



LCA Mask Wearing Policy

LCA plays a vital role in all realms of our students' development. We are committed to their growth, academically, socially, and emotionally. It is our desire as a school community to be open and stay open as long as possible. Our children need to be in school. They need their teachers and their friends. Because we understand the importance that LCA plays in the lives of all of our students, we know we **MUST** comply with the governor's order that all students, *grades K-12, must wear a mask in all school buildings from the time when they arrive at school, outside if they cannot maintain appropriate social distancing (early arrival included), until they leave campus for the day. This will include the following settings:

- Class
- Transitions from class to class / building to building
- Hall passes to lockers, office, restroom
- Chapel / Roundtable

Students will be allowed to un-mask during natural times of the day:

- recess,
- lunch and snack periods,
- gym

A student's mask must cover both his/her nose AND mouth. Students should make every attempt not to touch their masks throughout the day.

Teachers will also allow for mask-breaks throughout the course of the day while continuing to keep the safety of your children in mind. All efforts to maintain 6 feet of safe distance between students will be made. Teachers will periodically take students outside for mask breaks while still continuing to cover the curriculum. Teachers will also direct mask breaks in class. Each student will be given the opportunity to remove their mask at least once every 45 minutes while still maintaining appropriate social distance protocol.

Students who have documented health needs that make mask wearing difficult will be exempted from these policies. Documentation must be submitted and will be kept in the student's health record in the school nurse's office.

The burden of mask hygiene will remain with the student; i.e. the student must make sure he/she has their mask with them each day (as well as a spare), that their mask does not get mixed up with someone else's mask, and that they are washed on a regular basis.

We do not want to make this issue one of constant reprimand or worse, a matter of discipline. We ask that you talk with your student about the importance of wearing his or her mask at school, the importance of complying with the orders of our authorities, and the importance of physically being in school. We will seek to gently guide your children in the same way so that we do not have to resort to disciplinary measures.

*Students in Pre-K are exempt from the government mandate to wear masks at school.