

Mask Mandate at FJA

On August 16, 2021, the FJA Governing Board voted to require the use of masks when indoors on school property as part of its 2021-2022 School Opening/ COVID-19 Mitigation Plan. Students, staff, and visitors needing a mask will be supplied with one. The mask requirement begins on August 17th and will be in effect until September 29th.

Due to the increasing numbers of COVID cases in the county and state, the highly transmissible nature of the Delta variant, and the goal of maintaining in-person learning, the FJA Governing Board exercised its authority to establish school policies that help ensure student and staff safety.

FJA recognizes that some students may need an exemption from this policy. The governing board approved that the mandate would be subject to exemptions established by the CDC, Arizona Department of Health Services, or Coconino County Department of Health. Guidance on exemptions is outlined below. Also, outlined below are the practices that FJA will adopt on both campuses to ensure students' well-being.

Exemption Guidance

Parents/guardians requesting a mask mandate exemption for their children based upon should do the following:

- Submit a written request to FJA Executive Director, Dr. Carissa Morrison; requests can be emailed to carissamorrison@fjacademy.com
- Include in the request the following: student name, parent/guardian contact information, a reason/rationale for the exemption request, and any supporting documentation (medical condition, developmental disability, unable to remove a mask without assistance, etc.)
- A response that approves, denies, or outlines what other information is needed will be sent to the requestor

Practices for Students' Well-Being During Mandatory Masking

- Every student will be able to participate in a minimum of 3 outdoor whole-class mask breaks daily (in the event of inclement weather, these breaks may be small group indoors); these 3 breaks will include a 10-15 minute morning break, a 45-60 minute lunch/recess break, and a 10-15 minute afternoon break. At the elementary campus, the morning and afternoon breaks may occur during specials time, depending upon the specials class that day
- Any student who requests an individual mask will be granted that opportunity
- All teachers will have a designated space within the classroom (with physical distancing) and/or immediately outside of the classroom (hallway, courtyard, etc.) where students can take individual breaks as needed

Our goal is to keep students and staff safe and healthy while offering in-person learning at FJA this year.

