

July 10, 2020

Dear Bellarmine Parents,

We hope that this note finds you doing well. This week, we wanted to communicate with you about face coverings. Later this month, we will share plans about contact tracing and plans for the cafeteria.

As you know, masks will be required for students throughout their time on campus, with limited exceptions for eating, drinking, and some physical activity, as directed by a teacher or coach. We want to urge you to begin planning for this with your son now.

Our own experience is that wearing a mask for an extended period of time takes some getting used to – but it is something that we have grown used to! Some of the challenge has been finding the right mask. There is no one “right mask” for everyone – it probably makes some sense to experiment with different options to see what works best for your son.

In preparation for wearing a mask throughout the school day, we suggest that your son begin wearing a mask for longer periods of time now to get acclimated to it. He might wear it around the house for a few hours, take a walk in the neighborhood, or do whatever else makes sense for your family where he can wear it for a few hours at a time to get acclimated to it, and determine if the fit is right.

A few notes about a properly fitting mask (these will be enforced on campus, and considered a disciplinary issue if there is intentional or chronic misuse):

- Masks must cover the mouth and the nose. A mask pulled below the nose or that regularly falls below the nose is not a properly fitting mask.
- Masks may not include a vent.
- The mask should be tight, but not so tight that it constricts breathing.
- Cloth masks must be washed after each day, so unless your son plans on doing the laundry daily, he should have several masks in a rotation.

Some students may be unable to wear a mask for a prolonged period of time due to health reasons. If this is the case for your son, he may be able to wear a face shield with a cloth covering attached to the bottom that tucks into his shirt as an alternative.

Students who are unable or unwilling to wear any type of face covering will be required to study remotely.

The school will have a limited supply of face coverings for students who forget to bring them. Chronically coming to school without a face covering could be a reason for a student to be sent home.

The school will provide a space on campus where students can remove their face covering for a few minutes, while practicing significant social distancing, in order to have a short break.

While we know that wearing a face covering can be a bit challenging, the science more and more certainly is demonstrating that wearing a mask, along with distancing and good hygiene, are the key ways to help stop the spread of this virus. We hope that responsible mask wearing will not only characterize your son's time on campus, but all of the time he is in public until this health crisis is behind us.

Sincerely,
Chris Meyercord '88
President

Kristina Luscher
Principal