



From the Desk of Janice Tierney

March 4, 2022

"Be the change you wish to see in the world." Ghandi

One and only one message today....MASKS!

By now I am confident that you are all aware that masks will become optional in school on Monday, March 7, 2022. This option will reflect both choice and, in some cases, a response to a recent illness. What it also represents is that we have choice – both as families and faculty. As students arrive on Monday, we will assume that your family choice will be displayed by whether your child arrives with or without a mask.

IF your family has chosen to remain masked, please be sure to have your child arrive with a mask but also with an extra in their backpack. We would also appreciate it if you would chat with your child about the fact that their friends and teachers may or may not have a mask on but that your decision is to wear a mask. If you would also like to communicate this to your child's classroom teacher, please send an email.

IF you are not expecting your student to wear a mask during school hours, we will assume that they will not arrive with a mask. We would also appreciate it if you would chat with your child about the fact that they may encounter friends and faculty that have chosen to continue to wear a mask and that this decision is to be respected just as your family choice to not wear a mask will be honored. We are to all respect the privacy of those that are opting to continue to mask and questions should not be presented to anyone making this choice.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us, as an educational community to teach choice, respect, and kindness. We will take some time this week to talk with our students about respecting each other's choice and how fortunate we are to be able to make a choice. We will engage in some role play, as appropriate, to support how respect for choice may present itself in the school environment. We will also share about how we all play a part in helping each other feel comfortable.

For many of our students (and families) - it will be the first time we are in school without masks. It may take a moment to adjust; however, I am confident that we will all adapt and our daily structures and routines will quickly become the order of the day. With kindness and respect at our core, this should be a simple transition.

I have also taken this opportunity to ask Mrs. Zanelli to summarize why a mask may be required in the school setting. This may serve as a guideline; however, know that we are always available to answer any questions you may have.

Masking will be required in the school setting during the following times:

Returning to school following a positive COVID test and 5 day isolation period. Students and staff returning from isolation on day 6 will be required to wear a mask full-time in school on days 6 through 10, **including while at recess and during PE class.**

If a student is unable to wear a mask at school on days 6 through 10, they must remain at home for the full 10 days, and may return to school on day 11. Remote learning will be available during this time.

When exhibiting COVID like symptoms in the school setting. Students who are exhibiting COVID like symptoms in the school setting will be required to wear a mask when traveling through the building to the Health Office, and during their visit to the Health Office.

We are a school community that has exhibited a focused commitment to keep all in our care healthy and safe. I look forward to continuing this commitment in the months ahead.

Enjoy the weekend!

Mrs. Tierney