

8/13/21

As has been the case since March 2020, our Board and Administration is monitoring the ever-changing and challenging covid world in which we live in order to determine the safest course of action for our students, families and staff.

Two weeks ago we published an update on our protocols as we got closer to the opening of our 2020-21 school year [here](#). Since then, we have continued our deliberations regarding how best to begin our year.

We believe that what we posted two weeks ago remains our best course of action given that the CDC recommendations have remained the same.

Here are a few notes in response to the most often asked questions from the past several weeks.

Masks

- We concur with the CDC guidelines that strongly recommend that students and staff wear masks while indoors.
- To encourage and support students to wear masks, all BLS staff members will wear masks indoors whenever they are within six feet of students or fellow staff members.
- We will strongly encourage students to wear their masks indoors by making the case that doing so significantly reduces their risk of illness or being quarantined due to exposure.
- All visitors will be required to wear masks in our buildings.
- Though strongly recommended, wearing a mask is a personal decision and we expect that students will respect one another, mask or no mask.

Quarantine

- The most effective way for students to avoid being quarantined when a positive case occurs is to wear a mask and maintain a minimum of three feet between classmates.
- For those who are vaccinated, quarantine will not be required if near a positive case unless symptoms occur.
- If a student is quarantined due to a classmate's positive case, they will be able to return to school on day 8 after exposure (quarantining for seven days) if a negative test is received on day five.

School work during absence

- For our PK-3 students who have to miss school, teachers will provide work packets and be available to work with parents via email, phone or a google meet if a family has any questions about the work.
- Our 4-8 students will receive assignments, teachers will post recorded lessons of new content instruction and be available via email, phone and google meet to answer questions about the work to be completed.
- Thanks to the fact that covid quarantines are shortened considerably compared to last year and that some of our students are able to be vaccinated (and thus reduce the incidence of being quarantined), we do not plan to teach live lessons like last year when classes were taught in person and on-line simultaneously.

As always, our protocols can change if the situation warrants it. Thanks in advance for your cooperation. Here's hoping that we can experience a covid-free school year!

Note re: our Supply drop off on Sunday, August 15:

Due to covid restrictions,

- masks must be worn in the building,
- one family inside each classroom at one time and
- please be brief in the classroom (not our preference!!). Drop off supplies and introduce the family to teachers and then exit the classroom. Please avoid congregating with other families inside the building.

You are encouraged to socialize outside in the yard and parking lot!!!