



*Parent Communication*

# **Elementary School COVID-19 Response**



Updated August 16, 2021

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## *Abbreviations*

<b>GISB</b>	-	German International School Boston
<b>UC</b>	-	Upper Campus located at 57 Holton Street
<b>ASP</b>	-	After School Program
<b>ELL</b>	-	English language learners

*Hindernisse und Schwierigkeiten sind Stufen, auf denen wir in die Höhe steigen - Obstacles and difficulties are steps on which we ascend.*

Friedrich Nietzsche

## Official Guidelines

For the school's safe reopening we are working with the following guidelines:

*Covid-19: Guidance for Safe Schools* released by the American Academy of Pediatrics  
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

*DESE/DPH Covid-19 Guidance for Districts and Schools: Fall 2021* released by Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2021-0730fall-2021-covid19-guidance.pdf>

*Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools* from the CDC  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

## Classes and Teachers

We are teaching two classes in each grade this year. Under current regulations, this will be done with 3 feet distance.

<b>Classteacher</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Cohort</b>
Kristina Braun	1a	1/2
Maike Götting	1b	
Maria Mair	2a	
Martha Michalec	2b	
Julia Schlegel	3a	3/4
Henriette Lehmann	3b	
Sonja Detlefsen	4a	
Anke Roost	4b	

Classes 1a, 1b, 2a and 2b form the cohort 1/2

Classes 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b form the cohort 3/4.

## Health and Safety Mitigation

**It is crucial that you keep your child home when they show symptoms! If your child comes to school with symptoms, learning in the whole cohort will be compromised. This is the responsibility of all the teachers, parents and staff of the school. We are all responsible for everyone's safety in the GISB community.**

As outlined in the detailed report on Health and Safety Mitigation sent out by the administration, many of the effective measures that we used last year (masking, frequent hand-washing, sanitizing, cleaning, social distancing, testing, etc.) will still be with us as we start the 2021-2022 school year. All community members will submit a community pledge guaranteeing adherence to school Covid guidelines. As a school we are poised to react and adapt quickly to information and changes as the pandemic unfolds.

## Drop-off and Pick-up

### *Drop-off Procedure*

To ensure social distancing at all times, we will continue our minimal contact entrance and exit times at the beginning and the end of the school day. The students gather in the morning until 8:30 a.m. at their classes' designated drop off/pick up spot in the schoolyard.

The allocation of the individual sections will be as follows:

Elementary school (1st floor)	-	Entrance by the church garden
Middle school (ground floor)	-	Entrance at Holton Street garden
High School (basement)	-	Entrance Everett Street

Students must stay in the assigned area and follow social distancing guidelines.

At 8.30 a.m. each group or class is picked up by the first hour teacher and taken to the classroom. All late students need to report through the Front Office.

## Pick-up Procedure

Lessons end daily at 2.10 pm. The teacher of the last lesson accompanies the students to the designated drop off/pick up spot. Students who participate in the ASP program stay in their classrooms.

For ASP pick up, parents will call the ASP cell phone and the students will be sent downstairs for pick up (the ASP teachers communicate via walkie-talkie).

At this time, no parents/guardians are allowed to enter the building during pick-up and drop-off.

## Schedule

Lessons take place five days a week from **8.30 - 2.10 pm.**

## Breaks and Lunch

Breaks are an important part of everyday school life. They are used to connect friends, take a mental break, and to recharge the batteries for further lessons. During these times, the breaks will also look a little different than usual. The individual cohorts will be able to spend their breaks in the schoolyard following social distancing guidelines.

Elementary students enter the schoolyard through the main entrance.

In case of heavy rain, the break will take place in the classrooms or in the gymnasium, staggered with 2 classes spread out at a time.

Weather permitting, lunch will be held outside. Food may not be exchanged between students.

## Additional Educational Programs/ASP

We will offer our After School Program (ASP) daily for Elementary students from 2:10 - 6:00 pm. Parents have the pick-up time option of 4:00, 5:00, or 6:00 pm (3:00 pm pick up option will be available for those students with siblings in Middle and High School). During ASP students will have homework and snack time, as well as projects and activities in the classroom and designated outside time. Students will remain in their grade cohorts with ASP teachers for the entire afternoon. We will not mix the cohorts. We will offer a designated homework supervision

for students in grades 2 - 4 from 2:10 - 3:00 Monday - Thursday. Homework supervision will also not mix cohorts.

For pick up, parents will call the ASP cell phone and the students will be sent downstairs for pick up (the ASP teachers communicate via walkie-talkie).

## Guidelines in the Building

### *Masks*

Everyone who enters the Upper Campus building must wear a mask. All faculty and staff will wear masks at all times within the building regardless of vaccination status unless they can maintain physical distance (while eating, for example). The modeling by you as parents and by the classroom teachers will all help your child become comfortable with masks again, even if they have not been wearing them during part of the summer. After a year of masking, children have become very accustomed to them.

We are aware of the difficulties of wearing masks for children and will include mask breaks during the day. During snack and lunch time children will not wear masks. To provide additional mask-free time all groups are encouraged to spend extra time outside including learning phases whenever possible.

Please provide your child with 3 masks each day in a bag marked “clean.” Additionally, provide a bag marked “dirty” for used masks that must be washed each evening at home.

### *Promoting Handwashing and Good Hygiene*

Good and frequent handwashing will be promoted and discussed with the children. Additionally we installed contact-less paper towel dispensers and handwashing timers. Cleaning protocols for highly touched areas are in place and will be followed.

The classroom will be frequently cleaned and sanitized with a natural cleaning product that is certified by EPA.

<https://www.forceofnatureclean.com/natural-cleaner-and-disinfectant/?seg=consumer>

### *Physical Distancing in the Classroom*

Physical distance in the school building as well as in the classroom is an essential part of our everyday school life. We know that it is difficult to meet friends and not be allowed to touch each other. It is important that you discuss this with your child at home. Each student will have his or her own workstation in the classroom, located at least 3 feet away from his or her classmates.

This distance is also maintained when walking through the school building, for example when using the toilet.

Measures put in place include:

- Assigned seating and spaces for each child
- Markings on the floor (line-up, walking directions,..)
- Child-friendly signage
- Markings on the schoolyard for every cohort

### Health Guidelines

Protocols and guidelines as to how to handle students or staff with signs of sickness will be released by the school nurse shortly. An isolation room has been assigned in the building to ensure that people with symptoms can immediately be separated from other members of the cohort.

There is also a protocol in place on how the school proceeds if there is a positive test result of students, parents and staff of GISB and what the consequences will be in such a case.

## Communication

To minimize personal contacts, no face-to-face communication between parents and teachers will take place at the moment. Please contact the teachers of your child by email to arrange an online meeting or phone call if needed.

If your child is sick or can not attend school for other reasons, please inform the school as soon as possible by either sending an email to [attendance@gisbos.org](mailto:attendance@gisbos.org).

+1 (617) 783-2600 x 10 (Front Desk) Please leave a message.	<a href="mailto:attendance@gisbos.org">attendance@gisbos.org</a>
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Additional Contact Details:

Anke Roost	Coordinator Elementary School	<a href="mailto:anke.roost@gisbos.org">anke.roost@gisbos.org</a> +1 (617) 783-2600
Amy Kremer	Head of English Department	<a href="mailto:amy.kremer@gisbos.org">amy.kremer@gisbos.org</a> +1 (617) 783-2600

Charlotte Cane	Director of Co-Curricular Programs (ASP)	<a href="mailto:charlotte.cane@gisbos.org">charlotte.cane@gisbos.org</a> +1 (617) 783-2600 x16 (office) +1 (617) 356-6651 (ASP cell phone)
Sarah Feinberg	Front desk UC	<a href="mailto:sarah.feinberg@gisbos.org">sarah.feinberg@gisbos.org</a> +1 (617) 783-2600 x 10
Kathrin Petzold	School Nurse	<a href="mailto:kathrin.petzold@gisbos.org">kathrin.petzold@gisbos.org</a> +1 (617) 783-2600 x 15

## Changes of Guidelines / Closure of School Building

Should the current health situation in Massachusetts change and additional guidelines or orders are released, we are prepared to adapt our protocols and procedures accordingly. The health of our community is our top priority. We monitor the information released by the Department of Early Education and Care, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the State of Massachusetts closely. We will inform and keep you updated about any changes in our schedule and procedures. We greatly appreciate your support and cooperation during these unusual times.

## Additional Information

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	<a href="http://www.doe.mass.edu/">http://www.doe.mass.edu/</a>
Parent Reopening Guide for Day Care Centers	<a href="https://www.boston.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Fall-Reopening-Facilities-and-Operations-Guidance-vF.pdf">https://www.boston.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Fall-Reopening-Facilities-and-Operations-Guidance-vF.pdf</a>