

November 6, 2020

Dear SHS Families,

**Mask Use: A three-layered mask is now recommended to improve levels of protection**

As we spend more time indoors over the colder weeks and months ahead, we are refreshing our mask policies in step with the latest recommendations from Public Health.

**Wearing of Masks:**

Public Health guidance on masks has been updated and new guidelines will come into effect at SHS beginning on **Monday, November 18**. Please review below information carefully:

**Students:**

- ◆ JK- Grade 8 students must wear a medical grade mask or a non-medical mask with **3layers**, daily.
- ◆ Current public health guidance instructs non-medical masks (NMM) must have at least 3 layers, two of which need to be of tightly woven material such as cotton or linen.
- ◆ The third, middle layer can be a filter fabric, such as a "non-woven polypropylene fabric". Families might find that previously purchased double layer masks can be retrofitted by creating a pocket in the mask and inserting a filter.
- ◆ Also, please ensure the proper fit of masks to comfortably cover your son's mouth, nose and chin.
- ◆ When 2 metres of distance can not be maintained outside, students will be required to wear a mask.
- ◆ Please *do not* send mask 'lanyards' with your son as wearing masks with a cord can lead to mask contamination. Boys can safely store their masks in their provided hipsacks.
- ◆ Students wearing masks that have valves (covered or uncovered), are made of nylon, stretchy elastic fabrics or are looser fitting will be given alternative **medical grade masks** to wear for the day.



- ◆ SHS will maintain a supply of **medical grade masks** if students arrive without a proper mask.

#### **Parents & Caregivers:**

- ◆ Thank you for your on-going partnership to keep our community safe, in response to parent feedback, and for the safety of our entire community, we are asking **all** parents and caregivers to wear a medical grade mask or three-layer non-medical mask while on or around SHS property during pick-up and drop-off.
- ◆ Please note face shields are not a substitute for a mask.

#### **Care of Hipsacks:**

The hipsacks have been very useful to the boys, allowing them to safely and easily store their masks while they go outside 4 times a day. We ask for your on-going assistance in the care of your son's hipsacks.

- ◆ Please wipe the hipsack out each night with a disinfectant wipe, and wash each weekend in hot, soapy water.
- ◆ Some families may choose to send masks in ziploc bags or small paper bags. These fit nicely into the hipsack, and help keep the clean and soiled masks separate and accessible.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we remain responsive to evolving public health guidelines.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Jennifer Colleran**

Vice-Principal