

# Gravenstein Union Teachers' Association

Gravenstein Elementary School | Hillcrest Middle School  
September 10th, 2020

---

*"The Gravenstein Union Teachers' Association was established to promote and protect the well-being of its members; to maintain and improve the conditions of teaching and learning; to advance the quality of public education; to ensure that the human dignity and civil rights of all youth and teachers are protected; and to secure a more just, equitable, and democratic society."*

---

## Meet the Teacher/Pick-up & Drop-off

Many GUTA members were overjoyed to be given the opportunity to meet their new students for the 2020-2021 school year at GUSD's Meet the Teacher Event. This was a great way for teachers and students to meet in a safe manner to kick off our year together.

Some grade levels are offering a pick-up and drop-off schedule to exchange completed work for new lessons. The campus was busy this last Friday! As grade levels continue with this process, it would be most beneficial to our members' and families' health for GUSD to explain pick-up/drop-off is not a time to conference. The exchange should be under 15 minutes. GUTA would like to see that message to parents coming from GUSD, perhaps in the Monday Messages.

## Distance Learning Across Grade Levels

Grade levels are working hard as a team to offer a cohesive Distance Learning model for students and families. Middle school has an added challenge to align exactly, but all are working in a collaborative effort!

Teachers are working ALL hours of the day and into the night to make sure students and parents have positive experiences during Distance Learning. Teachers are going above and beyond to offer daily live interaction with their students, additional optional live interactions, engaging pre-recorded lessons, and so much more.

GUTA leadership would like to publicly say how incredibly impressed we are with the Distance Learning program our members have put together for GUSD families. We are so proud. We all miss our students so much! But every day, we put on a brave face and a big smile so our students feel supported and loved. We are hearing directly from our families and from the administration that so many students are feeling supported and are receiving an experience that is greatly appreciated and valued!

Our members have shared feedback with GUTA via a survey explaining their schedules. Those comments are attached. You will find that no one is taking this endeavor lightly.

All of our professional educators are taking the call as the professionals we are, and always have been.

### Comments from GUTA Members:

- 30 min math small group, 30 language whole group parts, 30 min whole group in afternoon
- Kindergarten:
  - 75 minute whole group morning Zoom
  - 30 minute one on ones for each student 1x per week (this was last week)
  - 30 minute small groups 1x per week for each child.
- First grade: 60 minutes live instruction- 2 times a day for A/B groups. 1:1 for assessments. (BUT that is not all the time)
- 3 classes of 7th grade Math, each 50-55 minutes long.
- 30 minute whole group, 15 minute small group, another 15 minute small group, 30 minute whole group
- Flipped classroom approach. This week: 30 minutes whole group math. 30 minute small group ELA (3 groups) for a total of about 1 hour live time.
- A 60 minute whole group session each day plus an hour breakout group daily after that.
- At hillcrest, I do between 30-60 minutes of synchronous learning per class per day.
- Zoom:
  - 20-30 minute whole class morning meeting
  - 15 minute small math group x 4 groups
  - 15 minute small ELA group x 4 groups
  - 10 minute closing meeting
- Students: 30 minute whole group, 30 minute small groups, 30 minute OPTIONAL time where any student can come for help. I have reached out to some struggling students' parents expressing I feel they need to stay for this optional time, and they have all been wonderful about staying on. *In addition to this*, I offer office hours by appointment for students who need even *MORE* support or students who need more of a challenge. Thus far, I have not had students or parents reach out for this help.
- (Kindergarten) 60 minute morning Zoom whole group and daily small groups between 11a-12p. The goal is to meet with two groups.

- Between 30 - 45 minutes live instruction for **each** of the 4 math periods I teach.
- 4th grade-Varies by day. Typical day looks something like:  
Morning:  
8:15-8:45-Live zoom meeting  
9:30-10:00-Live math group A  
10:00-10:30-Live math group B  
11:15-11:45-Live ELA  
12:45-1:30-Live Science/Closing

Again, each day is different. This is a Monday/Tuesday schedule. It's about 2 hours and 15 minutes-2 hours and 45 minutes a day.

- Two 30-minute math groups, 45-min to 1 hour ELA block, 30 min afternoon check-in/group breakout room
- 30 minute whole group meeting every morning. 30 minute small group meeting mid morning. Optional 30 minute check in time every day for any student who would like extra support. Every student gets 60 minutes guaranteed. All students have the option of 90 minutes if they take advantage of the optional portion.
- These are only the zoom meetings not pre-recorded lessons  
Morning-  
Group A: 30 min  
Group B: 30 Mn  
Mid Afternoon-  
Whole Class- 30/40min  
Afternoon-  
Whole Class 30 min

Plus additional help to those that need it throughout the day which seems to be everyday.

- I try to not zoom longer than 45 minutes at a time- give time for independent work, then have students log back on to correct the work. Then I do a 1:1 reading intervention for 30 minutes 4 days a week.
- I am only teaching elective classes, which are "optional and ungraded." It still is very time-consuming. I'm at school from 8:30 to 3:30 every day, creating content, communicating with students, and planning lessons.
- On Average - 30 minute check-in each morning, followed by (1) daily 45 minute ELA instructional group, followed by (2) daily 30-minute math instructional groups, followed by (1) 30-minute ELA instructional group 3x week, followed by (2) 45 minute science period 2x week, and (1) daily 15 minute afternoon wrap up meeting. In addition to this, I am also

keeping my zoom room open for as needed support. Students pop in continuously making Zoom an all-day affair.

- 1st grade-Small groups for 60 minutes, 3 times a day (each child does the 60 minutes once per day). I also do a 15 minute one on one with each child biweekly.
- A 30 minute whole group morning meeting, 20-30 minute whole group or small groups in math and 20-30 whole group or small groups in ELA
- I have been offering 45 - 50 minutes of live instruction for each of my 4 periods a day 5 days a week.
- 45 min zoom meeting for each of my four sections in 8th grade
- Monday-Friday: two 30 minute meetings per day. Thursday an additional 30 minute meeting for a total of 60-90 minutes per day. Office hour zooms and parent conferences as needed in the afternoons. During the 30 minute zooms I also use breakout rooms for small groups. Additional zooms are scheduled for one on one assessments such as fluency testing. Basically doing more minutes that are required for 3rd grade.
- 90 minutes a day
- 4 Class Periods - Averaging 30-45 min. of live Zoom each period, plus supplemental work.
- 5th grade: receives an hour and a half of live instruction daily:  
30 minutes live instruction for math. 30 minutes live instruction for ELA. 30 minutes live instruction to go over science/social studies/community building/questions, etc.
- I am teaching live the full 55 minutes per day for each of my four classes. I do have breakout groups, and independent practice, but I am on live full time.