



Dear Great Hearts Families,

In the midst of what remains a highly fluid pandemic situation across Texas, I want to update you about our plans for reopening school for 2020-2021. We had communicated our original plan to you at the Family Town Hall on June 29, and as you may know, we are making important modifications to what was previously shared, based on your survey feedback and surrounding circumstances.

### **Current Orders to Open Remotely for Certain Regions**

Great Hearts has been focused on our planned August start dates, with both a safe return to campus and robust distance learning option for families. However, just yesterday Dallas County Health and Human Services announced that schools will not open for “on-campus, face-to-face instruction” until after September 7<sup>th</sup>. This order applies to our Irving schools. In the event campus opening delays are announced in the Fort Worth and/or San Antonio regions, Great Hearts is prepared to support students and their families to start the first weeks of school with 100% quality remote instruction. If this occurs, we will share further details at that time.

### **Great Hearts Texas Distance Learning (GHDL) - Updated**

The Great Hearts academic team has been focused on creating a more robust distance learning program that includes regular live video instruction and interaction with the classroom teacher(s) at your child(ren)’s campus. The GHDL plan is almost complete and will be shared with you next week in hopes that you will have time to review in full ahead of our second Family Town Hall on July 27. In the meantime, please [click here](#) for an overview of GHDL for a few of the program highlights.

### **Face Coverings Policy - Updated**

As another important follow-up, the Texas Education Agency issued directives last week mandating face coverings at nearly all times for all teachers, staff, and students aged 10 and over. In addition to those requirements, Great Hearts will also be implementing a policy requiring face coverings for students under 10 when they are not at their desks. Three-sided, clear, plastic desk shields will be installed in all K-3 classrooms. We believe that these measures will further protect our students, teachers, and staff when our campuses reopen. [Click here](#) to view the full face coverings policy.

### **Town Hall: Monday, July 27, 10:30am - Noon**

In my last email to you, I asked that you save the date of Monday, July 27 for a second Town Hall where the updated GHTX Distance Learning plan will be further explained. A day in the life of GHDL, plans for on-campus safety procedures, and what parents and students can expect during a typical day on campus will also be discussed in depth. [Please click here](#) for the

Facebook event. The video will be uploaded to [www.greatheartsamerica.org/safereturn/tx/](http://www.greatheartsamerica.org/safereturn/tx/) within 48 hours of the event for those who are unable to watch it live.

### **Survey Results**

After the town hall event on 6/29, we sent out a preliminary survey to gauge families' intentions for the coming school year. Around 50% of the respondents indicated their plan for their children to stay at home and learn remotely. At some campuses, the number was even higher. Visit [the GHTX Safe Return site](#) to view a deeper breakdown from the 3,485 responses received, which represent approximately 90% of our Texas families. Thank you for participating. Your feedback has helped to create a stronger plan for students and faculty.

### **Tech Survey and Intent to Return Form**

On Monday you will receive an email linking to a tech survey asking about the access to devices and internet for each Great Hearts student in your home. We ask all families to complete this tech survey by July 27, so that we can be prepared to loan a device per student in case more of our schools are forced to begin remotely or need to go 100% after the buildings have opened. That email will also include device requirements and examples of appropriate devices should you have your own or choose to purchase.

I understand there has been confusion about the Intent to Return Form or where to go to let Great Hearts know whether you're opting for distance or on campus school. *To be clear, this form has not yet been provided to you, and the deadline has been extended to August 1. You will receive an email by Tuesday, July 28 that includes a link to the form.* You'll then have until August 1 to make your selection. Understanding how many students will be on campus versus distance learning will help us significantly in our planning and scheduling of classes. I do want to reiterate that families will be able to enroll in distance learning at any time during the 2020-21 school year.

To summarize, you will be receiving our updated and detailed policies for GHDL and school safety measures next week, as well as updates regarding Athenaeum and co-curriculars. I look forward to engaging with as many of you as possible during the July 27th Town Hall.

I know many of you are wrestling with the important and complex decision of whether to continue distance learning or return your child(ren) to campus. Please know, whatever decision you make, it will be the right one for your family, and Great Hearts is here to fully support you. Please also feel free to reach out to you academy leadership for questions and concerns specific to your Great Hearts Texas campus.

In partnership,

Dan Scoggin  
Cofounder and Interim Superintendent, Great Hearts Texas