



HOLY TRINITY

EPISCOPAL ACADEMY

October 20, 2021

Dear Holy Trinity Families,

After close and continuous monitoring of COVID-19 conditions in Brevard County and our school community, the Board of Trustees has determined that **Holy Trinity will move to a “mask optional” status at the Upper School as of November 1, 2021.** This decision was made after careful review of the continued downward trend of positive cases in our community and within our Upper School. This decision is conditional upon maintaining a community positivity rate of less than 5% and minimal positive cases on campus.

*At this time, we are **only** making a modification to our mask protocol for the **Upper School**. According to the Florida Department of Health, children under the age of 12 continue to have among the highest incidence of cases across all age populations. Our Lower School students and staff will continue to follow the current indoor mask requirement. The Board will review this decision again at its next meeting in November for possible change in December or January.*

As stated in prior communications, It has always been the goal of this Board, Dr. Cobb, and the Administration to remove our mask requirement once conditions have improved over an extended period of time. This does not mean we abandon all of our health and safety protocols. To the contrary, removing the requirement for indoor masking will necessitate a change in how we determine close contact quarantines at the Upper School. In the event of a positive case on campus, close contacts will be identified according to the following CDC definition:

“Any individual within 6-feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more, over a 24-hour period, starting from two (2) days before illness onset (or for asymptomatic patients, two days prior to COVID testing) until the time the patient isolated.”

All other mitigation practices stated in our [Forward Together plan](#) will remain in place at this time.

We know many of our families will welcome this move, while others may be more apprehensive. We must all recognize that a decision to relax the mask requirement at the Upper School comes with a level of risk and is one of great responsibility. We must be mindful of others when it comes to their personal decisions on whether to continue wearing a mask or not. There will be no tolerance for disrespect towards others for their mask preference and we appreciate your continued support in setting expectations with your children.

We are all weary from the toll this virus has taken on our lives and our community. Now is the time to continue to work collectively with mutual respect and compassion so that we can move forward, together. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our students and staff for their efforts thus far in maintaining our mask requirements and supporting our other COVID mitigation protocols. It is in part, due to your vigilance, that our HT positivity rates remain low allowing us to make the move to a mask optional position for the Upper School.

We will proceed with cautious optimism in the hopes we can return to more of the routines we enjoyed pre-pandemic. However, we are committed to reinstating the mask requirement if indicators show an increase in test positivity rate.

As always, we will strive to provide a safe, supportive and uplifting environment for our students to grow in mind, body, and spirit.

Thank you for continued support of Holy Trinity.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Flavin

Thomas P. Flavin
Chair, Board of Trustees

Katherine Cobb

Dr. Katherine Cobb
President