

## Mask Practices, Archway Arete

### From the [Great Hearts Mask Policy](#):

*One thing must be made clear at the outset: We are not asking faculty and staff to over-police this policy. Faculty and staff will help lovingly and patiently guide and support students in adherence to the policy's expectations. These expectations are a part of our layered approach to safety. Still, wearing a mask cannot be turned into a panacea. We must protect against a culture of hypervigilance and overbearing scrutiny where any moment without a mask is rendered unforgivable. We must protect against a culture of fear.*

The purpose of this document is not to make the policy more complicated or restrictive. The idea is to give young students clear expectations about when masks are required and when they are optional. Parents and teachers are encouraged to share these expectations with students in a way that is developmentally appropriate.

Masks are on when:

- In the library, office, hallways, nurse's office, specials classroom, and other communal spaces when a desk shield is not available
- Transitioning or standing in the classroom
- Using a shared restroom
- Exiting the car at drop off (for the sake of the temperature-taker)
- Sitting/standing closer than 6 feet when in the outdoor classroom
- Transitioning outdoors (e.g., walking from the academic building to the gym)
- While using a shared student device (laptop, iPad, etc.)

Masks are *optional* when:

- Sitting at a desk with a desk shield\*
- Playing at recess (likely most children will opt not to wear a mask)
- Sitting at the lunch table (of course, for the most part, students are eating)
- Physical Education (PE)--
  - Indoors, when farther than 6 feet apart
  - Outdoors, after instructions/attendance

*\* Students are permitted to take breaks as necessary when sitting behind a desk shield but will be gently encouraged by teachers to wear them during the instructional period, particularly when working closely with a teacher or speaking to students in adjacent desks. Parents are encouraged to start a dialogue with the teacher if they have questions about the length and frequency of breaks.*