

January 11, 2022

Dear NDA families,

As we enter 2022 with high hopes and much optimism, we unfortunately have also had rapidly rising COVID numbers. At this time, we have 15 positive COVID cases in our building preschool-8th grade. Due to the positive cases, we have approximately 58 or 21% of our student body quarantining today. As our number one priority is to continue learning in person, we now recognize the need to use more mitigation strategies to keep our students and staff safe and healthy as well as reduce the need to quarantine and keep as many students as possible learning at school.

Starting Wednesday, January 12th, we will require masks (previous mask exemptions will still be in place) for everyone in the building for ages 3 and older until Weds, January 19th. At that time, if we have 5 or less current active positive non related COVID cases in K-8, then K-8 will return to mask optional. If not, K-8 will continue to require masks until we reach our 5 case threshold. If we have 5 or less current active positive non related COVID cases in preschool at that time, preschool will return to mask optional. If not, preschool will continue to require masks until we reach our 5 case threshold. These situations are independent of one another.

Protocols will include:

K-8 A positive COVID case will quarantine for 5 days then must be asymptomatic and have a negative test to return. Preschool will follow the MDH recommendation of a 10 day quarantine per DHS rules and our licensing requirements. We will communicate any updates as they occur.

Close contacts of COVID-19 cases include anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. The close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected person when both students were correctly wearing well-fitting masks and are asymptomatic.

If any close contact is not wearing a mask, they will have to quarantine for 5 days unless vaccinated or test with a negative result to return. If a close contact has been COVID positive in the last 90 days, they do not have to quarantine.

We are still awaiting the release of the new MDH recommendations to create our new safety plan moving forward with the goal of continuing learning in person and considering the many varied perspectives on how to do so. We will communicate the new plan as soon as possible. In the meantime, we will continue to communicate close contacts when appropriate and our COVID positive numbers each Friday in the Insight.

Thank you for your continued support; we realize that this adventure has not been an easy one for anyone. We want to continue to help your children learn and grow in the most optimal ways possible. We, as an NDA community, need to come together to focus on giving students the most amazing experience possible to support them in reaching their greatest potential.

Respectfully,
Dr. Bonita Jungels

Fr. John Bauer

I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.

St. Teresa of Calcutta