

A Note from the Head of Middle School: Updated Covid Protocols

Dear Episcopal Parents,

I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday break. I look forward to welcoming the students back to campus on Tuesday. As Dr. Griffin mentioned in his most recent communication, we are reinstating many of our Level III mitigation strategies to start the new year due to the rapid spread and impact of the Omicron variant across the country and in Pulaski County. I understand this news will be received with mixed feelings, however, I greatly appreciate your continued support and adherence to our community expectations.

We believe this provides the safest possible school environment, best supports students and teachers as they reestablish learning routines, and minimizes disruptions to the delivery of our curriculum and programs. We will continue to evaluate the impact of the Omicron variant and review our strategies on a weekly basis.

Adjustments will include:

- Masks are required to be worn by all individuals regardless of vaccination status when indoors.
- As before, students will rotate eating lunch in the dining hall by grade level, and the other two grades will eat lunch in their advisories after picking up food from the dining hall by grade level.
- Classrooms will be configured and managed to provide maximum spacing.
- As students arrive at school in the morning, they are to go directly to their advisory.
- Cohorting and division-specific restrictions will be applied to community time and gatherings.
- Hybrid learning will be available to students who have Covid related illness or must quarantine due to exposure. Parents and/or students should contact me directly if the need arises to move online.

In regards to athletics, we will be adjusting our indoor athletic protocols to be consistent with our updated school policies. All athletic event attendees are required to adhere to our community expectations and wear masks during indoor competition. Let's all work together so our student-athletes can continue to have a fun and safe season!

The CDC recently updated their isolation and quarantine policies which will guide our protocols moving forward. Please reference the *"Guidelines for Positive Test and Close Contact Exposure"* tab on our [Community Health](#) page for those updated protocols.

Our ability to safely and successfully navigate schooling in the Covid era stems from your

support and demonstrated commitment to monitoring your child's health daily and adhering to our community's expectations. Please continue to report all absences, close-contact exposures, and covid testing/results through [this link](#) provided on our [Community Health Page](#).

As a final note, we are postponing the middle school socials, originally scheduled for this Friday, January 7, and Friday, January 21, for dates later this quarter.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Sincerely,

Chuck McCormick, EdD.
Head of Middle School