

February 16, 2022

Dear St. Ambrose Parents & Guardians,

In light of recent events, our COVID Response Team has determined that beginning on Thursday February 17, 2022, it will be the choice of parents as to whether their children are masked or unmasked at St. Ambrose. During this period of transition, we will not be “policing” masks. If your expectation is that your child wear a mask, please make sure they understand that. Some students will continue to wear masks, while others will not. We cannot have any “judgment,” “harassment,” or mistreatment of any kind from the unmasked to the masked or from the masked to the unmasked. Inappropriate behaviors or interactions along those lines will be dealt with seriously.

Our COVID Response Team is currently assessing our other protocols and mitigations and determining any appropriate amendments to those protocols. Please remember that the health experts (CDC, IDPH, and the Madison County Health Department) continue to strongly recommend the use of masks in schools and indoor congregate settings. Our COVID Response Team strongly supports this recommendation.

The beginnings of a return to normalcy will require St. Ambrose to continue monitoring data and making appropriate decisions accordingly. The applicable data we will use include our St. Ambrose COVID numbers and the Madison County available COVID data. Our team will use the available data to make the best decisions for St. Ambrose and for our students, faculty, and staff. That data currently shows favorable trends. During these last two weeks, and for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, we at St. Ambrose have no one missing from school due to COVID (positive cases or exposures).

From the beginning of the pandemic, our goals have remained the same. We strive to protect our students, faculty, and staff. We have been committed to keeping our school open. We continue to work towards providing our students the best education and safest environment. These remain our goals.

The legal process continues to lack clarity as we have heard and read numerous interpretations and recommendations, many of which contradict the other. During this challenging and confusing process, we have and continue to try do to what is best for all of St. Ambrose. We thank you again for your continued patience. More information will be available soon regarding any other changes.

Thank You,

COVID Response Team

