



# ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear STM Parents and Guardians,

As many of you have heard, the Westfield Public Health Department had issued a directive regarding the wearing of masks that will modify our current practice as outlined by the Diocese of Springfield. Based on their vote this past week, all students in Westfield will be required to wear masks in school. This directive applies to both public and private school students age 5 and above in Westfield. While parental choice is always in the forefront of our decision-making, we must legally follow the local mandates set forth by the City of Westfield Public Health Department.

St. Mary's High School students will be required to wear masks when entering the building, and while traveling between classes. Once our students are distanced and seated in the classroom, they will be allowed to remove their masks. If a student needs to leave their seat for any reason during the class, they must put on their mask. Students will remove their masks during lunch while in the cafeteria. We understand that some students may have a medical, behavioral, or other reason as to why they are not able to wear a mask. Parents will be required to provide documentation to Mr. Collins if their child falls in one of these categories. If you have already reached out to Mr. Collins, you are asked to reach out again, via email or other form of written documentation, as to why you are requesting your child be exempt from this masking policy. This mask policy is similar to our policy during the 2020/2021 school year.

As we head into the fall season, we are asking for your full cooperation with regard to your child(ren) wearing masks. We are also asking for your full cooperation in keeping your child home if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- Fever 100.4
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches/chills
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Exposure to another person with COVID

We will continue to monitor this fluid and ever-changing public health crisis, and will respond accordingly. We want to be able to keep all students safe and in school for the remainder of the school year.

In Christ,

Mr. Collins