Re-scheduling of break times to avoid crowds in the hallways and on the grounds
- Re-arrangements of safe entries and exists to the school buildings.

and three Models for our fall learning

- Full in person teaching and learning: With health and safety allowing, and new regulations in place, GISB would start with on campus learning for all age-groups from the LC to the High School. Importantly, this model is being structured at this time with enough flexibility to make sure that those students who are not able to attend on-campus classes would and could be reached and taught at home.
- A hybrid Model: We would have elements of on-campus-learning alongside remote teaching for various classes and age-groups.
- If demanded by the authorities we are also preparing to go back to a remote-learning environment if necessary. This model will be structured as a ‘go-to’ if remote-learning is required at any time throughout the year.

It is our clear target to ensure as much in-person-teaching as possible according to the Massachusetts guidelines while also making sure that everyone can be in a safe and protected environment while at GISB.

We will be reaching out to you again over the coming weeks with more detailed information regarding our school opening this fall.

Thank you for your understanding and stay safe.

Holger Wirtz
Head of School

