

Upper School Distance Learning FAQs

Q. How will attendance be taken?

A. Concerning official attendance for the state, distance learning students can be counted present for the day if they attend a synchronous lesson, turn in an assignment, or communicate with a teacher. However, Great Hearts expects students to be fully engaged throughout the day.

Q. Who will be teaching students who are participating in GHDL?

A. GHI faculty will be teaching *all GHI students*, regardless of choosing online or on campus instruction.

Q. Will any portion of the GHDL be synchronous learning?

A. Each course will have one synchronous lesson every week, aside from Human Letters, which will require three 90 minute synchronous seminars a week. This will allow students to interact with their teacher and be in class with their peers.

Q. Are students required to attend synchronous sessions?

A. Students are expected to attend all synchronous sessions. To help students and families arrange their schedules to accommodate synchronous lessons, teachers are expected to post the day and time of a week's synchronous lesson the preceding Friday. If special arrangements are needed for a given week's synchronous lesson, please email the student's teacher.

Q. Will the synchronous sessions be on Zoom?

A. Synchronous lessons will be conducted via Zoom. Great Hearts Texas has thoughtfully adjusted our school's Zoom settings with the aim of ensuring the security of our Zoom classroom meetings. For security reasons, we ask that students sign into Zoom meetings with their own name, as opposed to a parent's name, as they will not be admitted into the meeting unless the teacher recognizes the name from the class roster.

Q. How will students submit work for GHDL?

A. Students are required to submit all assignments on Google Classroom. Teachers will also return graded assignments on Google Classroom to provide feedback in a timely manner.

Q. How will exams be administered?

A. We are currently finalizing our policy for administering exams during remote learning. Teachers will communicate with their students about the exam policy.

Q. What additional help will children that have ADHD or ADD?

A. Structure is key to the success of students during Distance Learning, especially students with ADHD and ADD. To help create this structure, students are receiving detailed schedules that families can implement at home to closely replicate the school day. Students can also attend office hours and tutoring to stay in contact with their teachers and discuss strategies to increase focus at home.

Q. How will assignments be graded for GHDL this year? Will parents get weekly updates?

A. Teachers will return graded assignments on Google Classroom. Per custom, parents will be notified at the half-way point of each quarter if their child is earning below a 75% in a course. For more immediate information, parents should work with their students to check their assignment grades on Google Classroom and identify areas in need of improvement.

Q. Is Great Hearts providing laptops for distance learning scholars?

A. Yes, Great Hearts is dedicated to providing computers to families who need them. If your family's computer needs have changed since submitting the technology survey, please email our Director of Campus Operation, Patrick Malone, at patrick.malone@greatheartsirving.org to be put on a waitlist for a computer.

Q. What if a family's internet is slow?

A. The schedules have been developed keeping in mind that in many cases multiple family members will need to be online during the day. While students should expect to have one scheduled, synchronous class for each of their courses every week (with the exception of Humane Letters, which will require more time in synchronous classes), asynchronous videos can be watched at any time, allowing families to spread their internet use throughout the day.

Q. Will students be able to request one-on-one time with teachers if they are participating in GHDL?

A. Students can work with their teachers in smaller groups during teachers' scheduled office hours. Students are also welcome and encouraged to email their teachers with questions at any time. Teachers will do their best to respond to student emails in a timely fashion.

Q. Once students are on campus, what happens if a student needs to quarantine?

A. For a student studying on campus, if the student needs to quarantine he or she will join Distance Learning. This student will have the option to return to campus once the quarantine period is completed

Q. Will Great Hearts extend online learning if the pandemic worsens?

A. Distance Learning will be available for families as long as our situation necessitates it.

Q. Will FRL families be provided meals during remote learning?

A. All families, including FRL families, will have the option of ordering boxed meals while participating in GHDL. For more information please email info@greatheartsirving.org.

Q. Will there be athletics this year?

A. Our league, TCSAAL, has not cancelled any seasons for the 2020-2021 school year, but it has postponed some seasons and suspended some competitions to a future date. All full-time students with passing grades at GHI are able to participate in sports, whether studying online or on campus. More information about Fall Sports will be forthcoming.

Q. Will there be opportunities for new students at GHI to meet other scholars if they are participating in GHDL?

A. Students will interact with each other in synchronous videos as well as in online events hosted by GHI throughout Distance Learning.