Gilbert Elementary Families,

On Tuesday, June 30, the Gilbert Public Schools Governing Boards outlined three different options for students returning to school. The first option is an in-person model where students attend Gilbert Elementary in person five days a week where safety precautions are in place as well as nightly cleaning and disinfecting. The second option is a flex model where students come to school two days a week from 7:30 AM-12:30 PM and the remainder of learning is completed online at home. The same teacher assists students in the flex option both in-person and online. The third option is online learning utilizing the Florida Virtual School via GPS Global Academy. This will also be taught by GPS teachers.

The first day of school for all students will be online starting August 5th with their assigned Gilbert Elementary classroom teacher. On August 17, students will transition to in-person learning, flex model or online learning.

We are very proud of the authenticity of our dual language program and in order to maintain the high level of rigor and fidelity, we are only able to offer the dual language program through the in-person “brick and mortar” option. Students receive a true immersion experience when the content areas of math, science and Spanish Language are taught solely in Spanish, and students can participate and learn together through communication and hands-on learning. This allows the students to truly have a 50/50 (English/Spanish) immersion experience, which cannot be replicated with the flex and online models nor do we have the staffing capacity even if the dual-language model could be effectively done online.

If our dual language families elect to utilize the online learning option through GPS Global Academy’s Florida Virtual School, there is an option for a Spanish elective for students which can be tailored to meet their educational needs. Students may fluidly move from online learning back to the in-person model at the separation of each quarter as we know families must make decisions which are best for their individual situation. Rest assured once we get through this pandemic we are committed to giving all of our dual language students the experiences you have come to expect.

For more information about Gilbert Public Schools response to COVID-19 and a FAQ, please visit https://www.gilbertschools.net/families.

If you have any specific questions related to Gilbert Elementary, please feel free to reach out to me via email at, justin.sremba@gilbertschools.net. Thank you for your continued support of Gilbert Elementary during these uncertain times.

Yours in Education,

Justin Sremba
Principal