

Middle Grades
Task 1 – Social Distancing

Social Distancing, What Does 6 feet Apart Look Like?

The spread of COVID-19 has called for everyone, outside your immediate household, to practice “social distancing.” Or more specifically physical distancing. The recommendation to keep at least 6 feet between people at all times to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Why do you think the recommendation is to stay 6 feet apart? The following is more information from the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) on the spread and social distancing.

[CDC Guidance: How COVID-19 Spreads](#)

Could Social Distancing be Accomplished if Schools Were Open?

With all the physical school buildings shutting down, have you wondered how many students could safely be in your classroom, or your school?

How many students and a teacher could safely be in a middle school classroom?

Believe it or not there are guidelines or regulations about the square footage requirements for schools including these for [schools and classrooms in Georgia](#).

Space requirements for typical classrooms are

Grades	Minimum Square Footage
K-3	750
4-8	660
9-12	600

What do you notice? What do you wonder?

Some questions to consider

- Why does the area decrease as students get older?
- What are possible dimensions for a 660 square foot middle school classroom?
- What are all possible rectangles with integer dimensions?
 - Which of these could hold the greatest number of students, and a teacher, and still maintain proper social distancing?

- Which of these could hold the least number of students, and a teacher, and still maintain proper social distancing?
- How many students could the classroom hold if it was square room?
A circular room?
- Would there have to be any special directions for entering or exiting the room?
- What if every student had to be able to leave the room without disrupting others?

How many will fit?

Another way to think about social distancing is to consider how many students could stand on a basketball court, or a football field and maintain proper social distancing. This could also be expanded to ask how large of space would be needed for our class, for our school, our city?