

Update - Revised Mask Policy Effective March 7

Saint Ann School Families,

Good Evening! Recently Governor Murphy announced a change to the school mask mandate beginning March 7. Following a review of the change and in discussion with local health organizations and based on current transmission rate data, we will be making changes to our school mask policy.

If a health situation, as determined by the local Health Department/Authorities, arises for which the wearing of a mask is deemed essential for the school population or its employees to engage safely and effectively within the school community, then the wearing of a mask will be reintroduced.

As of March 7, 2022, masks on employed adults are optional. This includes teaching staff, members of the administration, and non-contract employees.

Masks on children are optional as well. If a parent deems a mask is significant to the safety of their respective child(ren) they are encouraged to have their child(ren) wear a mask within the school.

These policy changes DO NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL MARCH 7. All who enter and are present in the building are still required to abide by the current mask policy until March 7.

Please note the following:

- Saint Ann School will continue to implement strategies to prevent the spread of COVID including continued implementation of social distancing in the classroom and cafeteria.
- Parents who want their child(ren) to wear a mask will need to communicate to their child(ren) the expectations regarding mask use in school. *School personnel are not responsible for regulating mask-wearing but will do their best to monitor mask-wearing for these students.*
- Parents should continue to keep children home if they are sick or experiencing COVID-like symptoms or are required to quarantine due to close contact.
- Individuals experiencing COVID-like symptoms will be sent home from school.
- Individuals are expected to comply with a mask mandate if one is imposed by any venue used by the school for an event or trip and for transportation provided by a public school district with a mask mandate. **MASKS ARE STILL REQUIRED ON SCHOOL BUSES.**
- The administration will evaluate the mask policy throughout the year. If it is determined that a return to required masking is necessitated based on local or regional outbreaks then the policy will be implemented.
- It is recommended that students, teachers, and staff who are immunocompromised continue masking however it is not required.

God Bless,

Salvatore Chiaravalloti

Principal