

August 12, 2021

Dear Families and Friends,

Thank you for your support and patience over the past year. We know that this has been a very difficult time for families. We can only continue to be successful if everyone continues to do their part.

As the Academy and your family adapt to living in this COVID 19 environment, we are hopeful with our protocols will permit your child's school to remain open for in person learning throughout the upcoming school year. We must continue to learn how to live with COVID.

SJP2CA will follow the guidelines of the following agencies; Catholic Schools Office, DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education), MA Department of Early Education and Care and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

At present our safety protocols for mask wearing, hand washing and disinfecting are as follows:

Masks:

- Anyone who wants to wear a mask may wear a mask and will be supported in their decision.
- No vaccinated student, teacher, or staff member will be mandated to wear a mask indoors -- with narrow exceptions at the school's discretion for areas like nurse's offices and when students are working in very close contact on projects.
- All unvaccinated students and staff must wear a mask. As health data changes over time in the communities, this option may be modified as the evolving science and data changes.
- No masks will be required for any outdoor activities or while students are eating.
- Masks will be required for any students or staff on school buses at this time, pursuant to federal health order.

Vaccines

- Presently, Covid vaccination is not mandated by state law but are strongly encouraged. Covid vaccination of faculty, staff or children are not mandated by SJP2CA.
- SJP2CA will require proof of vaccination to determine eligibility for a vaccinated student or faculty/staff member to be exempt from masking.

Handwashing/Facility Cleaning

- Until deemed unnecessary, SJP2CA will maintain frequent hand washing/sanitation and facility-cleaning protocols.

Required Legal Baseline (not optional):

- SJP2CA must comply with local health orders.
- SJP2CA receives early-childhood “vouchers” so we must follow requirements from the MA Department of Early Education & Care (EEC) for applicable schools and students, including any requirements for masks.

We applaud our families for their support and look forward to their continued support to keep the Academy open for in person learning.

We still need your help to stay open

- Please keep your child(ren) home if they have any symptoms of the flu, COVID or have been exposed to a positive case. Please notify your campus principal within 24 hours.

As we move forward, we may have positive cases at our schools. If this happens, we will need to quarantine staff and/or part of a classroom.

Thank you for your continued partnership with SJPIICA. We look forward to welcoming you back in September.

God bless,

Kate Brandley
Regional Director