

Good morning SJS Community,

Things have started to pick up at St. John School and we are less than three weeks from welcoming back students and faculty. Next week is a big week for us as we have numerous conversations scheduled to help us make some final decisions on health and safety for the upcoming school year. The big question that seems to be on many people's minds is the decision around masking students indoors.

I can provide our context and then offer some draft thoughts. As a private school, St. John School is in an interesting position. Both CDC and DESE (Department of Education) policies are guidelines for us, we have been directed by the Archdiocese of Boston that we can choose to follow them or not. We do, however, have two organizations that can make mandates on the school, the Canton Board of Health and the Archdiocese of Boston. The Canton Board of Health has made no mandates on masking at this point. The Archdiocese of Boston has made one mandate – we cannot require vaccinated students and faculty/staff to be in masks indoors. With the data that has come out as well as the recommendations and mandates that are being put forward, a simplified version of our draft mask policy is below. Please remember that all of this is fluid and could change. We could receive more mandates and/or data and recommendations could change. We will continue to monitor everything and adjust as needed.

-We would require that all unvaccinated students and faculty/staff wear masks when indoors. Masks are not necessary outdoors and may be removed while eating indoors.

-We would require that all visitors, including parents and guardians, wear masks when indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Masks for visitors are not required outdoors.

-We would strongly recommend that all vaccinated faculty/staff and students wear masks indoors.

-Any vaccinated individual at higher risk for severe disease from COVID-19 or with a household member who is at high risk or unvaccinated is strongly encouraged to mask regardless of vaccination status

-Any vaccinated student or faculty/staff must present vaccination documentation in order to not wear a mask.

I am providing this draft language since it has an impact on you and your child. This is an opportunity for you to offer any thoughts you may have and also a way to vet the policy. It is also an opportunity for you to plan for the fall. If your child needs to practice mask wearing, they should. If you need to provide vaccination documentation to Mrs. Medeiros, you can. We will also schedule a parent forum some time the week of August 23.

We will have our New Parents Orientation Zoom meeting for new parents on Wednesday, August 18 at 7:00 pm. Please join us at Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83424009085>  
Meeting ID: 834 2400 9085

### **SJS Calendar**

Wednesday, August 18 (7:00 pm) – New Parent Orientation

Tuesday, August 31 – Grade 6 Transition Day (Noon – 3:00)

Wednesday, September 1 - First Day for Kindergarten through Grade 8

### **School Uniform Update**

-Lands' End is experiencing delays in shipping their uniforms. Some of you may be affected by this situation. If you are having trouble getting uniforms, please reach out as we may have extras and we can make accommodations for the beginning of the school year.

-After review, Scholastic maroon polyester pants will be grandfathered in for next school year.

### **Second Notices**

*2021-2022 School Calendar*

[Click here](#) for our 2021-2022 School Calendar.

Chris