



# ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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Dear ADW Parents:

Thank you for your email in support of Catholic schools and for sharing your perspective on the issue of students wearing masks at school. We are incredibly grateful for the support from our parents during the past eighteen months. The majority of our parents partnered with us by supporting all safety protocols, as we navigated these turbulent times. Additionally, parents cheered on our teachers and administrators as they honored their commitment to provide excellent instruction and faith formation to our children, under the most difficult circumstances.

As we continue to pray for the end of this pandemic, it is understandable that many parents would like to see the end of the mask requirement. We do, too. At the same time, we believe our success of keeping the spread of the virus at a minimum has been the result of our adherence to protocols, based upon the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, best practices, consultation with medical professionals, and consideration of local government guidelines.

We continue to monitor this situation very closely and will continue to study any further guidance that becomes available. We also continue to monitor the impact of legal restrictions imposed by local jurisdictions. As you are likely aware, the District of Columbia presently requires *all* persons, including the fully vaccinated, wear masks in schools and childcare facilities.

It is our goal, as well, to get things back to normal as soon as possible and at the same time, act prudently to keep our precious children safe. In alignment with CDC recommendations, our current policy is that, where local law allows, fully vaccinated students, employees and visitors can choose not to wear a mask. Unvaccinated students, which we recognize presently includes all students under twelve, will continue to be required to wear masks. This does not mean we will not adjust that requirement in the future, as we continue to monitor and review the local and national data, the guidance of experts and health authorities, and local legal restrictions. We ask for your patience as we continue to monitor and update these protocols.

We are confident that, together with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will make the best decisions for the welfare of our students. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education. Onward together in faith!

Prayerfully,

Secretary for Catholic Schools  
Superintendent of Schools