



Dear Families,

As we shared previously, we are continuing to monitor COVID-19 numbers in our community and plan for the week ahead. Unfortunately, based on the high community transmission index, high percentage of positive tests, and multiple COVID-19 cases discovered in the Hancock community over the winter break, we are reinstating required masks for all individuals on our campus while indoors and optional masks for all while outdoors. We will continue to allow parents and visitors inside of our buildings as long as they are masked.

The decision to reinstate required masks inside our buildings is one that we do not take lightly, and it is based on our desire to protect the health of our community and maintain on campus learning for our students with minimal disruption. Proactively requiring masks for all individuals this week will allow us to avoid sending home large groups of students to quarantine due to potential exposure if COVID-19 cases are identified on our campus.

We will be continuing conversations with our medical team in the days ahead as we review our current COVID-19 guidelines and the required quarantine length in light of the updated CDC guidelines and the new Omicron variant. Should any of our previously stated guidelines change, we will communicate that information with all of you.

If you choose to vaccinate your children, please remember to share copies of their vaccine cards with our nurses. Having this information on file will allow us to avoid unnecessarily sending students home to quarantine in the future when mask guidelines are relaxed.

We will monitor the community numbers in the week ahead and reach out with another update on Sunday, January 9th.

Respectfully,
HDS Administration

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