

Dear MMS Families,

I hope this communication finds you all well and that you are enjoying the early days of our winter break with friends and family. I am reaching out in preparation for our return to school on Monday, February 28th. As we return to MMS, masks will be optional at school. We are anticipating that families and students are thinking ahead with a mixture of excitement and trepidation, and we have already been working with our staff to discuss how we will support our students as they return. As you know, the wellbeing of our staff and students is always our primary focus, and we will continue to work with families, staff, and students as we navigate yet another transition.

A few important notes as we welcome students back:

- Staff and students have the option to wear or not wear masks at school
- Masks are still required on the school bus
- Students wearing a mask will be responsible for their own consistent mask-wearing
- Teachers and school staff will continue to monitor student social and emotional wellness, especially during this transition

In preparing for this transition to a mask-optional practice, we ask that everyone remember that the decision to wear or not wear a mask is a personal one and that every family and student will make choices that are best for their individual situations. Students and staff members need not explain their decision and it should be respected. We ask that you have conversations with your students regarding mask-wearing, specifically:

- What your family practices will be for wearing or not wearing masks
- Students and families are making decisions that are best for their own situation, health, and/or comfort level, and that all choices are ok

We are continuing to work with our local and state health officials regarding public health and safety metrics to guide our practices related to mitigation measures and quarantine. We will continue to keep you informed and updated.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration, and we look forward to seeing you upon our return to school on Monday, February 28th.

Thank you,

Karolyn  
Principal