

A Message from Principal Marques Collins



Hello Ram Nation,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we transitioned to virtual instruction. I know the first week came with many obstacles, including the HUB, crashing, No Technology, Microsoft Teams access, and other technical difficulties. Despite all the obstacles, I'm so proud of our staff, students, and parents for their

willingness to uphold our KGES Core Values of Excellence. Week two has been filled with many success stories; and now we are looking ahead to October.

I know there are many questions about what face-to-face instruction will look like at Kashmere Gardens Elementary. There are many decisions that cannot be made until we receive additional information. The most pressing information that will drive these decisions is knowing how many students will choose to return to face-to-face instruction. I understand that parents need information to be able to make decisions about returning to physical classrooms or not.

Here's what we know so far. Safety is our number one priority, and we will follow all safety guidelines outlined in [HISD's Reopening Plan](#) and [Communicable Disease Plan](#). Both documents can be found on the district's website at <https://www.houstonisd.org/reopening>.

Some important information included in the reopening plan is:

- All employees, students, and visitors will undergo daily screenings before entering the building.
- We will have a full time nurse on campus at all times during the work day
- Visitation will be limited to essential visitors who have previously scheduled appointments.
- The school will establish staggered, no contact pick-up and drop-off times.
- All employees, students, and visitors will be required to wear a mask over their nose and mouth.
- Masks will be provided to all employees, students, and visitors who need one.
- Physical distance, 6 feet apart, will be required in all areas.
- Classrooms have been reconfigured. Most classrooms safely accommodate 5-11 students.

- Physical distancing signage and floor markers have been installed throughout the school.
- Extra cleaning and sanitizing will take place every hour.
- Sharing materials, supplies, and equipment will be prohibited.
- Should a student or employee become ill while on campus, we will follow the protocols outlined in the Health and Medical Services Procedural Guidelines for Exposure, Suspected, or Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Students, Employees, and Visitors (p16 of [Reopening Plan](#))
- Nutrition Services will provide individually wrapped breakfast and lunch in the classroom.

If our numbers are higher than what we can safely accommodate, then a decision will be made in consultation with members of the Houston Independent School District Central Office, North Area Leadership Office , and the Kashmere Gardens Elementary Leadership and Support Team to safely be able to accommodate our enrolled students. Our goal is for all students to continue with their same schedule and teachers, regardless of your choice, but that is not guaranteed. Another factor that is unknown at this time is how many of our teachers will return for face-to-face instruction and how many will remain virtual. All teachers can apply to continue to teach virtually for the next 6 weeks, if they choose.

We will continue to provide you with updated information as it becomes available to us. We appreciate your patience, kindness, understanding, support, and love during this educational transition for your children. Thank You for continuing to believe in me, our teachers, and staff to provide the best quality education for your children during these unprecedented times in education. We are truly grateful. We will continue to serve, lead, follow, and progress monitor Together by Operating In Excellence. Our purpose at Kashmere Gardens is to shine our Light, share our Love, and shape our People, one day at a time in Excellence!!!

Please be sure to submit your HISD parent Survey Forms for your choice options - virtual or in-person via houstonisd.org/LearningOption. You may also contact the school at 713-671-4160 to submit your chosen parental option for the next 6 weeks of school for your child or children. We will have an office staff member to serve and document your selection at the campus from 8:00 am to 3 pm -Monday - Friday. We will also be able to answer any questions or concerns you may have to the best of our knowledge.

Note: The Parent Survey regarding virtual/in-person school must be selected from September 21st and must be completed by September 25th, for planning and preparation purposes.

Thank You Kashmere Gardens Community and Friends

