High School
In-Person Handbook
FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2021 - 2022

Gibson Ek High School
Principal, Julia Bamba

379 1st Place SE, Issaquah, WA 98027
(425) 837-6350

Issaquah School District, High School Education
5150 220th Ave SE, Issaquah, WA 98029
(425) 837-7050

www.issaquah.wednet.edu
www.issaquah.wednet.edu/issaquahhs
Dear Gibson Ek High School Families,

This COVID Handbook has been created to let you know what COVID mitigation procedures are in place and what the learning environment will be like at Gibson Ek High School as students return full time in person learning for 2021-22. Our district website contains additional resources on the return to full time in-person learning and our ISD Health and Safety Plans. These are valuable resources that we hope you take time to review.

Thank you in advance for taking time to review our COVID Handbook. You will see that we have put forth great effort to ensure student and staff safety and to comply with Washington State and King County Department of Health guidelines and recommendations. We will continue to monitor updates and recommendations from the State and County Health Departments to stay current on our health and safety procedures and protocols.

Sincerely,

Julia Bamba, Principal
Tonja Reischl, Dean of Students
Shawn Mulanix, Counselor
Casey Henry, Learning Through Interest Coordinator

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Classroom Environment

Upon return to in-person learning, students will find that some procedures and physical set up of the classroom may look different in the classroom now in order to keep everyone healthy. What students and families will find to be the same as they have experienced in the past is a warm welcoming, teachers and staff members who are eager to greet students each day, develop relationships, promote community building and social emotional learning and provide quality instruction.

To keep everyone healthy, below are some of the COVID mitigation procedures students can expect to see, and be asked to follow, in their classroom:

- **If you are feeling ill, stay home**
- No electronic or paper attestations, parents will attest their student at home and only send them to school if they pass the attestations
- Students and the teachers will wear masks at all times in the classroom per the Governor’s July 28, 2021 order
- The arrangement of student desks will look different than they may have experienced in the past. Desks will be arranged to create maximum distance between students in each classroom.
- Students will use the same assigned desk for each class, each day
- If there is space in the classroom, the teacher can choose to create a small group space, provided that the small group space still maintains appropriate distance between all involved in the small group.
- ALL desks and tables will be disinfected on a regular basis.
- Frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing will occur.
- High touch points such as doorknobs and railings within the building will receive continuous cleaning throughout the day and night.

***Students are encouraged to bring a personal water bottle. Drinking fountains in the halls will be closed.
Face Coverings

• All who enter our building must wear a face covering
• School sites will have face coverings available for students who forget theirs at home
• While at school, the face covering should be worn to cover above the nose to below the chin.
• Students are required to wear a face covering in order to enter the building and the classroom.
• Students refusing to wear a mask will engage in an interactive process with an administrator in order to resolve the refusal.
• Any student with any condition that may prevent mask wearing needs to have an interactive conversation with an administrator to determine appropriate face covering accommodations based on ADA, IEP, and 504 guidance
• Face coverings are not required outdoors or while seated and eating lunch.

Arrival Process

Students will not be required to complete a daily attestation prior to coming to school. Additionally, temperatures will not be checked prior to students entering the building. With this in mind, we ask that students not attend school if they have been in close contact with anyone with confirmed Covid 19 or are sick or experiencing the following symptoms:

• Fever above 100.0 degrees
• Chills
• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
• Unusual fatigue
• Muscle or body aches
• Headache
• Recent loss of taste or smell
• A sore throat
• Congestion / runny nose
• Nausea or vomiting
• Diarrhea
Daily Student Life

Schedule

The daily schedule can be found on our website.

Lunch Procedures

- Students should wash hands or use hand sanitizer before lunch
- We will be providing meals to students and more info can be found on our ISD Food Service site
- Students will be asked to find a place to eat inside or outside and maximize the distance between themselves and their peers. How will that be possible? We will maximize the distance between students to the degree possible during lunchtime. This will be accomplished by providing outdoor eating areas, opening up more designated eating areas indoors, and distancing lunch tables
- School staff will supervise the lunch areas
- Once students have found their place to sit for lunch, they should stay in that spot for the remainder of the lunch period except for use of the restroom
- Students should use hand sanitizer when entering their next classroom
- Masks must remain on until a student is seated at their lunch seat and then masks must be put back on whenever a student leaves their seat (bathroom, throw away trash, heading to class)
- Students with off campus lunch privileges may choose to eat off campus and cannot return to campus until the lunch period is over.

Restrooms

Restrooms will be closely monitored and sanitized throughout the day. Each classroom will have a designated restroom. Students will be permitted to go to the restroom as needed, provided that all restroom procedures are followed.

- Before leaving their classroom, all students will wash their hands or use sanitizer.
- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Students will to maintain social distancing in the hallway and bathrooms.
- Upon exit of the bathroom, students wash hands.
- Re-entering classroom the students will wash their hands or use sanitizer.

Traveling through the Hallway Expectations

Traveling to and from class or to and from the restroom:

- Students should always maximize distance while traveling to/from classes. They should:
  - walk on the right side of the hallway
  - wear a mask at all times
  - maintain social distance as much as possible
  - follow traffic flow of hallway
  - go directly to their destination or go directly back to class

- Hallways and common areas are for travel only. Students should not be congregating.
Limiting the contact, interaction, and movement between people and places has assisted with limiting the transmission of the virus.

Safety Drills

Safety drills will continue to be conducted monthly.

- If exiting the building is necessary, teachers and staff will guide students to maximize distance between them.
- When lined up outside (fire or earthquake evacuation), staff will help students to spread out to maximize social distancing and follow all regular evacuation expectations.
- Modified lockdown: students remain working, pull blinds.
- Full lockdown: move to a less visible location; safety of lives over distancing in real-life situations.
- Shelter in Place: students remain work, close doors, windows, etc.

Health Room Needs

We will have two locations to care for ill or injured students.

**Health Room**: will be used to care for students who are injured or for other reasons not related to COVID-19 symptoms

**Quarantine/Isolation Room**: will be used for students who have a symptom or signs of illness that are known COVID-19 symptoms.

In both the Health Room and the Quarantine Room, there will be space for social distancing.

Students who exhibit possible COVID symptoms must go home as soon as possible. It is very important that students experiencing possible COVID symptoms are picked up promptly.

What needs come to the Health Room:

- Blood that can’t be managed by a Band-Aid
- Falls/hard impacts/injuries/possible concussion
- Medication/health plan needs

What need to come to the Quarantine/Isolation Room:

- Fever (≥100.4) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Unusual fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Recent loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
Visitors/Volunteers

In order to provide the safest environment possible for our students and staff members, visitors will be phased back into our buildings based on safety and student need. We love our volunteers and appreciate our amazing and supportive parent involvement. We can’t wait to welcome parents back into the building in the future. In the meantime, we will implement the following:

- Parents and family members of students will not be allowed in the building. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.
- If you need assistance, or need to drop off or pick-up materials, please contact the main office to schedule an appointment.
- Only district approved phased in visitors will be allowed on campus.

COVID Protocols for Safety

COVID Supervisor

Each building in the district has a COVID Supervisor. This person’s role is to oversee all COVID protocols and to work with district administration on COVID mitigation during in-person learning. The COVID Supervisor is either the school principal or the assistant principal. The backup COVID Supervisor may be another administrator or other support personnel. Our COVID Supervisor is Julia Bamba, with backup COVID Supervisors – Tonja Reischl, Teresa Cowan, Casey Henry.

Isolation Room

The outdoor hallway or conference room may be used if a student starts experiencing COVID or COVID like symptoms during the school day. The student will be required to wear a mask and continue to be monitored until a parent arrives to pick the student up. Any areas of contact in the isolation room will be cleaned and disinfected.

Proper PPE will be worn by all at all times in the isolation room. The student will be evaluated for exposure, diagnosis, and symptoms. The COVID Supervisor(s) will work with the families around next steps and what needs to occur for a student to return to school.

COVID Supervisor or admin will ask ill students a few questions PRIOR TO departure from the isolation space.

- Which symptoms? Here are the symptoms of Coronavirus illness.
- Where have you been in the building?
- With whom have you been in contact today? Over the last 2 weeks?
- Do we have your emergency information, including a good cell or home number?
Returning to School after Illness or Quarantine Protocol

- The Covid Supervisor will follow up with any symptomatic students or students directed to quarantine to determine return based on King County Health Department timelines and protocols
- Students are to remain home until a return date is established with the Covid Supervisor

Mask Refusal

All students and staff are required to wear a mask. However, if a student refuses to wear a mask, they will be asked to leave the classroom to discuss the problem with a staff member. Staff may contact parents to help resolve the issue, if needed. If there is an issue with a student’s mask, a disposable mask can be provided to them. If a student has a documented medical condition preventing them from wearing a mask, please notify the office immediately.

- If a student refuses to wear a mask:
  o They will first be asked to put their mask on/pull their mask up over their nose.
  o If a student still refuses, they will be escorted by an adult to engage in a conversation with an administrator to reiterate required health and safety protocols.
  o Once a student has a mask on appropriately, they may return to their classroom.

* Should an exception to mask wearing be needed, an interactive process with your child’s IEP or 504 team will need to occur.

FAQs

What has been done to the HVAC systems to mitigate exposure to the coronavirus?

District ventilation systems are designed to exchange the air in an interior space at least every 15-20 minutes. Based on EPA, CDC, and ASHRAE recommendations, the District has implemented the following strategies as part of a multiple layer approach to COVID mitigation:

- Filters have been upgraded from MERV 8 to MERV 13, where possible.
- Air filters are changed on a quarterly basis at a minimum.
- Outside air dampers have been opened to the maximum extent to allow as much fresh air into the building
- Ventilation systems are running a minimum of 16 hours per day to completely change over air several times overnight
- Windows (where available) are opened to promote air exchange and allow even more fresh air into spaces