



December 15, 2021

Dear EPS Families,

The weather has been so unseasonal, it's hard to believe that we are wrapping up the first semester. Before we leave for winter break, I want to make you aware that we have continued to revisit our mask procedures as promised and have decided that when we return in January, masks will be recommended, not required.

I know this decision is a departure from the procedures we outlined last fall, which involved taking this action only if Covid positive rates remained below 1% for 10 consecutive days. However, a lot has changed since then. I have outlined some of the considerations that went into this decision:

- All students ages 5-18 who choose to be vaccinated can be fully vaccinated by January 4, 2022, if desired.
- Our COVID positive rates are remaining consistently low even after breaks with large gatherings and travel.
- Very few students are wearing masks in school.
- Masking is most effective when it is universal and that is not the case in our classrooms.

We wholeheartedly respect the desire of some students, families and staff to wear masks. Please continue to wear masks as you personally desire.

Because of the ever-changing variants and other medical advancements related to Covid, we will monitor our Covid positive cases and our Covid procedures. Further adjustments to our Covid and masks procedures may occur in the future if needed.

I hope all of you have a restful winter break. I look forward to seeing students and staff in January.

Sincerely,
Angela Grunewald
Superintendent

