



Nurturing Confidence. Realizing Potential.

Center School Mask Policy

February 2022

This document provides information regarding updates to the recently updated mask policy dated January 18, 2022.

Throughout the current school year, mandates and recommendations have been presented by sources including the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health. Similarly, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) released multiple recommendations regarding masking. On February 3, 2022, CHOP released its current outlook on masking which provides that while CHOP is of the opinion that masking works, it believes that communities where transmission is declining and rates are low should weigh the benefits of continuing with strict adherence to certain school mask mandates against the risk that these mandates may interfere with the normal operations of a school day and the well-being of students ([CHOP PolicyLab](#)).

CHOP went on to predict that COVID cases will have peaked during the first or second week of February. We are pleased to report that transmission in our community, both internal and external, has been declining for the past four weeks.

After reviewing CHOP's perspective and taking into consideration our own community transmission levels, we have decided that at this time, Center School will implement a Right-to-Wear policy effective February 28, 2022, which provides the following options for students, teachers, administration and staff:

1. **Right to wear mask.** Anyone who wishes to wear a mask at any time can do so.
2. **Partial waiver of mask requirement.** Those who do not wish to wear a mask will not be required to do so, except that masks will still be required when:
 - a. on a school bus per the federal mandate; and
 - b. when participating in Mask to Stay.

Center School realizes that there are varying opinions regarding mask usage, and that choices regarding mask usage are considered by many families and employees to be a personal decision. Center School asks for your partnership in ensuring an environment of civility and respect for all people and the decisions made by families and employees regarding this matter.

Note that this new policy is subject to **immediate** change **at any time** if in the opinion of the School it is necessary to implement a revised mask usage policy for the protection of our students, administration and staff. If mandates are implemented by local, state, or federal authorities, Center School will follow the mandates.

Please remember that it is important to Center School's ability to keep the school open and to be able to continue to educate your children "in school" that you keep your child home if he/she is sick, regardless of masking policies. Please refer to the Student Handbook, available on Blackbaud, for specifics regarding our sick policy.