



June 17, 2020

Dear GCS Families,

Athletics and co-curricular activities are an important part of the school experience for many of our Guilford County Schools (GCS) students and their families. Recently the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) released guidelines ([link to guidelines](#)) about reopening athletics this summer.

In order to reopen safely, we plan to phase-in these activities slowly and carefully, beginning with high school fall sports and marching band. A decision on other high school sports and middle school sports will be made later. To make sure we have all the appropriate safeguards in place, we plan to start summer conditioning, team workouts, practices and rehearsals on **Monday, July 6**, although this timeline could change depending on public health guidance or other state directives.

In addition, all participants in high school fall sports and marching band must adhere to the following guidelines. Failure to do so could result in being barred from continued participation with the team or marching band during summer workouts/rehearsals or other disciplinary consequences.

- Only outdoor practices and activities will be allowed at this time. Indoor activities are prohibited during the initial phase of reopening.
- Participants should arrive no more than 15 minutes before their scheduled workout/rehearsal time and should leave campus immediately when their sessions have finished. Students must observe social distancing guidelines while waiting for their transportation home.
- Participants must complete and sign a form that asks a series of questions about their physical health prior to beginning workouts/rehearsals. School athletic directors will provide the forms, which must be signed by participants and their parents/guardians.
- Each participant will be screened for symptoms every day before practice/workouts/rehearsals. Participants whose temperature is 100.4 or above, or who are showing other symptoms of illness will not be allowed to participate and will be isolated until their transportation home arrives.
- Participants must maintain six feet of distance from others at all times, including during workouts/practices/rehearsals.
- Gatherings in outside venues/areas are limited to no more than 25 people. This includes students, coaches, trainers and any other personnel.
- To limit gathering sizes, participants will be assigned to a smaller group of students and must remain with their group at all times during the practice/workout/rehearsal. Appropriate social distance will be observed between and within all groups.
- Spectators will not be allowed.



- Participants are expected to wear face coverings while on campus except during physical exertion or if doing so interferes with their ability to play their instruments; All staff members are required to wear face coverings at all times. The district will provide masks for students and staff who do not have their own
- If parents/guardians need to leave their cars for any reason, they will be expected to wear a mask while on campus.
- Weight rooms, mat rooms and locker rooms will remain closed.
- Equipment, including water bottles and instruments, may not be shared between players or participants. Towels, clothing and other personal items may not be shared.
- Participants should arrive for workouts/rehearsals with a filled water bottle, clearly marked with his or her name. Students will not be allowed to drink from water faucets but will be able to fill cups and water bottles. Multiple filling stations will be provided to encourage social distancing.
- Participants and staff will be asked to wash their hands frequently throughout practices/workouts/rehearsals. Additional handwashing stations and hand sanitizer will be provided.
- Personal equipment, including water bottles, towels, clothing, instruments and other items, must be taken home and cleaned between practices. If used, school equipment will be cleaned and sanitized daily by school personnel.
- In keeping with NCHSAA guidance, no athletic practices will be held from June 29 through July 5.
- Activities will be scheduled throughout the day, but warm weather guidelines will be in effect, which means no outdoor activities are permitted between Noon and 6 p.m.

More information and documents are posted at [www.gcsnc.com](http://www.gcsnc.com) under the Athletics and Driver Education department. Thank you for supporting the GCS athletics and marching band programs.

Sincerely,

Leigh Hebbard  
Director of Athletics and Driver Education