



July 31, 2020

Dear Gateway College Preparatory and Gateway Tech High School Families,

We know you have been patiently waiting for more information related to the start of school. With the new changes from the CDC and TEA earlier this week, we have been in close communication and coordination with the Williamson County Health Department. Even though the number of cases in Williamson County have been declining this week, we are still an active hot spot which poses a significant risk to our students and staff.

For this reason and based on the strong recommendation from the Williamson County Health Department, we have decided to have ONLY virtual instruction with no on-campus option from August 19 – September 8 for all students. If the declining trend continues over the next few weeks, we will have an on-campus instructional option starting September 9th.

**Student Devices:** For Gateway Prep K- 4 students and Gateway Tech students who don't have a dedicated learning device (iPad, Chromebook or laptop), families are able to checkout a device through the campus. Device check-out will be August 17-18. More specific information on the process and available times will be communicated soon.

**Instruction Commitment:** Since no on-campus option is available for the first three weeks of school, there is NO Instruction Commitment Form needed for August 19 – September 8.

Instructional Commitment Forms for September 9<sup>th</sup> through the end of the grading period will be included in the communication next Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, along with the campus schedules to help families make an informed decision. Those will be due no later than **5 pm on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**.

**Child Care Options:** We are not a licensed child care facility, so we are not approved to provide child care during school closures. Williamson County YMCA is offering child care with virtual learning to support area schools. More information can be found at <https://ymcagwc.org/virtual-school/>. This is just one option for families. There may be other area child care facilities operating a similar program.

**Athletics:** We are continuing to follow UIL requirements for 4A schools. Summer strength, conditioning, and tryouts are moving forward as planned. Plans and expectations for each sport during the first three weeks of school will be forthcoming in communication from coaches.



Below are a few other important dates and reminders.

**August 5** – Campus schedules for remote and on-campus learning, Instructional Commitment Forms for September 9 until the end of the grading period, and annual registration instructions will be released.

**Week of August 10** – Parent Information Sessions will be held. Elementary teacher assignments and secondary student schedules will be released. Specific dates for both of these will be coming soon.

**August 17 – 18** – Gateway Prep K-4 and Gateway Tech student device check-out for students who do not have a learning device at home.

**August 19** – Deadline to submit Instruction Commitment Form for September 9 through the end of the grading period and annual registration.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we continue to plan for the 2020-21 school start. Stay safe and take care!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carla Silber' in a cursive script.

Carla Silber  
Superintendent/COO  
Orenda Public Charter School District