



February 9, 2022

Dear Red Knight students and families,

I want to start by thanking you for your continued patience and flexibility as we have worked together to navigate the changing waters of the COVID-19 landscape. Trying to make the learning experiences as normal as possible for our students has not been easy. Your partnership and engagement is part of what makes BSM so special.

Now that we have worked through the latest COVID peak, on Thursday, February 10, we will be returning to a mask optional approach for all students, faculty and staff, and visitors.

We continue to assess a variety of factors when adjusting our protocols. Here are some of the important factors at this point:

- Case rates have declined sharply in the school
- Other schools have managed COVID with limited restrictions
- The CDC and MDH have assessed that the current Omicron variant, while contagious, produces less severe reactions in vaccinated individuals
- Our ability to fight the virus has improved since we first dealt with COVID in March 2020
- Vaccination rates are high across our school community (i.e., staff and students)

As for additional safety measures and protocols, please note:

- Isolation will still be required for individuals testing positive for COVID for a minimum of five days.
- After five days, provided they show no active symptoms, individuals may return to school, although they will be required to wear a mask for an additional five days.

In addition, the federal mandate requires masks for all individuals using public transportation, including school buses. Therefore ***all students and adults will be required to wear masks on buses.***

Thank you again for keeping BSM in your prayers and being willing to adapt as our circumstances continue to evolve.

Dr. Ehrmantraut, President