



HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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February 10, 2022

Dear Hawthorne Families.

As many of you are aware, earlier this week Governor Murphy made a general announcement that the mask mandate in schools will be lifted on March 7, 2022. At this time, our plan is to make masks optional for students, staff, and visitors effective Monday, March 7, 2022. However, please be aware that all school districts are also awaiting updated guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education regarding new requirements that may impact social distancing requirements, close contact classifications, length of quarantine periods, virtual schooling allowances, symptom thresholds, lunch/recess regulations, physical education restrictions and other “Road Forward” requirements. Once that information is received, we will finalize our protocols and procedures for the March 7th end to mandatory masking.

Since the pandemic began in March of 2020, we have all worked together to navigate this pandemic and support students and families in a variety of ways. Our goal is to continue to work together for the safety of all staff, students, and families. While we remain optimistic that each passing day brings us one step closer to the end of the pandemic, for the time being we will continue to follow our established safety protocols and procedures.

We kindly ask for your patience as we await new guidance and make any necessary adjustments to our health and safety procedures. When we receive this updated guidance, the administration will finalize the new protocols and share them with all members of our school community.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of our schools.

With Appreciation,

Richard A. Spirito