



## St. Thomas the Apostle

333 Highway 18, Old Bridge, NJ 08857  
732-251-4812



March 3, 2022

Dear St. Thomas the Apostle Families,

On Monday, March 7, 2022, as per the Diocese of Metuchen, we will no longer require our students and teachers to wear masks in school. We are pleased that the number of COVID-19 cases have diminished to a point that we are able to make masks optional in our school. Any employee or student that wants to continue to wear a mask is welcome to do so, and will be fully supported by the administration. If it is your wish for your child to continue to wear a mask, please have a conversation with your child and share your reasons. It will be the responsibility of the child to wear the mask. Teachers will not be enforcing this in their classrooms.

In an ongoing effort to maintain the health and well-being of all those in our school, we will be guided by the following:

1. During periods of elevated community transmission, when the COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) is high- ORANGE or is very high- RED, we will require universal masking for all students and staff.
2. During an active outbreak in the school or a general increase in the cases of COVID-19, we will consult with our local health department to determine if short term masking for the entire school or for specific classrooms will be required.
3. Please note that since there has been such a decrease in cases and the need to quarantine has declined, remote learning will not be offered. Should the need arise for an entire class to quarantine or in the event of a school closure due to COVID-19, remote learning will be reinstated.
4. Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine. That person may either quarantine for 10 days, or return after 5 days if they have been symptom and fever free for 24 hours. They will be required to wear mask for days 6-10. The person will also need to wear a mask outdoors during those 5 days.
5. As of now, the bus companies that service St. Thomas the Apostle have also determined that mask wearing will be optional. Please note that if a bus company changes their policy to make mask wearing mandatory, then your child must follow the rules of that bus company.



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6. The CDC is still requiring travel guidelines. If a non -vaccinated person travels outside the tristate area, he/she will be required to quarantine for 5 days.

As we move into this next phase of life with COVID-19, we will pray that we may be able to enjoy a bit of normalcy as life becomes more manageable. I am proud to say that we have purchased air purifiers for all classrooms, offices, bathrooms, as well as the auditorium. Combined with maintaining strict COVID-19 protocols and social distancing guidelines, we are doing everything in our power to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for all of our students. Please know that we are praying for you daily.

God Bless,

Reverend Jerome Johnson

Pastor

Ms. Annette Pioppo

Principal