



May 15, 2021

Good Students and Parents,

Peace be with you!

After reading the new order by the governor, here are some thoughts:

- The State has determined that fully vaccinated individuals are no longer required to wear masks. This means that fully vaccinated students will also be exempt from the mask requirement.
- For those students who are fully vaccinated, which means it's been at least two weeks since their final vaccine dose, masking will be the choice of the student.
- Freshmen, based on the when approval of the vaccine for their age level was granted, are extremely unlikely to be fully vaccinated by the time school is out. Now, it really has never been worse to be a freshman 😊.
- We will not be asking students or parents to present evidence of their vaccine, but we understand that in this, as in many things, you will follow your conscience.
- Any student who chooses to wear a mask may do so.

As I have written before, more than ever we understand the great gift of community. God made us for each other. It is always my fear that issues like masks or vaccines will cause division within our Catholic community. (One of the Devil's attributes is to sow division.) Good people with strong feelings have widely varying opinions. There are strong arguments on both sides of many current issues. As Catholics we are to understand the issues through reading, discussing, and praying. With a well-formed conscience, many decisions are for the family alone. It is not the school's business to supersede the primacy of the parents as educators.

For example, some parents may feel pressure to get their son or daughter vaccinated. This is not the school's intention. We respect that this is the decision of the family. Know that these policy changes are for one reason only: to keep the school open for face-to-face instruction. We do this by following the State mandates.

We are all looking forward to the end of this. But for now, let's approach each day with good will in our hearts for our neighbors as we look for the good in all.

Peace and all good,

Erick Chittle, Ph.D.