Dear Ryan Families,

We have posted our plans for our response to COVID-19 for the upcoming school year on the website. All current families will be given the attached acknowledgment at Back-to-School night on September 2nd that must be signed and returned before the first day of school. If you want your child to wear a mask in school, please indicate so on the acknowledgement form. We will ensure that this information is shared with all your child’s teachers at Ryan.

The following guidelines will be in place for the 2021-22 school year:

* Multiple layers of prevention strategies should be in place. Strategies in our schools will include handwashing, respiratory etiquette, proper ventilation, cleaning, disinfecting, and incorporating distancing, to the greatest distance possible.
* Temperature checks and screening questions are not required prior to entering the building.
* It is critical that faculty, staff, and students closely monitor their health and must stay at home when they are having any symptoms of infectious illness. Students or employees who are exhibiting symptoms or have a temperature over 100.4 degrees will be sent home and not be able to return until their symptoms have subsided, and they are temperature free without fever reducing medicines for at least 24 hours.
* The wearing of masks in our school will be a personal and individual decision (other than on buses or vans). Parents will make that decision for their children. Parents who want their child to wear a mask indoors at school should notify their teacher and make sure their child has a mask with them. Masks will not be provided. If the child does not comply parents will be notified.
* Per CDC’s Order, passengers and staff are required to wear a face covering on buses, vans, and other group school transportation.
* Classrooms will not be in cohorts and will be mixed for PE, lunch, and recess periods.
* The cafeteria will be fully operational.
* We will adhere to any federal laws or regulations related to masks, including but not limited to the federal executive order related to the wearing of masks on public transportation, which applies to school buses.
* If the CDC guidance changes or Executive Orders are put into place that require us to alter these plans, you will be notified immediately.

Acknowledgment of the Plans for 2021-2022 School Year

We very successfully navigated having our school open 5 days a week for the 2020-2021 school year during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was possible because of the hard work and dedication of our school staff, students, and parents.

It is time now to look ahead to the 2021-2022 school year. We are committed to having our teachers and students in a safe and supportive environment to enhance their academic, social, and emotional development. We will follow the CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools as currently written and including future updates.

The following are key takeaways of the CDC guidance and what that means in our school:

• Masks are recommended to be worn by individuals (older than 2) that are not fully vaccinated when indoors. The wearing of masks in our school will be a personal and individual decision. Parents will make that decision for their children.

• Multiple layers of prevention strategies should be in place. Strategies in our schools will include handwashing, respiratory etiquette, proper ventilation, cleaning, disinfecting, and incorporating distancing, to the greatest distance possible.

• It is critical that faculty, staff, and students closely monitor their health and must stay at home when they are having any symptoms of infectious illness. Students or employees who are exhibiting symptoms or have a temperature over 100.4 degrees will be sent home and not be able to return until their symptoms have subsided, and they are temperature free without fever reducing medicines for at least 24 hours.

• Schools will still monitor exposure and positive cases. Contract tracing will be conducted, and quarantining based on current CDC/VDH recommendations for those exposed to and positive for COVID-19 will be followed. Only individuals directly exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be notified.

Additional Information:

• Our school will not require COVID-19 vaccinations, disclosure of COVID-19 vaccination status, or proof of COVID19 vaccination.

• The decision of employees or parents to send unvaccinated or vaccinated students to school with or without masks is a personal decision and should not be questioned or disputed with them. It is vital that we treat each other with respect.

• Parents who want their child to wear a mask indoors at school should notify their teacher and make sure your child has a mask with them. *Masks will not be provided.* If the child does not comply parents will be notified.

• If the CDC guidance changes or Executive Orders are put into place that require us to alter these plans, you will be notified immediately.

Thank you for your acknowledgement of these plans and willingness to follow them for us to maintain a safe environment in our school buildings and to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 or any viruses within our schools.

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like for your student/(s) to wear a mask at school during the 2021-2022 school year, please initial the box.

YES- I would like my student to wear a mask.

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Parent(s) Signature Date