



# Gregory-Portland Independent School District

Office of the Superintendent  
Dr. Michelle Cavazos, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Paul Clore, Retiring Superintendent  
Office: (361) 777-1091 ext. 1018

July 17, 2020

## RE: G-PISD to begin School Year with Virtual (Online) Academy, delayed In-School Instruction

Dear Gregory-Portland ISD Families and Staff,

We're extremely excited to welcome our students back to school, whether virtually or in person, for the 2020-21 school year. While we look forward to seeing everyone again, and getting back to engaging in high-quality learning for every G-PISD student, we are also continuing to actively monitor our local health situation. With increasing numbers of positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in our region and community, we assure you we will make decisions for the best interest of our students and staff to the degree that we can locally under law. As it is within our ability to delay in-school instruction for a brief period of time, we intend to do so this school year.

**G-PISD will plan to begin school as scheduled on Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, with all students starting the school year via the Virtual (Online) Academy at home for a period of three (3) weeks. The Daily, Face-to-Face In-School learning option will begin Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020.** Students will virtually attend school using district-issued devices from home during the first three weeks. After that period of time, students will then be able to attend class via either Daily, Face-to-Face in-school instruction, or the Virtual (Online) Academy at home, based on the parent's discretion/choice as determined in Skyward Family Access via online registration (set for release to families on or before Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>). When learning via the Virtual (Online) Academy, all G-PISD students will be able to receive free breakfast and lunch provided by the school district. More detail regarding this service and others will be provided before the beginning of the school year.

We understand this change may cause an inconvenience for some families, and we hope that all may understand that was not our intention. Rather, the health and safety of all of our students and staff is paramount to our daily operations, the learning process, and the general well-being of all who attend, visit, or work at G-PISD schools. This decision was not made lightly, and not without genuine consideration and concern for all.

**Please keep in mind that our local situation poses a continually fluid, ever-changing set of challenges to navigate and overcome. We will continue to monitor and respond to any changes, guidance, or orders executed from local, state, and/or national authorities.** We must respond as a community with heightened concern and compassion, working together to improve public health and safety. We kindly ask for your support as we move forward to provide a positive, collaborative approach to learning in spite of the challenges.

We're committed to working with you to help our youth, our Wildcats, advance and grow this year. It is a great privilege to join you as together we can provide real-life examples for our students in how to overcome life's obstacles and become stronger in the end. G-P is a strong community thanks to you --our parents, teachers, and staff-- and thanks to all who value the health and lives of others enough to do what it takes to overcome every day, with every change, and each opportunity to stand united for the good of all.

With gratitude,

Dr. Michelle Cavazos, Superintendent

Dr. Paul Clore, Retiring Superintendent