

Dear Parents,

As we communicated on August 20, a majority of our COVID-19 Task Force recommended that masks be worn in school, and a decision was made to require all students and staff to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status, until September 17. As we stated at that time, our Task Force would re-evaluate conditions prior to September 17 and make a recommendation regarding a course of action beyond that date. Our Task Force met last evening, reviewed data and had discussion about next steps. Among the points of discussion were the more than doubling numbers of pediatric COVID-19 cases each week, and the fact that pediatric cases are higher now than they were during one of the peak points of the pandemic in December 2020 and January 2021. Also considered was that among the 1,070 students who have already had to quarantine in Summit County since August 16, only 23 are from schools requiring masks, that our school has had no cases of COVID-19 among students or staff to date this school year while other schools have, and that many area schools have followed our lead and moved to requiring masks in recent weeks due to their positive cases and quarantines. Finally, discussion focused on the ultimate goal of keeping our school open, our classrooms staffed with teachers, and our students present in their seats for in-person learning.

At this time, in light of the current conditions and data reviewed and discussed, a majority of the Task Force recommended, and the parish and school administration have decided, that students and staff will be required to continue to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status, for an additional four weeks, until October 15. The Task Force will reconvene on October 11 to re-evaluate conditions at that time and to make a recommendation for a course of action beyond October 15. Conditions will continue to be monitored on an ongoing basis, with the option for the Task Force to meet prior to October 11 should conditions warrant.

Like all of you, we look forward to the day when we can put all of this behind us, and hope that day will come soon. In the meantime, our priorities continue to be protecting the health and safety of our students and staff and ensuring that we can remain open for in-person learning. While we understand that not everyone will agree with the decision announced here, we appreciate your cooperation as we take the difficult actions that must be taken to ensure that these priorities can be fulfilled. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers during what continues to be a challenging time.

Sincerely,

Fr. Steve Brunovsky
Pastor

Mrs. Jennifer Woodman
Principal