

MADISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope this message finds you well. As mentioned in [Superintendent Schwarz's message on February 9th](#), masks will become optional for all students and staff beginning on Monday, March 7th. We wanted to make clear several items regarding this change:

- We understand that some students and staff will continue wearing a mask while others will not. Whatever one chooses to do is their decision and we respect the fact that "mask optional" means that everyone can make their own decision without feeling pressured one way or the other. No one will be treated any differently for the choice they make.
- Our staff will not be responsible for monitoring children whose parents want them to wear a mask. If a parent expects that their child wears a mask at school, it is the child who will bear that responsibility.
- Masks are no longer required to be worn on school buses.
- Students will be asked to wear a mask if they are in the nurse's office and present symptoms related to COVID-19. This is to ensure the health of our nurse and any other children or staff in the office at that time.

We acknowledge that students at the elementary schools will have mixed emotional feelings about this topic. In addition, we recognize that some students may wonder if they are safe. This is a topic that families should discuss with students prior to coming to school on March 7, 2022. With this said, we have provided some websites and resources to help families navigate this topic.

Resources:

- [Video Newsclip featuring Dr. Maurice Elias](#)
- [Preparing for Masks to Come Off Tip Sheet](#)
- [Helping Children Cope With Changes Resulting From COVID-19](#)
- [Cómo ayudar a los niños a lidiar con los cambios provocados por la COVID](#)

Regards,

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