



October 30, 2020

Dear GTACS families,

Yesterday afternoon, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued what amounts to a mask mandate for our State. Since keeping kids in school is our primary goal, we are obliged to enact measures called for by [Emergency Order Under MCL 333.2253 – Gatherings and Face Mask Order](#).

Fortunately, our August “Roadmap to Return” was created with an eye toward Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan which already had fairly stringent COVID protocols. As a result of the Emergency Order, though, we must now make the following change to our mask policy:

All people age 5 and older must wear a mask while at school and/or participating in school-sponsored events. Exemptions may be found in the Emergency Order.

Many of you will understand our need to follow State regulations. Others may wonder why private, Catholic schools such as ours adhere to government edicts. We are compelled to comply simply because it is in the best interest of our students; we will do what is required of us to remain open.

Our virtue, especially our patience, is being tested. As we enter the celebration of All Saints Day this weekend, please pray for the intercession of all God’s Holy Ones on behalf of our students, our families, our nation, and our Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael R. Buell', written in a cursive style.

Michael R. Buell
Superintendent

P.S. For the sake of our teachers and our families, we had built into our school calendar additional days off school. We had previously announced additional days off in November (22-23) and are now announcing days off December (21-22), giving people more time to be with their loved ones and recuperate from what has already been a very challenging year.