

Dear Parents,

The Gilman Elementary teachers, staff, and I are looking forward to welcoming back students next week on Wednesday, August 19th. We have desperately missed seeing kids in our halls for the past five months.

While we recognize this school year is going to look different for all of us, we are doing everything we can to ensure our students feel comfortable and safe while at school. Attached to this email, you will find our GES Fall Transition Plan. There are a few points I want to draw your attention to:

1. **We are encouraging students to wear a mask they are most comfortable with.** We have "extra" disposable masks here at school if needed, but we recognize students will be most comfortable in one they are familiar with.
2. State guidance discourages the use of drinking fountains. **We are asking students to bring a water bottle from home that has been pre-filled each day.** We will have extra water bottles here at school in case a student is without.
3. A lunch count will be taken each morning. If your child is purchasing lunch or receiving a lunch through the free and reduced lunch program, they will need to be counted each day. Lunches will be passed out to students before they leave.
4. Remote learning will take place each afternoon. Teachers will be in touch to determine student availability as we would like to run some remote small group mini-lessons, if possible.
5. We will be hosting a Supply Drop/ Teacher Meet and Greet on Monday, August 17th from 4 to 6 pm.
6. If you are interested in changing to a full remote option for your child, please email me at jharkins@iwest.k12.il.us or phone 815-265-7631.