

February 28, 2022

Dear DHMC and PCMS Families,

Recently, the Wayne County Health Department and the CDC rescinded a mask mandate for K-12 schools, no longer requiring students and staff to wear masks under the county public health order. This includes toddler and preschool students.

After serious consideration and discernment, coupled with improvements in COVID-19 case rates, hospitalizations and vaccinations, DHMC and PCMS will amend its mask policy. **Effective Monday, April 11, masks will be optional.** This date allows us to monitor COVID-19 rates following spring break and, based on possible case increases, adjust our policy, if necessary. At that time, weather will also be improving, allowing better air circulation and increased outdoor activity and learning.

Many factors have been considered with this amended policy, including students' well-being and educational experience. As with many of the decisions we have made about COVID-19 protocols, we know some will be pleased and some disappointed, but we trust everyone will respond with respect, will make the choice that is best for them, and be supportive of others' decisions. This is what we teach our students at school.

Our first priority is a safe and healthy staff and student population. We expect families will continue to monitor their children for symptoms and to stay home when not feeling well. We will continue a layered approach to COVID-19 that includes social distancing, frequent handwashing, increased ventilation, temperature-taking, and vaccination.

We thank you for your continued support.

Laura Springer
Head of School



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