

July 7, 2020

Dear Skyview Parents and Families,

As we prepare for the upcoming school year there is still so much uncertainty, but throughout the summer we have been steadily preparing ourselves for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. While these are unpredictable and difficult times, some things remain steadfast, including our love for our students, our devotion to education, and our willingness to adapt in order to provide the safest and best learning experiences possible for your child.

We are gearing up for multiple scenarios in the coming year, and doing all we can to be ready to help our students and their families in the weeks and months ahead. As we prepare, on our end, to partner with you, we also want to reach out to you, as parents, with some basic requests.

Returning to school this year will most certainly have its share of risks. As we assume these risks, we'd appreciate your awareness, care, and respect in return. **Ultimately, we want to do our best to stay well so that we can continue to serve members of our own families, who count on us, as well as yours.**

With this said, we request the following:

Vigilance

Please be conscientious and vigilant. When your kids come to school they will be carrying with them their history of exposure with the outside community. Be mindful of this, and please stay cautious and reflective. Err on the side of caution, and keep your children home if your family is doing a lot of travel, socializing, or you know you've had a risk of exposure to the virus.

Diligence and Honesty

Be diligent and honest about doing the daily health screening to catch symptoms early on. Maintain a sense of criticality with this routine, knowing your choices will drastically impact the well being of others.

Mask Up

During this current pandemic, we ask that you please obtain several cloth face coverings for your child(ren), and teach them how to properly wear and use a mask. We understand that masks will not eliminate the risk, but they will help reduce a rapid spread of the virus when it shows up on campus. Masks will be especially important when we are indoors where there is less ventilation and less ability to distance our bodies from one another.

We understand that masks are not foolproof, and we recognize that this can feel both challenging, and perhaps frightening, at first. However, as a learning community who cares for each other, we must take every measure possible to keep our students, staff, and families alive and well during this time. Wearing masks, in combination with increased hygiene and cleaning will make a difference.

Most kids can feel comfortable seeing people in masks, as long as adults:

- Use simple words to explain why people are wearing masks.
- Give kids time to look, watch, and get used to what's new.
- Answer kids' questions.
- Give support.

How Can Parents Help Kids Wear a Mask?

- Make sure your child finds a mask that is comfortable to wear, and easy to put on/ take off as needed. We recommend having at least 4 masks so that your child has a clean one for each school day.
- As much as you can, give kids time to practice wearing their masks before they need to wear one outside of your home. Teach them how to put them on and take them off (see the CDC guidelines linked below). Treat masks like part of a "superhero" costume, explaining that superheroes help people, and they will be doing the same by wearing a mask.
- Encourage kids to decorate their mask. This might help them feel a sense of ownership and control over the situation. A personal touch can help make it more of a normal part of their routine, and make it more likely they'll want to wear their mask.
- Make them together. If you make face coverings at home, let older kids help you. There are no-sew masks that are easy to make, often with materials you probably already have (T-shirts, bandannas, etc.). If you sew masks, maybe kids can select the fabric or patterns for the masks they'll wear.
- Help make it fun. With younger kids, introduce a sense of play. Kids can pretend to be a doctor or nurse while wearing their masks. They might want to use a doctor kit and "take care" of a stuffed animal or doll.

CDC Guidelines on the proper use of face coverings:

[Use Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow Spread](#)

For more tips and ideas, visit the following websites:

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-masks.html>

<https://www.drdaycare.com/wearing-a-face-mask-tips-to-teach-children/>

<https://uknow.uky.edu/uk-healthcare/why-it-important-teach-your-kids-wear-face-mask>

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and for actively partnering with us to help keep teachers and students safe this school year. We value you in our lives and we appreciate your consideration in return.

Sincerely,

Ashley Fine and the Skyview Teaching Staff