

# GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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August 21, 2020

Dear Greater Lowell Tech Families and Staff:

On Thursday, August 20, 2020, the School Committee approved submission of the 2020-2021 Reopening Plan required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and voted to begin the school year on September 14, 2020.

The Reopening Plan provides for a phased approach to in-person learning. **Greater Lowell Technical High School will begin the 2020-2021 school year in Hybrid Learning Mode(A) along with a Full Remote model for parents who choose remote learning for their child.** The Reopening Plan can be found by clicking on this [link](#). It is also posted on the GLTHS website.

The Hybrid (A) model will allow us to meet the optimal physical distancing requirements of 6 feet recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) by meeting our students in smaller groups on a rotating basis. Students will attend in-person instruction one day and four days of remote learning each academic and shop week. Siblings who attend GLTHS will be assigned to attend in-person learning on the same days to the extent feasible. Wednesday will be a deep cleaning day for our school building. All students and staff will work remotely. Please know that the Hybrid Learning Model that we have adopted allows us consistency and flexibility to keep all students engaged and on task every day as we begin this new school year.

The in-person component of the Hybrid learning model will require strategies to ensure physical distancing, as well as a series of other critical health and safety measures, including wearing face coverings, washing /sanitizing hands frequently, cleaning and sanitizing facilities, screening regularly for symptoms of illness, and staying home from school when sick, among others. We appreciate your partnership and support with reinforcing the importance of these health and safety measures with your child. It is not a single health and safety measure that will help keep our learning community safe, but rather a combination of practices and working together that will be most effective.

The Reopening plan will provide maximum flexibility within our operational capacity to adjust and move along the continuum of phases/learning modes described in the plan, as determined by the status of COVID-19 pandemic conditions. Before moving to a new phase/learning mode, the District will review public health data (State/local data, community transmission data and school case count data), in collaboration with our local Department of Health and optimal health and safety practices recommended by the CDC at that time. Each phase/learning mode will be evaluated quarterly. The district will move to the next phase/learning mode if data is trending positively or maintaining and reducing social distancing

between students is safe and transportation restrictions allow for busing additional students. If data trends negatively the school district will re-evaluate controls and determine if it is necessary to extend the current phase/learning mode or return to a previous phase.

We recognize that the circumstances of every family and staff member are different, and that no plan ultimately will satisfy everyone in our community. I am confident our Return to School Task Force explored every option available to us. I am grateful for their diligence, hard work and commitment to our students. We remain guided by the science and health data to keep our students and staff safe and healthy, and we are prepared to make adjustments along the way if the public health conditions or other variables change over time. We look forward to returning to a full in-person approach when it is safe to do so.

**Virtual Parent Reopening Sessions will be held:**

**Monday, August 24, 2020 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

The link to the Google Meet will be available 15 minutes before each session on the GLTHS website.

Thank you for your patience and support in these difficult times. We are stronger together! We look forward to welcoming our students back to school on September 14, 2020.

Sincerely,



Jill Davis  
Superintendent-Director