



**DIVINE MERCY**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

Dear Families-

The announcement from the CDC late last week filled me with hope. I have been waiting in anticipation for the removal of restrictions that have been difficult for us at school this year. Since that time, both our state government and other health and human service agencies have weighed in with guidance.

Governor Walz released late Friday his executive order 21-23 that does modify his prior order on face coverings for vaccinated people. This executive order retains paragraph 12.a and 12.b of Executive Order 20-81 relating to childcare, preschool, pre-kindergarten, and K-12 schools. This language orders schools and school districts to follow the face-covering requirements.

Since the start of the 2020-2021 school year, Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis have implemented local Pandemic Preparedness and Readiness Plans (PPRP) that have allowed for safe in-person learning this school year. Our plan has always stated that we would follow the guidance provided by the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis, the Minnesota Department of Health, and our state government.

We will continue to follow the latest guidance being issued. As of yesterday, the guidance from these organizations is clear. Schools will continue to follow face covering requirements under the Safe Learning Plan through the end of the 2020-21 school year. Great progress is being made against COVID-19, but our children under the age of 12 are not yet eligible to be vaccinated, so we must continue to be diligent with health and safety practices. The guidelines for quarantine and social distancing have also not changed, and therefore we proceed with caution.

Please know that we will carefully review any further updates as we have done since the start of the year and will consider any necessary changes to our school's PPRP. I am grateful for the unity in our school community found in our mutual work to provide students with in-person learning. We are committed to help our student close the year strong.

May God continue to bless our community.

Mrs. Ashley

**Divine Mercy Catholic School:**

*A community grounded in faith, dedicated to the development of the whole  
child- mind, body, and soul.*

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