



St. Francis Xavier  
Jesuit Elementary School  
Preschool - 8th Grade

January 15, 2022

Dear SFX Community,

Thank you for your outstanding support as we continue to navigate the developments of the Covid-19 pandemic. As we have done thus far, we want to be intentional and thoughtful as decisions are made for the health and wellness of our community, as well as keeping our campus up and running for in person learning. Additionally, we want to be up-to-date on implementing a course of action that proves to be most practical given where we are in the Covid-19 pandemic in totality. We continue to journey together through the pandemic, living out the mission of our school. We have had the time and opportunity for those who wish to be vaccinated and boosted to do so, and continue to ask everyone to make thoughtful and responsible decisions inside and outside of school for the well-being of our community at large and the greater good.

In my letter sent out on 12/3/2021 I was committed to updating our mask policy on campus to mask-optional beginning 1/10/2022 and I still remain committed to making masks optional. However, the Omicron variant has dramatically changed the landscape of the pandemic so our plan is updating and we will move to mask-optional for K-8 beginning on 1/24/2022. PK remains mask-optional. After we make the campus-wide change to mask-optional students and staff are still welcome to wear a well-fitted mask indoors. Please note that after the update to our mask policy occurs students should still have a well-fitted mask in their backpack as we will continue to require indoor masking during school Mass, and any large, on-campus, indoor event in the gym or parish hall.

We are continuing to follow our updated [quarantine/isolation guidelines](#) which provides guidance issued by MCDPH for symptomatic individuals, positive cases, and exposures. Please remember that our first line of defense continues to be to keep sick/symptomatic students, household members, and staff home. Your open communication and partnership with our nurses has greatly helped our community during this pandemic.

Thank you for your continued support and for always building it up at SFX. Have a great weekend and continue to stay safe and healthy.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and "W".

Ryan Watson