Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to inform you of our COVID-19 school policy changes for the 2021-2022 school year. We are following the recommendations of The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Saratoga County Public Health. We are hoping that these changes will be temporary after this Delta variant surge of COVID-19 is over. Our main goal for the 2021-2022 school year is to keep students and staff healthy and safe, and to ensure that we can continue in-person teaching.

* We are temporarily requiring all students, teachers, staff, and visitors at Mother Teresa Academy to wear masks regardless of vaccination status when social distancing cannot be maintained. The students will not be required to wear masks outside, when siting in their spots in the table dividers, and whenever eating or drinking. If the students ask for a mask break, they will be allowed to do so in a safe manner.
* The desks in kindergarten will be kept 3 feet apart so that while seated the students will not need to wear their masks.
* When possible, students will be kept in their respective class groups or cohorts to minimize the risk of spreading.
* We will be continuing to encourage and teach our students about the importance of hand washing. We will be modeling handwashing for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. When hand washing is not used their will be hand sanitizer available.
* We will continue educating students on covering their mouth for coughs or sneezes and how that can help stop the spread of germs. After covering their face, they will be asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer to stop the spread of those germs.
* We will be asking parents to closely monitor their children for any signs or symptoms of infections illness including COVID-19 and to get tested.
* We will be sending children home that “show symptoms of any communicable or infectious disease reportable under the public health law that imposes a significant risk of infection of others in the school. “In accordance with Education Law 906. We included a chart from the CDC that explains how that process will be handled at school.
* All staff will be closely monitoring themselves for any signs or symptoms of infections illness including COVID-19 as well and will get tested.
* The school building will be cleaned professional daily and sanitized to remove any germs that may be on surfaces.
* If our school has someone who tested position for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, the space will be cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible.

We appreciate all of your continued support with the changes our school is making. These decisions were not made easily but with the best interest of your children in mind. We know that your children and your most precious gift and we thank you for trusting us to not just teach them but also keep them safe. Again, we want to reiterate that our policies are fluid and can change based on the current infection rate of our county. If you have any questions/comments/or concerns please let us know.

Sincerely,

Debbie Kenyon

Director

Mother Teresa Academy

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