



Fall 2020 Reopening Plan

The following document outlines the School's plans for a return to in-person learning, hybrid learning, and remote learning, as required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Executive Summary

Granite Academy is a private special education school serving High Need students. Each student is on an IEP and has a significant emotional, social, and/or learning disability that impacts their ability to access schooling in a less restrictive environment. Based on the DESE guidelines, 100% of our students should be prioritized for in-person learning. Our School recognizes the importance that a foundation of safety and strong relationships has on all students' ability to learn, particularly ours. This pandemic period has posed additional challenges in both of these areas, which were at the forefront of our planning process.

In planning for the fall, Granite Academy has engaged in an extensive process which has included:

- Coordination with families via video meetings, email, phone calls, in person meetings, and surveys.
- Coordination with students in-person, via calls and via emails.
- Coordination with the Nursing Director and local DPH regarding safety protocols and procurement of PPE and sanitization supplies.
- Thorough review of DESE guidance and participation in all DESE calls.
- Coordination with Building Services regarding HVAC systems and floor plans to allow for distancing.
- Coordination with professional cleaning services on protocols and EPA approved products.
- Review of student data from and coordination with teachers regarding the spring remote learning experience.
- Review of in-person summer programming, which provided data on the efficacy of pandemic-related policies and procedures.
- Review of parent/guardian surveys and coordination with JRI's Educational Technology Coordinator to ensure access for all staff and students to devices and reliable wi-fi access at school and at home.

Guidance and recommendations for reopening school this fall have been offered to schools across the Commonwealth by a number of medical professionals and health organizations. Below are a few sources that highlight some of the factors we took into consideration during this process:

[American Academy of Pediatricians](#)

[Center for Disease Control & Prevention](#)

[DESE Doctors on Back to School in Massachusetts](#)

[Massachusetts Department of Public Health- Dashboard](#)

[CDC-What We Should Know About Coronavirus](#)

[CDC- Frequently Asked Questions Department of Elementary & Secondary](#)

[Department of Elementary & Secondary Education-Commissioner Updates](#)

[About COVID-19 Testing](#)

After careful review, Granite Academy is poised for a full reopening for the fall term, and has developed hybrid and remote plans that can be implemented without delay should a closure be necessitated for safety of the school community. The School recognizes that even the best laid plans are at risk to be disrupted by the course of the virus, and is prepared to pivot from in-person to hybrid or remote should doing so be the safest call for our community. Similarly, the School is prepared to meet the needs of individual students or staff who may be in a position to quarantine for a period, and has designed these plans to offer as seamless a transition from one model to another as is called for.

The School is committed to the safety of each of our students and staff and to continuing to meet each student's needs as outlined in their individualized education plan. The School's plans fully follow-and oftentimes exceed-the recommendations from DESE. These plans are considered as final as possible, and accurate as of 8/10/20; as guidance is continually being updated, these plans may be adjusted to align with new guidance. The school has designated the Program Director, Amy Barber as the COVID-19 point person. The Program Director can be reached by calling the school at 781-380-3945 or via email at abarber@jrischools.org

Letter From The Superintendent

A letter from our Superintendent may be found [here](#).

In Person Learning Model

Granite Academy has made several adjustments to its typical programming in order to maximize safety and allow for a full return to campus for the fall term. These adjustments have been shared with students and staff via virtual meetings, in-person meetings, calls, emails with video clips, photos and policy attachments, and incorporate parent, student and staff feedback. The adjustments were made with safety at the forefront, and do not impact the School's ability to meet IEP needs or time-on-learning requirements. Should a situation arise where an IEP service delivery may look different or need adjusting (such as due to a student being remote and thus away from the typical service delivery), the School will work collaboratively with

parents and the Team and document agreements on a form shared with all members of the Team.

Granite Academy is prepared to welcome students back on campus in the fall. The building and schedule have been modified to meet health and safety requirements issued by DESE.

Specifically, for the 2020-2021 school year, the following adjustments have been made:

Physical Facility

- Tables were replaced with individual desks, which all face the same way.
- Hand sanitizing stations are in place throughout the school.
- Hallways are designated as one-way to prevent crowding.
- Students are assigned to specific bathrooms for contact tracing purposes.
- Outdoor spaces have been created for use by classes, groups, or individuals on mask breaks.
- All classrooms have been spaced to provide six feet of distancing for students and staff.
- Classroom tables were replaced with individual desks, which all face the same way.
- The school maintains two Medical Waiting Rooms, separate from the nursing office, for quarantine/additional assessment.
- Designated areas have been created inside and outside for use by individuals on mask breaks.
- Plexiglass dividers have been placed in areas where distancing is not possible.
- Signage has been added throughout the school reminding students and staff about hand washing/sanitization, the safe donning and doffing of PPE including masks, and maintaining physical distancing.
- The School has ensured additional HVAC filtration school-wide and has added smaller air purifiers with HEPA filtration in smaller rooms and offices.

Schedule

- The [Granite Academy School Calendar 2020-2021](#) includes a weekly half day to allow for ongoing staff training/coordination and thorough cleaning of the building. The calendar continues to meet DESE requirements on school days and time on learning.
- The School continues to meet the DESE approved number of days and time on learning.
- The daily schedule has been adjusted to decrease the number of classes students transition to and from. The daily schedule may be found [here](#).
- Following DESE's "school within a school" guidance, students were grouped into cohorts to allow contact tracing and minimize the number of people interacting.
- Cohorts were developed based on class placement needs, learning styles, academic needs, graduation requirements, and social connections. Students will change classes throughout the day and interactions will be limited to their cohort when possible.

- Students will continue to access the science lab, with modifications to the curriculum as needed to meet CDC and DESE safety guidelines.
- The School recognizes that some families may choose to continue remote learning; these students are assigned a full schedule and will be able to access classes in real time, alongside their in-school peers, via Google Meet.
- Granite Academy incorporates regular mask breaks.
- Classes may be relocated to multi-purpose spaces as needed for additional space.
- In addition to academics, students continue to receive all social/emotional and transitional services as outlined in their IEPs. The School has extensive experience with clinical models including ARC trauma informed care; these models are embedded within the school program and will be used to support students. The School recognizes that some students may present with additional support needs in response to the pandemic period.

Some additional school protocols have been adjusted with health and safety in mind.

Specifically:

Protocols

- Lunch will be held in homerooms and will be facilitated by a teacher or support staff.
- Granite Academy recognizes that some families may choose to continue remote learning.
- The School has developed [comprehensive safety protocols](#) which have been distributed to parents/guardians; all staff have been trained on these protocols.
- Students are screened for symptoms and provided with hand sanitizer/hand washing upon entry to the school each morning.
- Students are provided with hand sanitizing/hand washing before leaving at the end of the day. Each room is equipped with hand sanitizing/hand washing materials and students are regularly reminded of hand hygiene protocols, including when they touch or remove/don a mask, before and after eating or bathroom use, upon arrival and prior to departure from school, before and after using any shared items. Students also assist with wiping desks upon entry to, or before leaving a classroom.
- Off-grounds (open campus) have been suspended for the first trimester and will be revisited at that time.
- The School has cancelled in-person all-school events for the first trimester, at which time this policy will be revisited.
- The School has worked with families who wish their student to transport themselves to school and is supporting these requests when safe to do so.
- Students have assigned and tracked seating daily to support effective contact tracing.
- Student transportation is arranged by the District, or in some instances may be provided by the students' families. The School has worked with families who wish their student to transport themselves to school and is supporting these requests when safe to do so.

Hybrid Learning Model

All Granite Academy students are High Need students and all will be encouraged and provided the opportunity to participate in full-time in-person instruction, unless safety guidance mandates otherwise. Should a situation arise where students can not all be in the building at the same time, the School would pivot to a hybrid model.

Granite Academy will ensure that all students have a school-issued Chromebook with a working video camera in order to access remote learning in real-time through the Google Meet Up Platform. Each student has a device with a working camera to access remote learning; as noted above, the School is able to issue these devices and wifi hotspots as needed.

Students and parents/guardians have received information and training on on-line platforms, and copies of the School's technology policies and procedures that address privacy and safety expectations for on-line learning. Granite Academy has technology policies and procedures in place to ensure that all privacy and safety expectations are adhered to.

Granite Academy's hybrid model will be designed so students will be participating in a weekly rotating model. Students will be broken up into Group A and Group B and will attend in-person on alternating weeks.

- The School has divided students into cohort groupings for in person learning. Should a hybrid model be needed, one cohort would be in person one week while the other will be remote; these groups would then swap the following week. The cohorts are largely divided across grades, so upperclassmen would be in one week, while underclassmen and middle schoolers will be the following week. This division allows half of the students on campus while the other half engage in remote learning, switches weekly, and allows for an equal number of students on campus each week. The cohorts meet DESE requirements for age range.
- Students will follow their in-person schedule during remote and in-person learning. During remote, students will call in for teacher instruction, while in-person weeks students will be on campus working directly with the teacher in the classroom. Remote learning will be interactive and made up of direct teacher instruction and related assignments and will mirror the in-person day, ensuring time on learning requirements are met. Work and participation will be graded in alignment with the School's grading policies.

Group A students will consist of students in grades Middle School to grade 10

Group B students will consist of students in grades 11-12+

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
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Group A	In-Person	Remote	In-Person	Remote
Group B	Remote	In-Person	Remote	In-Person

In Person Cohort Schedule (M,Tu,W, F)	Remote Learning Cohort Schedule (M, Tu, W, F)
7:47 AM-7:57 AM Advisory	7:47 AM-7:57 AM Advisory (Google Meetup)
8:00 AM-8:53 AM Period 1	8:00 AM-8:53 AM Period 1 (Synchronous)
8:56 AM-9:49 AM Period 2	8:56 AM-9:49 AM Period 2 (Synchronous)
9:52 AM- 10:45 AM Period 3	9:52 AM- 10:45 AM Period 3 (Synchronous)
10:48 AM-11:41 AM Period 4	10:48 AM-11:41 AM Period 4 (Synchronous)
11:44 AM-12:25 PM Period 5 Lunch	11:44 AM-12:25 PM Period 5 Lunch
12:28 PM- 1:21 PM Period 6	12:28 PM- 1:21 PM Period 6 (Synchronous)
1:24 PM- 2:17 PM Period 7	1:24 PM- 2:17 PM Period 7 (Synchronous)
2:20 PM -2:30 PM Advisory	2:20 PM -2:30 PM Advisory (Google Meetup)

In Person Cohort Schedule (Thursday)	Remote Learning Cohort Schedule (Thursday)
7:47 AM-7:57 AM Advisory	7:47 AM-7:57 AM Advisory (Google Meetup)
8:00 AM-8:30 AM Period 1	8:00 AM-8:30 AM Period 1 (Synchronous)
8:34 AM-9:04 AM Period 2	8:34 AM-9:04 AM Period 2 (Synchronous)
9:08 AM-9:38 AM Period 3	9:08 AM-9:38 AM Period 3 (Synchronous)
9:42AM- 10:12 AM Period 4	9:42AM- 10:12 AM Period 4 (Synchronous)
10:16 AM-10:46 AM Period 5	10:16 AM-10:46 AM Period 5
10:50 AM- 11:20 Lunch	10:50 AM- 11:20 Lunch

- Remote learning days follow the same schedule as in-person learning.

- Remote learning instruction will include interactive lecture based classes with student participation requirements.
- Students will earn letter grades based upon Granite Academy's traditional grading metrics. All classes carry credit towards graduation.

Remote learning model

Granite Academy was proud to offer a robust remote learning plan upon school closure in March and has further developed its remote learning processes based on ongoing feedback from staff, students, and parents. Granite Academy ensures that structured learning time requirements are consistent for remote learning.

Procedures for all students to participate in remote learning

Granite Academy has surveyed all students and their caregivers/guardians to ensure each student has a designated computer available for their exclusive use during school hours, and access to reliable wifi. Granite Academy has distributed Chromebooks for students learning remotely, and maintains a bank of back-up devices should a replacement be needed. The school has no families without internet connectivity, but is able to provide hotspots should a need arise. The school continually monitors the technology needs of its students.

The School has trained all students in the use of technology tools used at the school. Staff have provided training and support to parents, and are available to support educational technology questions that arise.

During periods of remote learning, students will follow their assigned in-person schedule, using Google Meet codes to join classes and participate alongside their in-person peers.

Attendance will be taken and tracked throughout the class period, and students are expected to participate using video, voice, or chat features. The student's clinician and school administrators have access to all class attendance and student grades at all times. When there is a difficulty, targeted problem-solving occurs with the student's team which can include the student, teachers, counselors, parents, and all community-based treatment providers.

Alignment of remote work to standards

The remote academic work is aligned fully with State standards. Remote learning follows the standards set in the on-site, in-person courses.

Grading remote work

Students are assessed using both formative and summative methods throughout. Students are graded based on the specific class expectations (participation, homework completion, test/quizzes, and work production). Students earn letter grades of A-I each trimester, with grades comprising participation, tests/quizzes, and work samples. Granite Academy provides mid-trimester progress updates and trimester report cards for all students to monitor progress.

Parent/guardian communication

The students' clinicians are in a weekly contact with each parent and guardian through the use of phone calls, video meetings or email. The Administrative Team issues a weekly update via email, and holds regular drop-in virtual meetings for updates and Q and A. Staff are also available on a limited basis to attend a clinical and/academic check meeting at a student's home and/or virtually.

The School's technology platforms, staffing model, curriculum and instructional materials

The School uses G-Suite for Education, a cloud based option that allows access from any location. Granite Academy maintains a Google Certified Trainer on staff. Staff receive ongoing professional development on the use of these tools and on 21st Century education.

Each teacher's curriculum is aligned with State standards and is designed to challenge students and prepare them for college and career readiness, while also meeting their individual IEP needs. Teachers maintain licensure in their content area and/or special education and participate in ongoing professional development to support continued licensure. Teachers utilize a number of instructional materials, including books (hard copy and PDF), videos, demonstrations and projects. The School sends needed materials home to students participating remotely.

Out-of-school time plan

The School delivers all services and education during the regularly scheduled school days. The School has an ongoing commitment to 21st Century Learning, dedicating professional development to this topic ongoing. The School maintains Ed Tech Ambassadors that coordinate with sister schools within the larger agency on 21st Century Learning and holds an annual all-teacher training on this topic across schools within the agency. The School is available to support families and students in maintaining connections with outpatient or home-based providers and in structuring non-school time as requested. Granite Academy does not offer before or after school services and is not open on the weekend.

Student supports and professional learning

Students receive all supports indicated in their IEPs, including individual, group counseling sessions, collateral coordination, and specialized academic delivery. Each student and their family works closely with a Clinician and an academic team to ensure these supports are in place and progress is being made. The School is committed to ongoing professional development of staff and secures speakers, holds books clubs, and regular in-service training opportunities.

Safety, Wellness, and Social-Emotional Supports

Granite Academy is committed to the safety of all students. All students will have twice weekly communication with their counselor including both check-ins and counseling sessions as well as weekly clinical groups. The focus will continue to be on social skill development, interpersonal skills, regulation skill development, navigating family and social dynamics, treatment planning in coordination with community-based team members and providing general support during the time away from the physical school building.

Planning and Instruction

All instruction will adhere to the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework. All school personnel have received extensive training in the delivery of remote instruction and how to maintain consistent student engagement across remote and in-person learning environments.

Assessment

Granite Academy utilizes a variety of formative and summative assessment tools in order to measure student progress and learning gaps. These include but are not limited to IXL, student work, teacher observation, student-teacher interaction, and subject-specific assessment tools.

Certification of health and safety requirements

Granite Academy confirms that it has incorporated all health and safety requirements issued by DESE in the following advisories:

- [Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance](#)
- [Comprehensive Special Education Guidance](#)
- [Protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings](#)
- [Fall Reopening Transportation Guidance](#)
- [Fall Reopening Facilities and Operations Guidance](#)
- [Guidance for Courses Requiring Additional Safety Considerations for Fall 2020](#)
- [Career/Vocational Technical Education Reopening Guidelines](#)

The School's [comprehensive safety protocols](#) and policy [addendums](#) detail our plan to meet these requirements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Barber, Head of School

