

The George Junior Republic Union Free School District

SERVING YOUTH FOR OVER 100 YEARS

Founded 1895

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August 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Paramount to our mission at George Junior Republic is serving students who have educational and behavioral needs that are best met through high quality direct instruction and emotional supports. We have continued to provide these in-person services in the residential units to our students during the time of school closure. During our 2020 summer session we implemented a hybrid model, whereby we delivered in-person instruction in the residential units four days a week and each residential unit had one day a week of being instructed in the school classrooms. Our Day School Students could choose between a 100% remote learning model or a hybrid 2 days in person, three days remote. New health and safety protocols were implemented to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and protect the health of students and staff. Overall, the hybrid models have been successful. The experience we gained from our delivery of services during this time has helped to inform our plans for the 2020-21 school year.

George Junior Republic intends to open school in September following a similar hybrid model of delivering in-person instruction for our residential students. We will be increasing from one to two days a week in the school building classrooms and three days in the residential units with the same instructors working with the students from one environment to the other. Our Day School students will choose between in-person learning five days a week or remote learning five days a week. A collaborative process has been used to develop this plan, including input from the entire school community.

First and foremost, in our planning has been an adherence to the over 200 pages of guidance the state has provided to schools on Reopening schools.

You may access this guidance here:

NYS Education Department (145 pages)

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/reopening-schools/nys-p12-school-reopening-guidance.pdf>

NYS Department of Health (23 pages + 6 page overview)

https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Pre-K_to_Grade_12_Schools_MasterGuidance.pdf

Regionally, school districts shared information while each developed a plan for their schools. The information gained from this collaboration was reviewed by our administrative team. We also reflected on our experiences from our last 13 weeks of the school year and over our summer school session to improve our protocols and problem solve where needed.

You can review our reopening plan at www.gjrufsd.org

This plan was submitted to and accepted by New York State on July 31st in accordance with regulations. We worked with the N.Y. Department of Health shortly thereafter to clarify some confusing reports released to the news media indicating our re-entry plan was not prepared on time. The Department of Health has since recognized their error.

The George Junior Republic UFSD invites you to attend a virtual session for a discussion on school reopening on **Thursday, August 20 at 6:00 PM**. The virtual session will be held via Zoom Meeting. Participants will be muted upon entry and all those who wish to pose questions will need to use the Q&A or Raise Hand features. You can also submit questions in advance via email to reopening_questions@gjrmail.com

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://E2CCB-GST.zoom.us/j/91021560025?pwd=R2c4cVdhS3NZS2owSWhPb2xJaEd6Zz09>

Meeting ID: 910 2156 0025

Passcode: 076185

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