

Together Again!

School Campus Reopening Q & A

Dear Parents,

Next to the presence of the Holy Spirit on our campus, one of Gateway's greatest strengths is our connections and student experiences. It is through **these connections... students to teachers, friend to friend and faculty to families... that meaningful relationships** are formed and transformative Christian learning can fully take place. We value Christian community. We also believe that relationships and learning are best achieved in-person, so **our school's learning plan has been designed to facilitate our coming "Together Again"** and returning to on-campus instruction August 5, 2020.

As parents, we know you have questions. As your partner in education we hope this Q & A will give answers and provide insight to the balanced reopening plan being implemented for 2020-2021. To create a safe reopening plan, we have been collaborating closely with Destiny Worship Center leadership and medical support advisors. As an outreach ministry of DWC, we are committed to bringing normalcy and consistency back to our school, reinstating a learning environment for your children that fosters academic excellence and maximizes learning growth, and providing a safe pathway for all to return to campus through enhanced sanitization protocols.

Will Gateway's reopening plan consist of altered schedules or days on campus?

No. Being driven by our belief that children thrive in routine and consistent schedules, Gateway will reinstate a 5-day, on-campus student instructional day from 8:00am to 2:30pm. Our school year is starting slightly earlier (August 5th) than normal to help our students transition and adjust back to school. Our teachers are



eager to excite and engage them in fun learning activities again. We also want to provide time for our students to reconnect with each other, laugh again, play again and encourage each other to spiritually grow in wisdom and favor with God and man (Luke 2:52).

What types of requirements will be in place and required of students when school commences again in August?

Gateway will not be requiring faculty, staff, students or guests to wear a face covering while on campus. All individuals, however, may wear a face covering should they feel more comfortable doing so. Our leadership team will be checking temperatures as school opens each **morning. We're also asking that each family individually checks their own student's temperature each day before ever leaving the house for school.** If elevated or if any other signs of illness are present, stay home. Similarly, the school will require its employees to monitor their temperatures and if feeling ill, to stay home.

Schools by nature are inherently high-contact environments and not designed for social distancing. Rather they are built to bring people together, create shared learning spaces, enable teacher to connect with students in-person, and empower students to collaborate and maximize the value of a shared educational journey. While Gateway will use some measures to create distancing in common areas (implementation of multiple lunch periods for example), creating distancing measures in the classroom will be limited. Safe distancing, as opposed to 6ft social distancing, will be practiced by students and faculty as part of our reopening.

Will Gateway's classrooms look different when school reopens in August?

Yes, but in positive and exciting ways. These past few months Mr. Chambers and our Gateway Board has been hard at work enlarging classrooms and installing windows in our back hallway **space. We're so grateful for the new learning environments we'll have because of these renovations. Outside of these enhancements, we're working to keep our**



classrooms as “familiar” as possible for our students. Teachers will be teaching, children will be engaging and moving around the room as needed, and students will be learning.

Will Gateway be offering a virtual or hybrid learning model as part of its reopening in August?

As Florida schools are planning to return in August, many are considering the use of a virtual or hybrid learning model. A hybrid learning model combines face-to-face, on-campus instruction with remote, online activities. Hybrid models, in effect, reduce traditional instruction by increasing online course delivery. Virtual models consist of student instruction being delivered almost entirely by pre-packaged, computer-based programs with very little teacher engagement. For many reasons, we do not believe these to be an effective or sustainable learning option for our school.

Some of the reasons

- **Inconsistent with Gateway’s values of connection learning,** Christian community, and relational experience building
- Limits student socialization
- **Reduces a teacher’s ability to accurately assess student learning** and meet student individual learning needs
- Many Gateway families are comprised of dual-working parents or multiple siblings that severely hinders the implementation of these home-based models
- School faculty and staff challenges of learning effective instruction while caring for their own children and families

Will children still be able to participate in special activities during their school day?

Yes. The inclusion of physical education and creative arts instruction (music and art) are critical parts to a well-rounded education. Technology integration and hands-on STEM activities are just as important. Maintaining these opportunities for our children is extremely important to Gateway. Through increased sanitization



protocols (touchless hand cleaning stations, heightened cleaning of equipment & supplies, etc.) students will still be scheduled for rotational visits to special area classrooms and regular recess and/or daily PE classes.

What protective school procedures are being implemented to promote daily hygiene and safety?

Schools, by design, are active environments driven by teacher and student interactions. To ensure the health of all individuals throughout our school community, monitoring and implementing new safety practices to manage the general wellness of our community is a key component of our reopening plan.

- Additional facility team members have been brought on board to increase the frequency of daily campus cleaning
- Common hygiene practices (coughing/sneezing etiquette, handwashing, wiping down desks, chairs, tables, and equipment) among faculty, staff, students and guests will be reinforced through training and campus signage
- Touchless hand sanitizing stations have been installed in classrooms and portable units conveniently located across campus
- **All of Gateway's classrooms will be cleaned daily and our campus's deep cleaning schedule has been increased in frequency**
- Frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected multiple times a day by facility and staff
- Classrooms will be equipped with an ample supply of disinfectant spray and cleaning wipes
- To supplement daily cleaning, students will work with faculty to prioritize regular cleaning practices in the classroom. Furniture, fixtures, equipment and learning materials will be cleaned regularly.



- Personal water bottles brought from home will be utilized until the reopening of school water fountains

What steps will be taken if a child is sick or gets sick during the school day?

To protect our community, the school and its families must work together to monitor illness at home and on campus. Parents, please do not send your child to school if they are displaying any signs of being ill. Our teaching team will work with you to send home learning activities and assignments to keep students on track academically if they are ill. And students who complete their missed learning assignments while at home will be marked present for the school day. To accomplish this, it **will be important for parents to work closely with their child's teacher.**

Whether COVID-19 related or not, students will miss school from time to time (or possibly even start feeling poorly at school) due to sickness. Students showing signs of illness, or registering a fever, will be removed from the classroom and held in a designated sick room under staff supervision until a parent can pick them up. Classroom areas and student spaces will also be disinfected.

Will students be participating in field trips or off campus experiences during the school year?

Off campus experiences are extremely strong learning tools for children. They show them a reason for learning and let them see real-life **examples of concepts and themes they've been studying in their classrooms.** Administration is currently exploring options for modifying field trips, retreats, and other large student gatherings. As of now, we intend to offer these forms of student experiences, but through locations and programs close to home. Trips with overnight stays and long-distance travel will not be scheduled. As the school year **progresses, we'll continue to communicate specifics regarding field trip plans.**



Will Gateway transition back to Remote Learning due to school closures during the 2020-2021 school year?

No one could have ever guessed that law makers would close school nationwide last Spring. **We also don't know for certain what the future** before us holds. However, Gateway is firmly committed to doing all we can to prevent the closing of our school campus again. As a private school, Gateway Academy operates independently from state agencies and public schools. While local schools can provide various guidelines, **policies and procedures: Gateway's guiding decisions will be aligned** with those of the ministry of Destiny Worship Center who recognized that live, in-person, education is best for children.

In closing, we look forward to welcoming our families to our Back-to-School Celebration on Monday, August 3rd and being back **"Together Again"** for our 1st day on Wednesday, August 5th. Our commitment to our mission of providing Discipleship Training, Academic Excellence and Leadership Development is stronger than ever before. We are investing, preparing, praying and already thanking God for making 2020-**2021 Gateway's best year** yet.

Honored to Serve,

Sandra Detram