Dear GSCS Families,

Happy September & Labor Day Weekend! We are off to a great start and looking forward to a bright future for this new academic year.

Our partnership with our families, our Parish, and our Diocese will provide the very best in Catholic education for our students. With our two instructional platforms this year, we anticipate new challenges as well as continuing innovative instruction, spiritual formation and safety procedures, but your support and cooperation is fundamental to our school’s successes. In the first few weeks of school, our teachers and staff have learned to maneuver the two instructional platforms, while keeping our school environment healthy and getting to know our amazing students. I am always impressed with our faculty and staff for the level of academic excellence, especially as they are called to new ways of teaching.

Despite our late school opening date, we are committed and ready to begin assessing learning gaps experienced from Spring 2020 school closure. As stated in the Diocesan and Good Shepherd Catholic School Re-opening plan, all Diocesan schools will administer standardized formative progress-monitoring assessments, three times in this academic year. These formative assessments are required by our Diocese, as indicated the Diocesan curriculum, to serve all our students. Additionally, this progress monitoring is required for state scholarship compliance, including those scholarship students attending virtually.

Now more than ever, these type of assessments are vital and necessary in determining how our teachers build strategic measures to teach our students. The GSCS Kindergarten through 2nd grade students will take the EasyCBM assessment and 3rd through 8th grade students will take the Beacon Assessment, within the allotted timeframe given in September. Our In-person students will take it throughout the school day and our On-line Live-stream students will be required to come in, at selected days and times. A Sign-Up Genius link is included below. All Live-stream students must select from days and times on the link accommodate the required testing. The On-line students will be seated in our Family Center to adhere to social-distancing guidelines. Students must wear their school uniform; masks will be required and temperatures will be taken prior to entering the Family Center. Parents may drop off in front of the Family Center and pick up after their grade-level assessment – EasyCBM (Kindergarten through 2nd grade students) approximately 1 hour; Beacon Assessment (3rd through 8th grade approximately) 2 ½ hours.

Easy CBM- K- 2nd - https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ea9ab2ea2f2-easy
Beacon- 3rd-8th- https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ea9ab2ea2f2-beacon

We look forward to monitoring the progress of all our GSCS students, as we assess them in person, while maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

I want to emphasize that in order to comply with our state and Diocesan requirements, all of our live-stream students must report to all classes on time. Parents who have selected this option must ensure the technological components are in working order. Live-stream students must have their camera on throughout the instructional time until indicated by the teacher to log-off for lunch or at the end of the school day. Students who log in late or miss class periods are marked tardy or absent. Please know all absences must be documented and reported. Excessive absences will place scholarship eligibility at risk.

GSCS is very excited about our new Good Shepherd website, available later in September. During the website transition, our website may be down a maximum of 24 hours. I invite you to read this Principal Newscast in its entirety, to learn about the upcoming events, such as School Picture day for in-person and on-line students (mass uniforms to be worn). A Sign Up Genius for the Live-stream student school pictures on Saturday, September 26, is included herein.

Our ministry as educators is fruitless without the involvement, collaboration, and cooperation of our parents. You are a crucial element in the success of GSCS and the education of your children. Home and school - everyone shares the goal of helping children learn and feel successful. I believe that this coming school year will be one filled with faith, growth, development, learning, and success – for our students, our faculty, and our community. Good Shepherd’s administration, faculty and staff is committed to align all of our efforts to the Good Shepherd Mission:

“With Christ as the ever-present teacher, Good Shepherd Catholic School is committed to provide academic excellence, Catholic values, and a faith-filled community to its students.”

Peace in Christ,  Gloria Del Orbe, Principal, Good Shepherd Catholic School

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Principal’s Back to School Newscast
September 2020
On-Line Live-Stream Instruction Option

1. The On-Line Live-Stream Instruction Option was available for those families who were uncomfortable returning to campus, for concerns related to COVID-19. Unfortunately, the availability for this option is now closed.

2. The On-Line Live-Stream Instruction Option is a temporary measure which can be ended at the school’s discretion upon consultation with and guidance from school administration and diocesan officials.

3. Families choosing this option, must give GSCS Administration a 2 week time-frame to request a change to In-person Instruction. The administration reserves the right to review any on-line instruction enrollment and make changes as needed.

4. All On-Line Live-Stream Instruction students will be sent information and grade-appropriate expectations, from their teachers. We ask that all parents read the Parent Handbook, as well.

5. The On-Line Live-Stream Instruction option is not the same as the remote learning option offered last spring. Students will be expected to attend and participate in daily classes. Class schedules will be emailed by the teacher.

6. Students must be present for class every day and at the time that class starts. Specialty classes will be included in On-live Live-Stream Instruction. Attendance will be recorded for each class and reported accordingly.

7. Students must wear school uniforms while participating in On-Line Live-Stream Instruction classes.

8. Students using this option must adhere to all policies in the 2020-2021 Parent Student handbook. Particular attention should be given to the policy on Academic Integrity, Parent Code of Conduct and Technology Policy. Students who are proven to have had an honor code violation will receive the appropriate consequences and, in addition, may lose the option of On-Line Live-Stream Instruction.

9. All students, both those on campus and those attending on-line classes must meet all academic deadlines and due dates.

10. The make-up work policy for on-line learning students is the same as that for students physically attending classes.

11. Parent Conference hours are before school or after school.

12. Students having technical questions should contact Mrs. Millie Montalvo mmontalvo@goodshepherd.org

13. Students choosing this option may participate in extracurricular activities, but may not be on campus until after dismissal of the regular school day.

14. There are no discounts for tuition or fees for families using this option.

15. All Diocesan waivers must be signed and returned prior to the start of the academic year, in order to be registered for In-Person or On-Line Live-Stream Instruction.
Individual Picture Day for In Person Students will be Wednesday, September 16th. All students must be in Mass uniform.

Individual Picture Day for Virtual Students will be Saturday, September 26th in the Media Center. Enter through the Media Center Door by the front office; temperatures will be taken. All students must be in Mass uniform, wearing masks until the photo is taken. Below is the sign up for Virtual Students Picture Day: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ea9ab2ea2ff2-livestream

Extended Care Registration
To register for Extended Care, parents/guardians need to login to their Family Portal account, go under School Information, click on Web Forms, then select the Extended Care Reg. & Auth. Web Form and complete the form online for each child in their family needing Extended Care. Completing the form will authorize GSCS to deduct the Extended Care Registration Fee of $30 per child from their FACTS Tuition Account, as well as deduct daily fees for Extended Care throughout the school year.

Medical Consent Form
To complete a Medical Consent Form, parents/guardians need to login to their Family Portal account, go under School Information, click on Resource Documents, and download the Medical Consent Form 2020-2021. Complete the form and return it to the school office with the medication. Medications – BOTH prescription and non-prescription – must be in their original containers and have the child’s name on them. Any child attending in person classes that requires an Epi-pen or another medication necessary to their health and wellbeing must have a medical consent form and the medication turned into the school office on or before the 1st day of school.
COVID-19 Reference Guide

HEALTHY
NO SYMPTOMS

CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WITH COVID-19
NO SYMPTOMS

CLOSE contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more without face covering by either party per CDC guidelines.

Proceed to school

POSITIVE FOR COVID-19
NO SYMPTOMS

Cannot go to school

Home for 10 days since first positive COVID-19 test and remain symptom free
OR two negative COVID-19 test 24 hours apart
Medical doctor's note is required.

POSTIVE FOR COVID-19 WITH AT LEAST 1 SYMPTOM

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever of 100.4 or above, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new cough, new loss of taste or smell.

Cannot go to school

Home for 14 days since last contact with person positive for COVID-19 OR provide a medical doctor's note and wear a mask full time for 14 days since last contact with positive COVID-19 person.

Cannot go to school

If confirmed positive COVID-19 OR person has not been tested: 10 days since first symptoms, no fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medicine), AND symptom improvement, including coughing and shortness of breath

Home for 14 days since last contact with person positive for COVID-19 OR provide a medical doctor's note and wear a mask full time for 14 days since last contact with positive COVID-19 person.

NOTE: In the event of an emergency closure due to a positive COVID-19 case within the school, staff and parents of those exposed will be notified as soon as possible. The nature of the circumstance will determine the length of the closure. The school will consult with the Diocese of Orlando and the local health department for guidance in regards to school closures. Each situation is unique.
Don’t forget to order your plaque to be placed on the Memory Garden on $25.00 per plaque!

It is a meaningful way to honor someone who has passed, or a teacher who’s inspired and influenced you; you can also honor a graduate, a family milestone—baptism, first communion, etc. There is no limit to your choice of remembrance!

Here is the link for the order form: http://www.goodshepherd.org/SchoolDocs/Plaque_Order_Boxes.pdf
WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE SOME OF OUR STUDENTS BACK

A GREAT FIRST WEEK