



SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL  
**for Science & Mathematics**

# **GSSM 2020-2021 COVID-19 FRAMEWORK & OPERATING PLAN**

## Introduction

As COVID-19 presented disruptions throughout the world this past spring, GSSM began assessing options for the 2020-2021 academic year. In response, a task force was assembled with multiple subcommittees to consider options to open safely while ensuring that students receive a high quality GSSM education. The task force sought input from students, families, faculty, staff, and medical experts via surveys and subcommittee meetings. It also carefully considered state and federal health guidance, currently available scientific information, the institution's priorities and capabilities before announcing a plan in July.

Execution of the plan requires that all GSSM stakeholders work together as a community in order to make significant changes to our traditional methods and practices. This document presents a framework for those changes. While implementing this framework, GSSM will continue to provide the best academic and student development experiences while creating an environment that is as safe as possible for all members of the GSSM community.

GSSM faculty and staff look forward to welcoming students back to campus as soon as possible. This plan seeks to move GSSM safely through the current phase of the pandemic and lay the foundation for a broader return to campus in the spring. It prioritizes the health and safety of the campus community and follows these guiding principles:

- Protecting the health of all GSSM constituents.
- Delivering the GSSM high standard of education to students.
- Allowing adequate time to allocate resources and plan for the best overall experiences for students.
- Taking into account the possible disruptions in teaching and learning if unforeseen negative health events occur at GSSM, in Hartsville, in South Carolina, or in our nation.

In order to protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and their families, GSSM developed the following academic plan for the 2020-21 school year:

- For the fall semester, school began on a virtual platform as scheduled on August 17, 2020. All courses are being taught virtually; students are attending live synchronous classes taught via Zoom. Classes had a soft start on 8/17/20 and officially began on 8/24/20.
- Students were offered the option to participate in one limited occupancy, two-week residency. The two-week residencies will begin on September 20, 2020 and run through November 20, 2020.
  - This lower density residency model will allow GSSM to maintain a level of health and safety that will support the primary goal of community well-being. This option will be offered to all students, but not required.
  - Residencies will conclude at Thanksgiving break. After Thanksgiving, students will complete the semester virtually.
  - Each residency is limited to a maximum of 72 students each. This enables the assignment of one student per suite and therefore no students will share a bathroom.
- At the end of the first 9 weeks, GSSM will re-assess based on available state and national health data to determine if public conditions have improved to allow students to return to campus for the remainder of the fall semester.

- For the spring 2021 semester, we are in the process of determining what the return to campus on a broader basis will look like. The GSSM task force will work closely with the board of trustees ad hoc community to finalize plans for the spring.
- We will continue to monitor CDC, DHEC, and state guidelines throughout the fall semester to make sure that our plan is aligned with those guidelines.
  - As recommended by the CDC for implementation of school-based strategies, we will utilize DHEC county data (*two-week incidence rate* and *trend in incidence rate* for Darlington County) from a weekly report received from SCDOE. The metric that will be used is medium or lower in each of those categories.

In order to achieve our mission of academic excellence, careful consideration will be given to following areas:

- Course scheduling
- Academic expectations
- Student academic support
- Physical health support for students
- Mental health and wellness of all students, faculty, and staff
- Faculty professional development, particularly as it relates to virtual instruction

GSSM will also provide all necessary technical, academic, and developmental support for students and faculty. Specifically, GSSM will:

- Ensure that students receive all books and supplies for their classes.
- Provide students in need with the appropriate technology to allow them to access their virtual courses.
- Develop and offer specialized programming in order to build and sustain community:
  - Continue to host engaging virtual programs for students and families, including but not limited to **#NextInTheNest** Meet & Greets and Family Meetings hosted by the Vice President for Student Development for families. The Dean of Students and Lead Wellness Counselor will participate in these evening sessions.
  - Carry out critical work on diversity and inclusion, with a focus on engaging and supporting all students and staff.
  - Connect students to their house communities, so they begin to build ties with other students and their RLCs.

## Plans for Returning to Campus

While many of the GSSM experiences during this academic year may look different than in past years, it is our goal to ensure that we will continue to offer a unique and high quality student experience that stays true to the GSSM values and mission. We are developing and implementing community standards and policies to maximize safety on campus while fostering a learning, working, and living environment that aims to protect all members of the GSSM community. It is expected that all members of our community follow these standards to promote a safe and healthy environment.

This framework includes operating plans for the following areas: *community health and safety, academics and student support, student development, athletics, and communication.*

## Community Health and Safety

All members of the GSSM community are expected to comply with the current COVID-19 protocols while on campus. This includes:

- **Practicing physical distancing:** maintain at least the recommended 6 feet of distance between individuals whenever possible, including in classrooms, offices, and common areas such as hallways, lounges, and the cafeteria. Avoid gathering in large groups, crowded spaces and being closer than 6 feet. Floor stickers have been ordered to indicate proper physical distancing in classrooms. Elevator usage has been limited, with preference given to people with a physical disability or individuals with medical conditions. Signs will be posted to indicate reduced occupancy levels.
- **Washing your hands often:** everyone must practice regular hand hygiene. Always avoid touching your face after touching highly touched surfaces (such as doorknobs, elevator buttons, photocopiers, faucets, toilets, etc.) and wash your hands afterwards. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60-90% alcohol, as hand sanitizers are also effective at preventing the spread of germs. Also, cleanse your hands before and after handling your face mask or facial covering. In order to provide another layer of safety, door opener/button pushers have been ordered and will be provided to the GSSM community.
- **Performing temperature screening:** upon entering the building everyone must perform a temperature screen using one of the all-in-one infrared temperature sensing tablets. A copy of the protocol can be found [here](#).
  - With the exception of dining hall and maintenance staff, all faculty, staff and visitors come through the center lobby to enter the building. Dining hall and maintenance staff follow a higher protocol, including temperature scans prior to starting work
- **Wearing a face mask:** facial coverings or masks that cover your mouth and nose are required in all public areas and group settings on campus. Everyone is required to wear a protective face covering when entering, moving about or exiting the building. The school will provide reusable masks to everyone. Disposable KN95 masks are also available for anyone who wants one. Masks should be kept in a safe sterile place when not in use and should not be used more than one day without being laundered or cleaned using proper UV sanitization equipment. Disposable face coverings should be discarded daily.

The term face covering is used to include any cloth face covering or disposable face mask that meets the following criteria:

- Fits snugly but comfortably against the sides of the face and covers the nose, mouth, and chin.
  - Fastens securely with ties or ear loops.
  - Includes multiple layers of fabric.
  - Allows for breathing without restriction.
  - Cloth face coverings can be laundered without damage or change to shape.
- **Maintain clean and sanitary spaces:** regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces you touch with CDC approved disinfectants. Cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be provided in each workplace, classroom, residence hall, dining facility, and other campus facilities.

- **Common Areas:** GSSM will follow best practices to clean common areas/public spaces.
  - Housekeeping staff will clean door handles and handrails, and wipe down tables and other surfaces throughout the day and perform increased cleaning of high-traffic areas.
  - Hand sanitizer stations are placed in locations around the campus including the gym.
  - Hands-free door openers/button pushers have been purchased for members of the GSSM community.
  - The number of people who can ride the elevators has been limited, with preference given to people with a physical disability or individuals with medical conditions. Signs will be posted to indicate reduced occupancy levels.
  - Water fountains will not be available for use. The school will have bottle filling stations will be available for use. All water fountains will be covered with caution tape to visibly show that they should not be used.
- **Classrooms, lecture halls, studios, and other instructional areas.** GSSM will follow guidelines and best practices for classroom spaces including these:
  - Housekeeping staff will clean and disinfect classrooms prior to the start of each day.
  - Classrooms that have equipment used daily by students such as computer labs, science labs, and the fabrication lab, will be cleaned regularly by housekeeping staff using equipment such as electrostatic disinfectant sprayers or UV light sanitizers.
  - Students will be required to wear face coverings while in instructional spaces.
  - Hand sanitizer and wipes or other cleaning supplies will be made available in instructional spaces.
  - Students will wipe their desk/chair at the end of their class and teachers will wipe any other used space (a board, a teacher desk) before the next class enters.
- ***Symptom Monitoring:*** individuals with COVID-19 symptoms or knowledge of exposure to someone with COVID-19 should contact their medical provider (students should contact Health Services immediately) and not report to work, class, or come to campus (unless your primary residence is on-campus). Employees should follow the GSSM COVID-19 protocol developed by GSSM Human Resources. A copy of the protocol is available [here](#).

### **Symptoms of COVID-19**

- Fever above 100 degrees F and/or chills or feeling hot (if no thermometer available)
- Sore throat
- New cough not related to chronic condition
- Runny/stuffy nose/nasal congestion (not related to allergies or relieved by antihistamines)
- Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
- Diarrhea with or without respiratory symptoms
- Nausea and/or vomiting

- Headache unrelated to chronic condition
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches
- Loss of sense of taste or smell
- New foot sores (COVID-19 toes)
- New rash
- **Testing:** students are required to get tested for COVID-19 before coming to campus for fall residencies as well before returning to campus for the spring semester. The interim president has ordered a [Cepheid GeneXpert Xpress IV-4 system CLIA waived system](#) so that our health services staff will be able to perform testing on campus. This system will allow for testing of faculty, staff, and students. Since GSSM nursing services are provided by Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center, their authorization would be required prior to nursing staff performing any on campus testing. In addition, standing orders would need to be updated to allow the nursing staff to use the new equipment. GSSM would also obtain parental/guardian permission prior to performing any testing on students.
- **Contact Tracing:** in the event that a GSSM student or employee tests positive for COVID-19, contact tracing will be used to identify individuals who have been in close contact with the person. GSSM will be using the [contact tracing form](#) provided by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). All positive cases will be reported to DHEC and SC Department of Education (SCDE) as required.
- **Host virtual or small group meetings:** meetings should be conducted remotely whenever possible and in-person programs, events, and social gatherings should be limited to the number of individuals specified by the school. On-campus space reservations will be limited to those individuals and groups that abide by this guidance.

### **HVAC**

The GSSM VP for Finance and Operations is working with Sywert and Associates, to purchase a [modular needlepoint bipolar ionization system](#) to improve the air quality and combat infectious particles in the building, particularly on the first floor.

### **Signage**

Appropriate signage has been developed and posted throughout campus to educate and promote adherence to public health practices, including hand hygiene, physical distancing, proper cough/sneeze etiquette, frequent disinfection of common and high traffic areas, symptom assessment, temperature checks, and face masks/coverings in public.

### **Dining**

Dining Services has created a set of protocols to include, but not limited to the following:

- Closing of the dining hall between services to ensure safety and sanitation
- Additional cleaning processes and sanitation stations in place
- Limited seating or elimination of seating in locations
- Marking floors to provide 6' spacing between guests
- Addition of Plexiglas sneeze guards at all service points between staff and guests
- Utilizing of masks and gloves by all associates
- Elimination of all self-service areas except beverages
- Elimination of cash tender from all locations

- Hiring and training of additional staff
- Changes to catering operations to include elimination of self-serve buffets and transition to plated meal or served buffets
- Marketing plan to increase awareness of COVID-19 related changes in operations
- Monitoring of PPE usage, sanitation protocol, and COVID-19 specific processes
- Employee health screenings

During the 2-week residencies, dining services will make modifications to the schedule, policies, and practices to protect safety and health of the campus community.

- **Dining Hall seating: 68**
  - Provided glass barriers at entrance
  - Provided glass barriers at serving stations
  - Marked flooring for physical distancing
  - Marked tables for physical distancing
    - Removed excess seating
  - Set up Sanitation Stations
  - New signage in place throughout the facility to promote safety and physical distancing
  - Stanchions in place to promote physical distancing
  - One entrance, three exits (two lead to the outside)
  - One Meal service Saturday-Sunday (Dining Hall closed in between meal services)
    - Brunch 11:00a-1:30p
    - Dinner 5:30-6:30p
  - One Meal service Monday-Friday (Dining Hall closed in between meal services)
    - Breakfast 7:30-8:30a
    - Lunch- 11:30a-1p
    - Dinner- 5:00-6:30 p
      - All tables and chairs to be sanitized between services to include additional staffing hours
    - Canceled visiting schools
- Service Line will be a continuous line
- Meals:
  - Once the 68-person capacity is reached, meals will be provided to-go or additional entry will be allowed as people exit
  - Will obtain head count for vegetarians/vegans
    - Meals to be provided separately
  - Main Line
    - Protein, Starch & 2 Vegetables
    - 2 premade Salads & Hummus provided daily
    - Dessert
  - Add a “Grab and Go” Station with boxed deli meals to help with physical distancing
    - Grab and go meals will be available on a table outside of dining hall next to cashier station
      - Meals are available on a first come first serve basis
      - 1 per person

- Grab and go meals must be consumed **outside** of the dining hall
  - Provide whole fruit that does not have edible skin (bananas & oranges)
  - Continue to provide BRAT diets (banana, rice, applesauce & toast) for students who are ill
  - Athletic meals will remain the same
  - Last Thursday dinner of each two-week interval will be a “Special Dinner” to replace the Thanksgiving & Christmas dinners they will miss due to COVID-19
- Eliminate most self-service
  - Milk in cartons will be provided upon request
  - Cereal provided by Aramark staff
  - Toaster behind the line
    - Possibility of purchasing a conveyor toaster to speed up breakfast
  - All condiments in individual packaging
  - Dining hall community engagement hours (CEs) for students have been eliminated
  - Continue to use china, silverware and tumblers
    - Beverage cups & silverware to be handed out at entrance of Dining Hall
  - Physical distancing observed for dish window
- Staffing
  - Reduce staffing hours
    - The Deli will be closed on weekends
  - Aramark employees will wear gloves and masks during service and when 6’ physical distancing is not possible
  - Digital forehead thermometer will be used to screen employees at start of shift
    - Employees will not be permitted to enter the workplace if they have a fever at or above 100.4° F and they cannot return to work for 3 days.
- Additional staff training
  - Team members will receive additional COVID-19 specific training week prior to first day of classes
  - Review all job descriptions and duties to make any adjustments needed for staff
  - Gather all pertinent COVID-19 related guidelines and put into a training format.
  - Safety huddles will be conducted daily
- Catering
  - Self-serve buffets, platters and trays will be eliminated.
  - Meals will be plated, served or boxed
  - Lunch for any on campus Board of Trustees meeting will be served out of the small kitchen
  - Thanksgiving & Christmas Dinner & Breakfast of Champions have been cancelled
- Cashless meal service
  - Employees will purchase meal tickets
- Dining hall will close between meals
  - All beverage machines will be shut down between services

## **Academics and Student Support**

### **Academic departmental information**

The GSSM academic community continues to work to ensure the best learning environment possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Academic Subcommittee of the COVID-19 Planning and Implementation Task Force approved a planning document over the summer to provide consistency across classes and to help students know what they need to do to be academically successful. The Department Chair Group worked during the summer to write a document, “*Expectations for Teaching and Learning in a Virtual Environment.*” Faculty from individual academic departments then added sections to it based on student and parent feedback, observations of student performance, and experience from spring and summer.

Each academic department also came up with a specific academic plan for the semester, based on input from its faculty about what would work best for that academic area. [The fall departmental plans summary](#) describes specific expectations that are the same for all departments.

### **Research & Inquiry**

Recognizing the impact of COVID-19 on both the availability of research & inquiry internships and the ability of students to participate in opportunities, the research & inquiry graduation requirement for the Class of 2021 (seniors) was waived. Seniors who participated in (primarily remote) research & inquiry experiences are enrolled in Mentored Research, which meets once per week with their GSSM instructor. The student-instructor ratio is reduced to allow individuation of instruction in preparing students to present at Annual Research Colloquium and the SC Junior Academy of Science in the spring semester. Student work is primarily asynchronous.

Preparation for Class of 2022 (junior) summer research & inquiry experiences consists of providing information about the research & inquiry program and gathering information about individual student/family preferences. Information sessions will be provided through a series of videos supported by online resources on Canvas that can be viewed asynchronously. Videos and resources will be distributed once students have had a chance to acclimate to GSSM academics. Questionnaires about student interests and family preferences will continue to be conducted asynchronously and online as in past years. Individual student interest interviews will be conducted via video conference following questionnaire completion. GSSM will be working closely with research partner sites to evaluate the availability of research internships for the Summer of 2021.

### **College Counseling and Advising**

The Office of College Counseling and Advising will continue to provide all services to students and families, to include but not limited to: College Planning Seminars I and II, University and College visits that are virtual, one on one counseling sessions with students and parents, all class informational sessions.

### **Academic Success**

The Center for Academic Success will continue to provide all services to students and families to include but not limited to: Academic Transition Seminar, QUEST (structured study time), peer tutoring centers, series of parent-to-parent academic support sessions.

### **Extracurricular Activities and Athletics**

Based on the state's current status and recommendation, small group programming will be allowable, but safety precautions must be taken to ensure students and staff are safe. Small group extracurricular programming can take place as long as physical distancing is possible. This includes summer enrichment activities including academics, arts, and athletics. For these meetings/workouts it is recommended that they be conducted at safe distances, and outdoors, where possible.

GSSM is in compliance with all SCHSL guidance and policies for return to sports. Currently the school is operating under the *phase three* guidance. Team practices can be held with adherence to phase three safety measures, including mask requirements.

All activities must follow any SCHSL or SCGSSM guidelines about the number and type of activities permissible:

- Whole teams can play on a field or in a facility with the following mask requirements:
  - When physical distancing on the court or field is not possible students play without masks, but then put their masks on again when not playing. Coaches and staff will wear masks at all times when within 6 feet of players.
- Coaches and sponsors will need to be screened
- Symptom assessments must be taken for adults and students
- Any confirmed cases during activities must be reported to close contacts that may be directly impacted to encourage self- quarantine and possible COVID-19 testing as necessary and recommended

The GSSM Athletic Department has made the following modifications:

- Transitioned students to a new online workout program: PLT4M.com.
- Updated the department's Risk Management plan that includes *Return to Play* policies and procedures for any athlete that tests positive for the virus.
- Installed new Versa Climber machines in the fitness room.
- Installed a new functional training machine in the fitness room.
- Installed Air ionizers in the weight room and training room
- Installed additional hand sanitizer systems in the athletic wing
- Created fitness/intramural plans for students during residencies.
- Developed a Lady Eagles Fitness program that will commence on September 20, 2020 for students in residence as well as virtual students.

### **2-week residency academic information**

We are excited for students to be on campus for 2-week periods during the months of September through November. Students will receive the same high-quality academic experience without advantage or disadvantage should they choose to remain in the virtual environment or attend the 2-week residency. Students on-campus will be able to move around campus freely while wearing masks and observing proper physical distancing. These safety measures will also be required in classrooms or any other academic area. All students have the option to take classes fully virtual for the entire academic year.

All GSSM classrooms have been upfitted with new technology that enable instructors and all students, both in-person and remote to interact synchronously. Each faculty member will decide whether they teach in the classroom or via Zoom. Faculty will also decide whether office hours will be held at GSSM or via Zoom. If a faculty member decides to teach via Zoom, students on campus will be able to gather in the classroom and work with the teacher, using the new technology in the classrooms and labs to fully participate in class. If teaching in the classrooms and labs, teachers will work with the students who are in the virtual environment to ensure that they can fully participate in classes and labs. Students in the classrooms will be responsible for wiping down their area after class is complete.

**QUEST** will be in effect for all students on campus from 8:00-10:00 PM. Students may QUEST together as long as they wear masks and observe physical distancing. Tutoring will still be available using the virtual format already in place.

### **Accelerate and TEAM UP Students**

GSSM Virtual Programs courses began on August 18, 2020 and will proceed as originally planned. Textbooks and supplies were delivered to each partner site during the week of August 10<sup>th</sup>. Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering labs are currently scheduled on Saturdays as usual, however during the fall semester they will take place in a remote format. We will continue to monitor CDC, DHEC, and state guidelines throughout the fall semester and should conditions change based on the metrics listed on *page 2* of this document, we would switch the lab format to in person.

### **Outreach Center Offerings for Students and Teachers**

Each academic year during the fall and spring semesters the Outreach Center team delivers in-person on campus and off campus programming to students and teachers locally and statewide. The team in collaboration with the GSSM Leadership Team, the Planning & Implementation Task Force, and the Planning & Implementation Task Force Outreach Subgroup is developing a set of fall offerings that can be delivered virtually either synchronously or asynchronously. Some of these offerings include, but are not limited to, virtual SPARK & ENGAGE after school programs, a virtual version of our academic Saturday STEM Scholars program, a virtual database of GSSM Outreach Center endorsed labs, activities, and resources that can be used by teachers with their students, a series of interactive STEM video vignettes for elementary teachers, and STEAM Bus – Explore at Home series of lab kits. We will consider offering in-person fall programming in partner school districts and schools if it the program can be delivered without jeopardizing the health, safety, and security of our staff and the students and teachers we serve. Our goal is to resume in-person programming during the spring and summer 2021. We will continue to monitor CDC, DHEC, and state guidelines throughout the fall semester and make adjustments to our Outreach Center offerings as necessary.

## **Student Development Plans**

Student Development has been actively planning and considering how to proceed during the 2020-21 academic year to support our divisional vision statement: Making the out-of-class experience as educational purposeful as the in-class experience. With the global pandemic and public health crisis we are currently experiencing, plans forward must consider what is in the best interest of entire campus community, especially our students. Below we will present plans for a hybrid 2020 Fall Semester. We will also present a *Return to Campus* proposal with

conditions that will be appropriate for implementation whenever we bring students back into residence.

### **Fall 2020 – Hybrid Plan (virtual with 2-week residencies)**

Each department, including campus life (residence life and student activities), health services, music, visual arts, and wellness counseling along with the Vice President for Student Development will continue to serve students and engage families toward community building and fostering connectiveness. While we cannot fully replicate what we offer students when they are on campus, we are committed to offering the best possible co-curricular and experiential programs that students will find valuable and engaging.

#### **Campus Life**

Most seniors selected their rooms at end of the 2019-20 school year. Rather than assigning incoming juniors actual rooms, we elected to assign them to the houses (residence hall floors). The rationale for this was that students may, through their interactions this semester, have different rooming preferences regarding housing if it is safe to be fully residential for the 2021 Spring Semester.

As is our practice, House meetings and/or floor programs, led by the residence life coordinators, will be held each evening during the first week of classes. They will include ice breaking and team building activities to support the residents and the staff becoming acquainted. Community standards and expectations will also be covered and the appropriate sections of the *Student Handbook* will be reviewed. In addition, the RLCs and SAC Coordinator will hold regular programs throughout the semester. Student input and feedback will be solicited and considered in the planning. The Student Activities Board has been reviewed and reimagined. We anticipate them being fully active this semester.

It is our hope that many of our clubs and organizations will remain active. As is our practice, these opportunities are student driven. Campus Life will be hosting their annual Club and Organization Fair on Sunday, August 23, 2020. Student organizations will register with the Office of the Dean of Students and students will still have the opportunity to charter new clubs. A few organizations (e.g. NAACP and M.O.S.I.A.C.) have provide some educational undertakings during the summer months. The National Honor Society and Beta Clubs also remained active after we closed the residence hall last spring.

#### **Health Services**

GSSM's Lead Nurse is a vital part of the student development team and we will engage other nurses as necessary during the virtual semester. All of the medical documents will be collected and while we will not be in residence, our nurses will work with families clarifying conditions and putting the necessary supports in place for when the residence hall re-opens. The range of activities include clarifying any conditions or issues presented in the paperwork, partnering with dining services for students who have special dietary needs, and preparing the residence life staff to assist students after Health Services closes in the evening. The department will continue its thematic, passive programs through some type of electronic bulletin board. Our Lead Nurse will continue to monitor CDC and DHEC guidance and consult with local medical authorities to advise us in our future planning.

Life & Leisure, one of the required junior seminars, is being revamped to ensure that it is relevant for the 2020 Fall Semester. We are considering having our Lead Nurse team teach with the Lead Wellness Counselor as the seminar will focus on wellness since some of the traditional content will not be as important in the virtual semester.

### **Music**

GSSM's Music Coordinator will continue to teach three academic courses and engage students toward their musical development and pursuits. We may investigate possibly having students engage in music activities with their local high schools similar to the way the SCHSL is supporting students' participation in sports if their schedules permit. Virtual music sessions and lessons will continue. Additionally, music will be provided for schoolwide programs like Convocation, etc.

### **Visual Arts**

Like music, the Visual Arts Coordinator will continue to offer three academic course and host virtual programs for students in partnership with other departments. A Virtual Art Studio is underway where students will have the opportunity to engage in drawing exercises, respond to prompts, and participate in self-guided activities where their work can be critiqued by our residence artist. Interested students will still have the opportunity to participate in art shows and competitions as opportunities avail themselves.

### **Wellness Counseling**

GSSM's Wellness Counselors will continue their work with students all while serving as resources to parents and colleagues regarding student issues and concerns. The issue of mental health has been a constant refrain from families. While GSSM will continue to provide support considering the scope of each area, families must acknowledge their responsibility to get their student the support they need locally if mental wellness issues arise. It is an unreasonable expectation for students' parents and guardians to expect GSSM to be *in loco parentis* when their children are in their care. When we are in residence, if students present with significant emotional issues, their parents are brought into the situation immediately and the student sometimes is required to return to their care until a required evaluation is completed and GSSM is satisfied that it is safe for the student to return to residence.

The Lead Wellness Counselor, who is the primary instructor for Life & Leisure, is revamping the syllabus to make the seminar more relevant to the virtual semester. Plans are being considered to make it more wellness focused. As it evolves, our Lead Nurse will be involved in its development and delivery.

The Lead Wellness Counselor, with support of the counselors, will continue to sponsor the Natural Helper program meeting with them regularly and providing the ongoing training that will allow these peer leaders to work with their mentee groups. The junior class has been divided into 18 mentee groups ranging in size from six to nine students. The weekend of July 24<sup>th</sup>, they began reaching out to the juniors. Additionally, the counselors will sponsor some group sessions for students around pertinent topics. Some of these activities will occur in the evening and may be done in partnership with campus life.

## **Other Divisional Initiatives**

**Parent Advisory Council (PAC).** Dr. Sue Bali will be serving as the PAC Chair for the 2020-21 academic year. A part of the Vice President for Student Development's responsibilities is to serve as the campus liaison to PAC. There is regular and open communication between the organization and this colleague. We expect the subcommittees to function during this virtual semester. Each committee has an administrative liaison and the senior chairs have been finalized. PAC will be recruiting for subcommittee participation in August. They generally have senior and junior chairs to support succession planning for this parent body.

**Meetings with Junior Families.** During the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>, the Vice President for Student Development, Dean of Students, and the Lead Wellness Counselor are hosted Zoom sessions with junior families by region.

**Engagement of Senior Families.** The division will host meetings for senior families after Convocation. We understand the need to re-connect with these families given that we had to abruptly end residential learning last March. With the focus so much on seniors toward the end of last school year and on incoming juniors now, we do not want our seniors or their families to feel neglected. Our PAC Chair has encouraged this.

**Leadership Development.** Leadership development is one of GSSM's strategic goals and we hope to sponsor a series of workshops and developmental initiatives for students. We will work with the academic schedule to allow for time for these developmental programs. We anticipate two each semester. We are hoping that club sponsors will encourage their students, particularly the officers, to participate.

**Inclusion.** We have hired a consultant to assist us in working with our students on diversity and inclusions issues. This colleague, reporting directly to the Dean of Students, will manage the residence life coordinator portfolio and focus additional activities on training the campus life staff and student leaders in approaching these important and sometimes challenging topics. Issues of inclusion, biases, and social justice will be the focus of student programming and he will serve as the co-advisor for M.O.S.I.A.C., GSSM's multicultural student organization and Common Ground, the school's LBGTQ campus organization. It is our hope that this work will compliment any work done for the faculty and staff around this timely and relevant topic.

**Community Engagement.** Community Engagement has been streamlined. For the 2020 academic year, students will be required to participate in six projects of their choice to fulfill the graduation requirement of community engagement: three in the fall semester and three in the spring. This is in lieu of the 50-hour customary requirement, students can earn credit for projects beginning on the first day of classes for the fall semester. Students are not required to complete this service work in person. Students who choose to volunteer in person assume any and all risks association with their decision. GSSM will not be responsible for any damages, injuries, or illnesses that may occur as a result of in-person service. Students and campus service project coordinators should note the following:

- The Dean of Students Office will continue to share information with students about how to engage in volunteer service remotely.
- The Dean of Students Office will support community partners by sharing remote service opportunities with students.
- GSSM colleagues who would like to engage students in remote service opportunities should communicate their initiatives directly to students. After the students have

completed their work, the project sponsor is to email the Dean of Students and SAC Coordinator confirming their participation.

- Individual student volunteers will observe all campus protocols related to face coverings and physical distancing when participating in community engagement/volunteer activities that are not remote.
- If students elect to participate in-person opportunities in their home communities, those who are exhibiting symptoms or are at risk for complications associated with COVID-19 are advised to opt out of these projects.
- Students will continue to use My Internship Journal to login their participation of each project. More information about My Internship Journal will be sent to students via email at a later date. Students are asked to save the email and refer to it if there are any questions.

## **Return to Campus Proposal with Conditions**

*During the fall 2-week residencies, we can accommodate 72 students at a time, one per suite. In the spring, if we choose to bring the classes in, we can have each student in a room by himself/herself, but they will be sharing a bathroom – the juniors during one period and the seniors the next. Should conditions improve to the point where all students can return at once, students will have roommates and two dorm rooms will share one bathroom.*

## **Health and Safety**

As always, GSSM will make every effort to update the community with timely information about specific health and safety guidance important for our students. We will establish specific requirements applicable to students, including but not limited to requirements for COVID-19 testing, temperature checking, symptom reporting, physical distancing, limitations on mass gatherings, wearing a face covering, contact tracing, disinfection protocols, limitations on guests, and short-term isolation requirements. These requirements will be posted throughout the campus and on our official school website. They will be updated as needed by the GSSM. Adherence to health and safety requirements applies to all community members and extends to all aspects of campus including bedrooms, bathrooms, classrooms, and common spaces. While GSSM is working to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, it cannot guarantee that the protocols instituted prevent the spread of COVID-19 among students, faculty, and staff. Every person will play a role in reducing risk for themselves and others and each department within the school must address matters related to their areas.

## **Face Coverings**

GSSM is committed to promoting a safe campus environment for students, faculty, and staff in accordance with current state and local public safety guidelines. Face coverings (see definition below) must be worn at all times in any shared spaces, in the residence halls, on GSSM transportation (e.g. mini buses), as well as on the street and in public spaces. Wearing a face covering does not replace the need to maintain physical distancing and observing safety protocols in shared spaces. The CDC does not recommend the use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for disposable masks or cloth face coverings. Based on currently available data, face shields in the absence of facial covering will not provide adequate protection against COVID-19 infection. They may be used in addition to masks, but not as a sole intervention. Students are expected to provide their own cloth face coverings. Students are advised to avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth when removing their face coverings, and

wash their hands immediately before and after removal. Face coverings should be changed daily and stored in a clean paper bag when not in use. Disposable face coverings should be discarded daily.

The term face covering is used to include any cloth face covering or disposable face mask that meets the following criteria:

- Fits snugly but comfortably against the sides of the face and covers the nose, mouth, and chin.
- Fastens securely with ties or ear loops.
- Includes multiple layers of fabric.
- Allows for breathing without restriction.
- Cloth face coverings can be laundered without damage or change to shape.

**Students who do not comply with this requirement will be subject to disciplinary action, which will likely include the requirement that they return home.**

### **The Residence Hall/ GSSM Houses**

Students will be assigned to a house within the residence halls. GSSM will continue to implement and modify its cleaning protocols to address COVID-19 and/or other public health emergencies in the interest of minimizing the spread of disease. Students will be required to exercise personal control of sanitation as needed and will participate in cleaning shared areas like bathrooms and common areas, according to cleaning protocols provided by GSSM. Students will be required to participate in the scheduling of daily inspections of their rooms and bathrooms.

### **Move-In**

1. Students will be assigned a move in time. These times will be staggered and allow for the sanitizing of moving carts and distancing in elevators.
2. Only two vehicles may be brought to campus to assist with move-in. (If a hybrid plan is employed for the fall, it will likely be reduced to one vehicle.) Students may have only two individuals with them to assist with the move. Every person who enters the building will be required to wear a face covering/mask. No children under the age of 14 are allowed. Anyone who feels ill or has a fever should not come to campus. We strongly discourage individuals of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions that put them at higher risk for severe illness including COVID-19 from coming to campus.
3. You will only be allowed to move in necessities for your room so please limit what you bring to campus. Label all items with your name and your assigned house.
4. Those who will be housed on Lux, Fortem, or Fidelitas (female students) will use the front entrance of the school for move-in at their designated time. Students who will live on Veritas, Libertatem, or Praesidium (males), will use the back entrance of the school for move-in.
5. There will be limited carts and dollies available for move in located in the Main Lobby. Unfortunately, other students and members of the staff will not be able to assist you with moving so please keep this in mind as you are packing and preparing. Given the nature of the pandemic, we may have to close the residence hall suddenly like we did last March. Other emergencies are also possible so we must be prepared to clear the residence hall quickly.

## **Life on Campus**

1. Masks/cloth face coverings must be worn in all common areas and public spaces at all times. Physical distancing must also be observed and practiced.
2. Visitors will not be allowed on campus including parents, guardians, and alumni.
3. Meetings with faculty and staff will be by appointment only. Students will not be permitted to “hang out” in lobbies, lounges, or faculty/staff offices.
4. The Cubby Room will be closed and in-house mail will not be available. Postal mail will be put out daily.
5. The campus curfew for weekdays and weekends will be 8:00 p.m. Students must be upstairs in the residence hall by 10:00 p.m. and room check will be at 10:30 each evening. There will be no happy half. After 10:00, students must remain on their floors for the remainder of the evening. Students may not use common areas after this time.
6. Only two students can use the laundry room at a time and students should not leave their clothes unattended for long periods of time. Storing personal laundry is not permitted and students must wear masks/face coverings at all time. Clearing supplies will be available so the user can clean and disinfect the room after each use.
7. Students will not be allowed to congregate or study in the hallways upstairs. Only four students are allowed in the study lounge to accommodate physical distancing.
8. Students may not leave any chairs, pillows, or other items outside of their room. This includes the hallway, tv/study lounge, or laundry area.
9. There will be no Interhouse/Interviz events or programs.
10. When physical distancing is not possible, all house meetings will occur via Zoom.
11. Only four students will be allowed in the study and TV lounge at a time to ensure physical distancing and occupants of the space must remain 6 feet apart. During your time in the lounge you must wear a mask. Items will be available in the lounge for you to clean and disinfect before you leave.
12. RLCs will conduct health and safety inspections three times per week.
13. Students will not be allowed to sign out of campus during the weekdays or weekends. There will be a limited number of Walmart/Food Runs per weekly. Only 6-7 students may occupy the minibus at one time. Students will be required to wear masks/cloth face coverings and wash your hands/sanitize frequently.
14. If a student leaves the campus without permission or for overnight, they may not return to the residence hall and will have to go home and resume virtual instruction.

## **Co-Curricular Activities/The SAC/Art Studio & Music Room**

1. All in-person meetings including clubs and activities will have to be scheduled in advance through the SAC Coordinator and must be supervised by the advisor.
2. The movie room, pool room, game room, kitchen, and conference room must be reserved through the SAC Coordinator. Masks/cloth face coverings must be worn at all times and students must keep 6 feet apart.
3. Pool sticks, game controllers, ping pong paddles, board games and other games must be requested from the SAC Coordinator. After use, these items must be returned to the SAC Coordinator to be cleaned and disinfected.
4. The movie room will be reserved in 2.5-hour increments. There will be limited occupancy, the room door must be fully open, and lights must remain on at all times. Students must wear masks/cloth face coverings at all times and remain 6 feet apart.

5. Only two people will be allowed in the SAC kitchen at one time and they must remain 6 feet apart at all times. Masks/cloth face coverings are required. Some cookware will be available in the kitchen for your use. Food or other personal items may not be stored in the kitchen/refrigerator. Students may not sell food for profit or prepare food for campus programs. All food for campus programming will be prepared and disseminated by Dining Services. Students must clean and sanitize everything before and after using the kitchen. This includes any kitchen supplies you use, the countertop, oven knobs, fridge handle, sink knobs, oven door/knobs, stove knobs, light switch, and the entrance and exit door handles. Cleaning supplies will be available for students to disinfect and clean before and after use. Our custodial staff will also clean the kitchen on a daily basis, but it is the responsibility of those who use the space to do their part to keep the kitchen safe and available to use.
6. The Art Studio and Music Room will also employ appropriate supervision and distancing in these spaces. The rooms, like the Movie Room will have to be reconfigured.

### **Self-Monitoring**

Students should contact Health Services immediately if one or more of the following concerns apply:

1. Experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 (see list of symptoms below).
2. Having been in close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
3. Having been in close contact with someone who is symptomatic (patient under investigation) who has been tested for COVID-19 and is awaiting test results.
4. Having traveled internationally or to a high-risk location domestically.
5. Having any other COVID-19 medical questions.

### **Symptoms of COVID-19**

- Fever above 100 degrees F and/or chills or feeling hot (if no thermometer available)
- Sore throat
- New cough not related to chronic condition
- Runny/stuffy nose/nasal congestion (not related to allergies or relieved by antihistamines)
- Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
- Diarrhea with or without respiratory symptoms
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Headache unrelated to chronic condition
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches
- Loss of sense of taste or smell
- New foot sores (COVID-19 toes)
- New rash

If, at any time, a student feels sick or experiences flu-like symptoms, or is concerned that they may have COVID-19 or any other illness, he/she should contact Health Services. The same applies if they think they have been exposed to any condition that is highly contagious.

### **Isolation and Separation**

In keeping with school policy, GSSM may request or require a student(s) to leave their assigned room due to COVID-19 or other public health and community concerns. Students may be isolated when there is a possibility that they have been exposed to an illness and need to separate from others. Isolation is used when someone has symptoms or is confirmed to have an illness. If a student needs to be separated, Health Services will work with Campus Life to arrange for the student to move to a private room with a private bathroom if available. In some cases, the student may move to a private room or semi-private room with another student who is also in isolation. GSSM has set aside a few rooms for this purpose. Dining Services will coordinate regular delivery of prepared meals and nurses will monitor the progress of the student. In most cases, these accommodations will only be provided for as long as it takes for the parent to pick up the student so they can return home to recuperate. **Students will not quarantine at GSSM.** While we are experiencing this global pandemic and in keeping with school policy regarding sick students, we are likely to require that sick students with a fever return to their parent's care. Families are expected to arrange to pick their student up within five hours of receiving the call from one of our nurses.

### **Health Services and Wellness Counseling**

When the students return, these departments will operate as they do whenever students are in residence. For these units, the number of residents or students in the building does not matter. Note the schedules below:

<b>Health Services:</b>	Mondays through Thursdays	7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
	Fridays	7:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
	Saturdays	7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
	Sundays	11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
<b>Wellness Counseling:</b>	Mondays through Thursdays,	8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
	Fridays,	8:30 to 5:00

### **Communications**

To ensure that the GSSM community remains abreast of the latest developments related to COVID-19, a COVID-19 Communications page was added to the GSSM website: <https://www.scgssm.org/covid19>. All communications related to COVID-19 that are sent out to GSSM stakeholders are posted on this page by date. The page includes information regarding:

- Changes in daily operations, policies, and events
- Health and safety guidelines, instructions, and policies
- Academic information
- Administrative messages
- Confirmed cases of COVID-19 at GSSM

In addition to the COVID-19 website, a variety of methods will be used to effectively deliver messages to stakeholders including; social media, faculty, staff, and student listservs, and on campus signage.

## Appendix A: Temperature Screening Protocol (approved 8/19/20)

*This protocol is for internal use only. Existing public protocols should be updated to include these changes when adopted.*

GSSM is taking positive steps to protect the school community from the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 and other diseases. The following plan establishes a protocol for using self-service scanning devices that detect the presence of fevers among those entering the building.

1. Self-serve, thermal-scanning stations will be located in the Center Lobby. One station will be located near visitor check in. Visitors must obtain a passing (green) scan stating, "Success – Temperature Check Passed" before starting the sign-in process.
2. A station will be located on the elevator side of the front desk for use by students, faculty, and staff.
3. Front desk security will maintain awareness of incoming visitors, faculty, staff, and students for the purpose of advising proper scanning and protocol compliance when high temperatures are reported.
4. Students and employees will scan themselves immediately each time they enter the building. Masks must be worn during scanning. Access to other parts of the building is allowed only after receiving a passing green result stating, "Success – Temperature Check Passed."
5. Students who receive a high temperature alert will be escorted directly to the health services office by a staff member for assessment.
6. Any non-student who receives a high temperature alert must leave the building and premises immediately.
  - a. A person who leaves due to a high temperature alert may return to campus at a later time according to the School's COVID-19 protocol.
  - b. If a person believes that their temperature alert is in error, they may attempt 2 additional scans.
  - c. Employees must notify their supervisor immediately if they leave due to a high temperature alert and seek a qualified medical assessment before returning to campus.
7. Personally identifiable information is not collected by the scanning equipment.
8. This protocol will be integrated into existing COVID-19 response policies and communicated to the community.

# Appendix B: Modular Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization System

## GPS-iMOD<sup>®</sup>

### Modular Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization Air Purification System



#### Product Description

The patented GPS-iMOD is a modular needlepoint bipolar ionization system that is field assembled to any length required up to 240 inches in 6-inch increments. The composite and carbon fiber construction allows the GPS-iMOD to be mounted in corrosive environments.

#### Standard Features

**Power Supply:** Voltage Selector Switch, Illuminated On/Off Switch, Plasma On Indication Light, Six HV Output Ports, Alarm Contacts, Auxiliary Terminals for connection of an optional GPS-iDETECT-P<sup>™</sup> Ion Sensor.  
**GPS-iMOD Bar:** 6" Sections, Nine Brushes per Section, up to 240" Total Length, Magnets for Easy Mounting.

#### Benefits

-  **Particle Reduction and Smoke Control**
-  **Odors Neutralized** by destroying VOCs
-  **Pathogens Killed** (Bacteria, Viruses, Mold), Helps to Control Allergens/ Asthma\*, Prevents Dirty Sock Syndrome
-  **Energy Savings of 30%** by Reducing Outdoor Air Intake by up to 75%, reduces pressure loss by keeping coils clean without expensive UV system, and requires No Maintenance!

\*These statements are based on numerous customer testimonials and have not been evaluated by the FDA.

#### Specifications

<b>Input Voltage</b>	24/120/208-240VAC	<b>Electrical Listings</b>	UL, cUL, CE
<b>Amps</b>	0.5A/0.12A/0.065A	<b>Compliance &amp; Certifications</b>	UL 2998, UL 867, IAQP, OSHPD Seismic (OSP)
<b>Temperature Range</b>	-40°F to 200°F	<b>Power Unit Dimensions</b>	9.0"L x 3.25"W x 4.75"H
<b>Humidity Range</b>	0 - 100% RH	<b>Power Unit Weight</b>	4.63 lbs
<b>Frequency</b>	50/60HZ	<b>Bar Weight</b>	0.24 lbs per 6" section
<b>Output Voltage</b>	5.0kV RMS	<b>Bar Section Dimensions</b>	6.0"L* x 0.75"W x 1.6"H
<b>Output Frequency</b>	50/60Hz		*length = 6.0" x iMOD Quantity + 1.20"
<b>Ion Output</b>	>140M ions/cc/sec per inch of bar		
<b>Power Entry</b>	UL Listed, Plenum Rated Line Cord with 3 Prong Plug		

#### Commercial Applications

- Schools and Universities
- Arenas and Stadiums
- Office Buildings
- Manufacturing
- Transportation
- Food Service
- Animal Care
- Institutional
- Healthcare
- Hospitality



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