



January 21, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hello – I hope this letter finds you well. I want to open this letter by expressing my appreciation for the support you have shown the administrators, faculty, and staff at our schools. Because of their efforts and dedication, our schools have remained open to provide in-person instruction and your children have received an exceptional education, while also focusing on their social, emotional, and spiritual needs.

You are all aware of Executive Order Two that Governor Youngkin issued that takes effect on Monday, January 24, 2022. This Order terminates Public Health Emergency Order Ten that was issued on August 12, 2021, which mandated masks be worn by all individuals in all schools. Executive Order Two also gives parents the option to choose whether their children will be subject to a mask mandate in any school or educational program in the Commonwealth.

All our Diocesan schools will comply with Executive Order Two. Please review our revised face mask for students that is attached and will take effect on Monday, January 24, 2022.

We continue to encourage that masks be worn by all employees, students, and visitors in K-12 schools pursuant to CDC guidance, particularly given the recent surge in cases. We will also require unvaccinated faculty and staff members to wear masks.

All the other components of the health mitigation plans that are in place in your schools will continue and remain in place.

Please talk with your children about what your decision and expectations are about them wearing or not wearing masks and ask that they respect others. Teachers will not be asked to enforce parents' pro- or anti-mask decisions in the classroom.

If you do not want your child(ren) to wear a mask at school, we respect that decision. Please be advised that choosing not to wear a mask may put students at higher risk for meeting the close contact definition, requiring quarantine, and potentially face longer quarantine periods. Parents who do not want their child(ren) to wear masks in school must complete and return to the school the attached election sheet on or before the first day your child(ren) will not be wearing a mask.

Thank you for continuing to support your Catholic school.

Yours in Christ,

Kelly M. Lazzara
Superintendent of Schools