



September 1, 2021

Dear LCS Community,

This past Friday, August 27th, the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) issued an update regarding mask requirements in school settings for the 2021-2022 school year. This update requires universal masking of all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to P-12 schools to be required indoors at all times. What this means for our community is that we will start our school year requiring all persons to wear masks indoors at all times, beginning on September 2nd, 2021. The universal mask requirement for LCS will remain in place until further information is provided by the NYSDOH. As the mandate currently stands, masks are to be worn at all times and does not allow for students to remove masks even when socially distanced. In light of this information, LCS will provide routine opportunities for eating and drinking, unmasked, in a safe environment throughout the day.

We understand that these requirements may be disappointing to our community. As noted in our original reopening plan, the School Board and Leadership Team expressed our hope that mask protocols would be lessened this year. We are praying that the rate of transmission in Albany County will decrease and that we will receive updated requirements from the NYSDOH lessening the mandated use of masks indoors. It is our desire for students to have in-person instruction every day, and meeting this goal along with the health and safety of our faculty, staff, and students remain our top priorities as we enter another school year.

Additionally, LCS will continue to host some on campus events in the coming days and weeks as we are able. All potential events will be evaluated in light of transmission rates, in

accordance with the CDC, as well as the overall safety and wellness of our school community. **Tomorrow, Thursday, September 2nd, LCS will still host our return to campus open house event (grades K-12), allowing students and parents to drop off supplies to the classroom and pick up textbooks for the year ahead. This campus event runs from 1:00- 2:30 pm.** In light of the large volume of people who will be on campus for this event and in accordance with the current NYSDOH mandates, LCS is requiring all faculty, staff, students, and parents to wear a mask at all times. Additionally, we encourage you to move as quickly through the building during this event.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we continue to plan and make adjustments in the year ahead.

In Service to Him,

The LCS Leadership Team