**COVID-19 Protocols for 2021-2022 School Year**

**Face Coverings**

The CDC recommends indoor masking for all individuals aged 2 and older, including students, teachers, staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.

Please see more details on the CDC recommendations below.

* **Indoors:** CDC recommends indoor masking for all individuals aged 2 and older, including students, teachers, staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.
* **Outdoors:** In general, people do not need to wear masks outdoors. CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people.
* **School Buses:** Passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, subject to the exclusions and exemptions allowed by the CDC.

**Physical Distancing**

Students, staff, and visitors will maintain a 3 to 6-foot distance, whenever possible, during their daily activities on campus. This will require all of us to be intentional and aware of our movements and surroundings at all times. Remember, we are doing this for the safety of one another.

**Sanitizing**

Before each class, the teacher will disinfect and sanitize of all desks/chairs. Disinfecting solutions and/or disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom. We will conduct regular cleaning and sanitizing of all high traffic areas such as bathrooms, classrooms, eating areas, etc.

**Lockers**

To avoid overcrowding in hallways, lockers will only be available for student access before and after school.

**Outdoor Hallways**

To ease the flow of traffic in the hallway during the class change, three exits (front doors, mid doors, and doors in the middle school) will be used to limit congestion.

**Bathroom Occupancy**

Due to physical distancing restrictions, bathroom occupancy is limited to 2 people at a time. Only one student at a time will be allowed to use the restroom during class.

**Extended Absences**

In order to keep our school community safe, students that are not feeling well or are showing any signs of COVID-19 (temperature, cough, shortness of breath) should not come into school. Additionally, a student should not come to school if he/she

* has tested positive for COVID
* has a pending test for COVID-19
* has been exposed to a COVID positive person
* has been exposed to anyone displaying COVID-19 symptoms
* has been exposed to anyone in their household who has a pending test.

In these instances, the student should seek the proper medical attention and testing, and the family should contact the principal immediately for further instruction. In the case a medical professional instructs a student to quarantine at home due to potential exposure to COVID-19, the family should notify the school immediately, and the school will work with the family to continue the learning during this time. Absences that are due to mandated quarantine will not be counted towards a student’s overall total or their 25% as long as they are regularly completing claw assignments.

**Handwashing and Proper Hygiene**

All students are expected to exercise proper hand hygiene. Students should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. When soap and water are not available, students should use hand sanitizer (with 60% and above alcohol). Bottles of hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms. Signage related to handwashing will be placed throughout the school.

Other basic hygiene practices can help prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in our school community. These include, but are not limited to:

- Staying home when sick

- Coughing/Sneezing into one’s elbow

- Avoiding touching one’s face or mouth

- Avoiding sharing of food, drink, and classroom materials

- Regularly sanitizing highly touched materials or areas

- Exercising appropriate distancing when possible

Develop these habits that keep the school community healthy.

**Assigned Seating**

All classrooms and lunches will have assigned seating for students for ease of contact tracing and to reduce the number of regular contacts during the school day. We will offer variation of these arrangements at regular periods throughout the year so that students may alter their seating at times, if desired.

**Mask Mandate**

*Gov. Ralph Northam announced a public health emergency order on Thursday, August 12, 2021, to require universal masking in all Virginia K-12 schools. It requires all students, teachers, staff, visitors in our public and private K-12 schools in Virginia to wear a mask indoors and that’s regardless of their vaccination status. The order, signed by State Health Commissioner Norman Oliver, includes all schools in Virginia, including private schools. This order shall remain in full force and effect until the CDC guidelines for K-12 schools changes or this Order is amended or rescinded.*