



September 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The 2020-2021 school year marks our 23rd year of offering a top-notch education to Jersey City kids. Over the years Golden Door has played an important part in educating well over 1,000 Jersey City young people since our inception in 1998!

Our 23rd year of operation is just around the corner and it promises to be like no other as we tailor the way we do school around the COVID-19 crisis. As you know, Golden Door Charter School will begin the 2020 – 2021 school year with 100% Remote Instruction. Regardless of COVID-19 it is with great excitement and anticipation that I write this letter as we have planned an amazing 2020 -2021 school year! I hope that you and your children have enjoyed your time off over the summer and that you are revitalized and ready to begin another amazing, productive and enjoyable school year.

I'd like to start by thanking you for your patience, flexibility and understanding as we work our way through the COVID-19 crisis. From the very start, everyone has been completely cooperative with the ever-changing school environment. Your cooperation has helped us make the necessary changes that ensure the safety and wellbeing of our kids, their families and our staff. Thank you so much!

While this school year will look completely different from previous school years, I look forward to welcoming all of our students back, albeit remotely, on Tuesday, September 8th! Please note that the first four days of school are half days *for all students*. Remote instruction for all students in grades Pre-K through 8th will end at 12:00pm on these days.

With the start to the school year being 100% remote for all students, I'd like to take this opportunity to address a few important items and hopefully answer some of the many questions I'm sure you must have.

Parent Notification Cards. On or before Friday, September 4th you will receive a parent notification card which will provide you with the following important information for the first day of school; your child's grade level, homeroom teacher, Google login credentials, Google Classroom code, OnCourse Connect username and OnCourse Connect Password. All of this information will be necessary for the first day of school so that your child can log onto remote learning.

Technology Needs. Golden Door is committed to providing the necessary technology needed for remote learning. Each student will need a device (such as a laptop, desktop, Chromebook, etc.) and internet connectivity. If you have any technology needs the school can help you by lending you any items you need. Please contact our main office to arrange for pick up. Please keep in mind that we have a limited number of Chromebooks and Hotspots so we ask that if you are fully equipped with the necessary technology at home already, that you use your own technology and devices rather than borrow these things from the school. Technology pick up will resume on Thursday and Friday of this week. Keep in mind, when picking up technology, you will have to wait outside and observe social distancing guidelines.

Curriculum Materials (Textbooks, Workbooks, etc.). Textbooks and workbooks will not be needed for the first four half-days of school. Textbooks will be organized and ready for pick up by Tuesday,

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September 8th. All required curriculum materials may be picked up at the school beginning on Tuesday, September 8th through Friday, September 11th between the hours of 9am and 3pm. Keep in mind, when picking up curriculum materials, you will have to wait outside and observe social distancing guidelines.

Daily Schedule. A typical full day of remote learning will begin at 9am and end at 3pm on school days. Half-days will end at 12pm. For specifics pertaining to instruction and curriculum, please see the attached GDCS Response Plan for Health Related Closures.

Back-to-School Night. Back-to-School night will take place remotely and is scheduled for Thursday, September 10th from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Teachers will host three identical sessions each starting on the half-hour. They will focus their session on remote learning, what it will look like and what their expectations are for this very different school year. We HIGHLY encourage all parents to attend.

Detailed School Closure Plan. Attached you will find our complete *Response Plan for Health Related Closure*. This is a very detailed plan and addresses many issues surrounding the remote start to this school year. Please review this plan carefully for specifics.

Parent Meeting Regarding Remote Instruction. We have scheduled a general meeting, via Zoom, for all parents. This meeting is an opportunity for parents to ask questions should they be unclear about the new school year, specifically as it relates to starting the school year with 100% Remote Learning. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 3rd at 12pm. You will receive a Zoom meeting invite via e-mail blast from the school. While this meeting is designed to answer any questions you may have, we ask that you please review the school's *Response Plan for Health Related Closure* prior to the meeting as this plan will address most of the questions you may have.

I'd like to thank you in advance for your patience and support as we continue to educate our students while making their safety our top priority. While I am sure starting the school year remotely will have its challenges, please be assured that we will reassess the current situation by early October in an effort to determine if it is safe to reopen school for in-person instruction.

Again, I thank you and I look forward to seeing you and your children again soon.

Best Regards,
Brian Stiles
Brian Stiles
Chief Academic Officer