



July 1, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope you are having a wonderful week!

Many of you have been waiting to hear our July SummerFest plans ~ *thank you for being so patient with us!* Last week, a new Shelby County Health Department (SCHD) directive came out that continues to restrict summer camps, but allows childcare facilities to operate given we can meet all of the new health and safety requirements. After speaking directly with the SCHD, we decided to pivot from camp to childcare and submit a new proposal to the SCHD. Our proposal is still under review, but with their blessing, we intend to offer care for two weeks in July, though in a limited capacity and with some marked changes.

During the weeks of July 13-17 and July 20-24, we plan to offer care to four small groups of 10 rising PK through 5th grade students currently enrolled at GSL. We will have shortened hours from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to ensure ample staffing to keep small group sizes, help coach our students on the new health and safety measures, and intensify cleaning efforts. Additionally, while we are unable to offer in-person specialty camps, these two weeks will provide engaging activities led by GSL faculty and staff.

In accordance with the SCHD's current directive, first priority will be given to the children of essential workers, as defined by the Department of Human Services. **You can view the essential worker list here.** Because spots are limited, registration will open in three phases. Essential workers will have an opportunity to register first. Second priority will be given to those currently registered for a camp during these two weeks. Finally, registration will be open to our greater school community. We encourage our families to take any recent travel into consideration prior to registering, as we strive to minimize exposure and transmission in our community.

Because these camps will be markedly different from normal SummerFest operations, all current July registrations will be cancelled and credited prior to opening our new registrations. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

During the entire month of July, we are also offering online summer math tutoring for rising 4th-9th grade students looking to complete summer packets and reinforce their math skills. These classes will be taught by Middle School math teachers Lyn Forsyth and Janet Webster. Registration for online tutoring is now open.

Prior to registering your child, please review our **new policies and procedures.** As safety is our first priority, we have used the last several weeks to make detailed plans to mitigate risk and protect our community. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, as additions or modifications to our plans may be necessary over time. However, I hope this shows we are taking serious measures to keep our community safe.

If you have any questions regarding our enhanced summer health and safety measures, please email Amy Lee.

I also invite you to email me if you have any questions about our summer plans. As soon as we receive official approval from the SCHD, we will email you and open registration to children of essential workers. Thank you again for your patience as we await SCHD's response.

I hope to see you and your family soon!

Sincerely,

Emily Merrell
Director of SummerFest

GSL's Planning Process for this Summer

How did we arrive at this decision?

GSL was prepared to open SummerFest in June until the SCHD mandated that summer camps remain closed. We

How did we choose these dates?

The Memphis area experienced an uptick in positive COVID-19 cases after Memorial Day weekend. Out of an

then modified our summer plans to offer child care, which we have authorization to do according to the Department of Education (DOE). This is currently pending approval by the SCHED.

This shift required a great deal of planning and preparation, and we are hopeful that we will be given permission to offer child care this month.

abundance of caution, we have decided to remain closed the week of July 6-10 in the event that the same increase in cases occurs following the 4th of July.

We are not offering summer child care after July 24 to ensure that students and faculty remain healthy prior to the start of school. Should someone be exposed to COVID-19, s/he would have two weeks to quarantine prior to teacher in-service, allowing everyone to safely start school without delay.