

Parent Forum Notes

What are you following to determine Trinity's course of action? Specifically, Governor Hogan, County Executive Glassman, HCPS?

We will follow all mandates from Governor Hogan. He has the authority of law and therefore we are subject to those laws, not only from a governmental standpoint, but also from a biblical perspective.

Mr. Gast posed the question: How would you feel if we chose not to require masks and a student in your child's classroom got sick and the entire class had to be quarantined for 2 weeks?

In response to those questions parents asked:

Why would it have to be 2 weeks, the CDC recommends 10 days?

House Counsel Ken Coughlan explained that the Maryland Health Department has set very specific rules regarding masking in school settings. The rules state that if universal masking is taking place consistently school-wide, and an individual becomes sick, only that individual has to quarantine for 14 days. However, if masking is not Universally implemented with fidelity, the student's entire class must be quarantined. Whichever decision is made, we will follow these guidelines.

If we choose not to mask, and the class had to be quarantined, would courses be online for that time?

Yes, we will have online classes, in which teachers will teach a modified lesson, and explain coursework, and then students will log off and complete assignments independently and turn in work electronically.

Have you considered polling parents to make this decision?

We chose to utilize Parent Forums as a way to gain parent input for this decision. We not only are looking for a mask or no mask response, but we are also interested in hearing specific concerns regarding both viewpoints in order to make the most appropriate decision.

If the school chooses not to mandate masking, will students be able to mask if that is the parents preference?

Yes

What studies is Trinity using to make the decision as to whether or not to mask?

We have reviewed studies that say it is imperative that all students mask. We have read studies that state that masking doesn't work. For each data point we are provided that says to mask, there is another that says not to mask.

Forums held August 16, 2021

Parents shared their viewpoints regarding the decision to mask. The following themes were noted:

- I would rather mask than have my student lose in class instructional time.
- Parents should be able to choose whether or not to mask their child
- It is important to consider the unknown long term effects of masking. Examples expressed were, social/ emotional concerns, possible breathing issues, issues with speech articulation and language development.
- Numerous parents expressed that quarantines will cause undue hardships on students and families as they have been recalled to the workplace, they are essential workers, single parents, and current restrictions do not allow them to put their children in daycare if they are quarantined from school.

Will a negative rapid test, or at home test be accepted for readmittance?

Yes, in accordance with the Health Department requirements.

Will students/staff who are vaccinated be required to adhere to the same practices as those who are not vaccinated?

Yes. We have an obligation to protect the privacy of our students and staff. As such we will not be sharing vaccination information. To that end, we will have consistent policies across the organization with regard to the implementation of safety protocols.

What time will after school activities be held?

It was explained that while the start times are generally around 3:30, the end times vary due to the nature of the activity. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Will lunches be in the classroom again this year?

Yes.

Will there be field trips this year?

We are hopeful to have as traditional of a school year as possible, and that includes field trips.

Will there be open space classrooms as there were last year?

Our goal is to create as traditional of a school experience as possible. At this time all academic courses will be held in self contained classrooms. However, we are still working on the details for Specials i.e. Art, Music, Media.

What other precautions will be in place to protect students and staff from illness?

We will continue to have handwashing stations throughout the school. Extensive cleaning and sanitation will continue. We will continue to have four entrance and exit doors, temperature checks and health assessments will be the same as last year as well.

Specifically for Middle school :

Please describe what using devices/ books looks like in practice?

Much of the coursework students complete can be done electronically. In general we will continue to utilize google classroom to manage our classrooms, and provide assignments. However, there are times when an assignment is better suited to traditional pen and paper. One example are labs, where students will be creating illustrations of their observations. Some teachers utilize interactive composition notebooks as a way to utilize multiple instructional approaches to help students develop connections to the material.

Please note, for those students who need additional assistance either utilizing the technology to access the curriculum or who are unable to perform at their best when technology is involved, our teachers partner with Educational Services to develop learning opportunities that ensure they are provided the materials they need to be successful.

Will middle school students be moving from one classroom to another? If so, will tables be wiped down in between?

Our middle school students will move to different classrooms throughout the school day. We will have desks wiped down at the end of each class.

Will Middle School students have lockers this year?

In general, we are not planning to utilize lockers this year. Students will have time during lunch to switch out morning supplies for afternoon supplies.