

Bettis Preparatory Leadership Academy

Policy for Mask Wearing

As a public school in the state of South Carolina we are required to follow the guidelines as determined by our state legislature. Although we as the community of Bettis Preparatory Leadership Academy (BPLA) may have differing views on these guidelines, we as a school will follow what is passed down to us through our governing bodies.

Parental choice for mask wearing in school:

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124_2021-2022/bills/4388.htm

SECTION 1. The decision of whether an individual public school student will wear a mask or other face covering, for medical reasons or otherwise, while in a public school facility or on a school bus is in the sole discretion of the parents of the student. The decision of whether an individual public school employee, *except for a school cafeteria worker*, will wear a mask or other face covering, for medical reasons or otherwise, while in a public school facility or on a school bus is in the sole discretion of the employee. A public school, a public school district, the State Board of Education, and the State Department of Education may not:

- (1) Require a student or employee to wear masks or other face coverings in public school facilities or on public school buses;
- (2) Punish, separate, or stigmatize a student for wearing or not wearing a mask or other face covering in public school facilities or on public school buses; or
- (3) Stigmatize or retaliate against an employee for wearing or not wearing a mask or other face covering in public school facilities or on public school buses.

BPLA is fighting COVID-19 through the following steps:

- 1) If you suspect your child of being positive for COVID-19 then keep them home and have them tested.
- 2) Even if your child is fully vaccinated, it is strongly encouraged that you follow the same procedure as unvaccinated students as transmission and exposure are still possible concerning the Delta variant.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2012-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>
- 3) Spread students out in the classroom to aid in social distancing and reduce the chance of exposure.
- 4) Group students throughout the day and use seating charts to assist in contact tracing.
- 5) Disinfecting classrooms daily and in between classes.

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