

August 11, 2021

Dear Sacred Hearts School Parents:

Welcome to the 2021/22 school year! While it's always a little sad when the summer comes to end (because we know winter is on its way☺), we are very excited for another school year and the return of our students! I hope everyone has been able to recharge, refresh, and spend much needed time with family and friends!

We've had a very busy summer here! We are excited for everyone to have the opportunity to see the new school building (we know many of you have not seen it in totality yet) and the renovations to the existing school building. We are so grateful for the support of the parish and the donors who have made all of these facility upgrades a reality! I am very happy to hang up my 'construction hat' and focus on just being the principal!

We start this year with lots of enthusiasm and excitement that a new school year can bring for our students, but we also are faced with the challenges that COVID continues to pose. Last week I sent out a survey to families asking for their feedback on masking when school begins. We had an incredible response rate (pretty close to 100% of families).

<b>The results are as follows:</b>	<b>263 Submissions</b>
"no strong opinion":	15
"masks optional/parental decision":	116
"masks required for students/staff":	132

I indicated in my survey narrative, this was not intended to be a vote, but a way for me to fully understand where our families stand on this issue. I want you to know I read every comment (and there were LOTS), and what was clear to me is how passionate everyone feels about their children, the school, and wanting the best for the staff and students.

**I have considered the following:**

- Data-transmission in this county (currently at "high") and how the Delta Variant is impacting children.
- Recommendations from the CDC, public health, and the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Meetings with various school stakeholders
- Family survey results
- Input from Fr. Tom and staff, giving them an opportunity to share their feelings

**My previously stated goals still remain the same:**

- Ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff.
- Provide continuous and uninterrupted in person instruction.

**In consideration of all of the above starting August 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sacred Hearts School/Daycare will require masks for all students grades 4K-8 (Pre3 will be optional), staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status indoors. Masks will not be required outside.** I more than understand that this will be a relief for some and a disappointment to others.

I will continue to monitor, evaluate, and adjust as the data changes. When things improve, we will consider making them optional.

I want to express my sincere appreciation for each of you and for our kiddos! We accomplished the almost impossible last year, which was our kids being in school in person! This took great amounts of collaborative efforts from everyone! I feel blessed to lead this organization and am proud of who we are and everyone who works diligently every day to provide the best Catholic education for our students.

I wish each of you good health and we will see everyone on August 23<sup>rd</sup> for Visiting Night!

Sincerely,

Kimberlee Frederick, Principal