



September 2, 2022

Waverly community,

We are excited to welcome students back to school next week. I want to share some information regarding how we are approaching the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The plan is a conservative one that is aimed at maximizing attendance at school for teachers and students, reducing Covid exposure and keeping our campus open. To this end, we are requiring that all community members wear masks when in school buildings. Masks will be optional outside and we will encourage teachers to utilize outdoor spaces to meet students and give opportunities to unmask together. We will also continue to use rapid antigen testing on campus.

I want to be clear that no one wants to wear masks - myself included. Many schools are not requiring masks. I am asking for this so that we protect each other and not put the burden of wellness on the most vulnerable in our community. As many of us know, getting Covid can be a mild or very intense experience and we know that some members of our community are at greater risk for complications. We also know that some community members are more adversely impacted by the reality of getting Covid. Specifically, we have a great diversity with regard to how people can access quarantine space, childcare and maintain employment. Minimizing sickness and absences will also allow parents to stick with their routines and keep the school open.

Teachers are already in dialogue about ways to make sure that students continue to develop the critical skills of facial recognition, reading emotions and making friends. We will be working on a range of practices and opportunities for students to experience lots of time without masks. We know that seeing people's faces and reading expressions is an important part of socializing and having fun at school. I'm excited to see how we will develop these practices and collaborate with students to make the experience manageable.

Finally, we are wearing masks, so that parents can safely and completely return to campus. Parents who come on campus are also required to wear masks inside. This will allow us to host our school events in person and minimize the use of zoom while keeping our community as healthy as possible. This is especially important for our teachers, since teacher absences can have a profound impact on classes and we want our teachers to remain as healthy as possible.

A few important details:

- Covid testing will not be required for students on a regular basis unless students are experiencing Covid symptoms.
- Please do not send children you suspect to be sick to school.
- Students who test positive will be required stay home until:

- Day 6 - at least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared (or positive test result received) provided there is a negative antigen test result AND student is fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medicine) AND student wears a well-fitting mask until 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

OR

- Day 11 - at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared (or positive test result received) AND the student is fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medicine) AND the student currently has no symptoms or symptoms are significantly improved and resolving.
- If your students tests positive for Covid-19, please immediately notify the school at schoolnurse@thewaverlyschool.org.

Thanks for your understanding and working to protect the health and safety of the whole Waverly community. I look forward to welcoming students to school on Tuesday morning.

Enjoy the long weekend.

All the best,

Clarke

Clarke Weatherspoon
Head of School