

Principal Notes

Dear Parents,

On March 14, the Pasadena Health Department will no longer require masks be worn in the classrooms. They continue to recommend that masks be worn, but they are not required. We, as we have done all along, will follow their guidance and will no longer require masks indoors. Anyone who wishes to continue to wear a mask may do so. If you want your child to continue to wear a mask just send them to school with one. Some faculty and staff may also continue to wear masks at school. Since this new order does not take place until next Monday, we will continue to wear our masks for one more week.

For now, the quarantine requirements have not changed. We will continue to follow the Quarantine Pathway we have been using since January.

We are not unaware of the fact that the mask mandate is being lifted exactly two years after Covid first shut us down. The ups and downs, twists and turns of these last two years have been remarkable and probably historic. However, I believe that history will also show that we are strong and that our children have gained resilience throughout this. I am very proud of our students for their fortitude. I know that there may be loss of learning from the last two years and that there may also be some anxiety. Our staff is making every effort to help our students to regain both their academic growth and their mental confidence.

Financially, the last few years have been tough. Our enrollment took a hit from families moving out of state and our tuition assistance increased substantially as families suffered job losses and a reduction in income during Covid. We made a commitment to provide financial support to any family in need and we kept our word. Additionally, we incurred huge costs (approximately \$500,000) upgrading our HVAC systems, preparing the ministry building for additional classrooms, hiring extra staff, and providing all of the required protective equipment needed to keep our students and our staff safe. We made all of this happen while expanding our school's offerings, keeping tuition low, and reducing our fundraising efforts.

Now, we are planning to rebuild our resources and bring the school back to it's pre-pandemic level of financial health while continuing to meet our strategic plan goal for teacher salaries. This means we must increase tuition. Last year we knew families were still recovering and we only increased tuition by three percent. This year, we need to close the gap with a nine percent increase. This breaks down to \$710 per year and \$71 per month for tuition Plan A. Going forward, we don't anticipate an increase of this size because our school board and the finance committee are working on a five year plan with more consistent increases each year instead of these major jumps.

As always, we are committed to our families and we do not want to lose any family over inability to pay tuition. Please complete the tuition assistance application in FACTS if you will need financial help with tuition for next year. This is a confidential application seen only by me. We

do need you to complete it by April 30th though so that we can be certain we are reaching all families that need help.

I am amazed by how well our faculty and staff did during the last two years. We jumped to online learning immediately after schools were closed. We learned and we switched, but we kept going. Then we received the waiver to open almost immediately after it became available, brought our younger students back on campus, and worked tirelessly to get all of our students back. We opened a new building for classrooms, at one time having 30 separate classrooms running all at once. And then we switched back again, brought everyone back on campus, and were able to offer on campus surveillance testing to keep things going. When we could, we moved to a modified quarantine to keep everyone here, and now finally, we are going mask optional. It has been a roller coaster ride but we are strong and we did it!

We appreciate that this was a difficult time for families and for students. We are grateful to all of you for hanging in there with us. This community has been a warm and welcoming one for many, many years and I am thrilled that each of you is a part of it. Please reach out if you have questions. We are here for you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer

You can find the new tuition rates [here](#).