



HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

445 Lafayette Avenue, 2nd Floor
Hawthorne, NJ 07506
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February 28, 2022

Dear Hawthorne Families.

As per my letter on February 10, 2022, the governor lifted the mask mandate in schools effective Monday, March 7, 2022. Also, the CDC will no longer require the wearing of masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems. Based on the above information, the Hawthorne Public Schools will transition to a mask optional policy in our schools and on school buses for all students, staff, and visitors beginning March 7, 2022.

As COVID cases continue to decline in Hawthorne and across the state, we are optimistic that we are one step closer to a return to normal operations. With that in mind, we will respect the decision equally of those who elect to continue to wear masks as well as those who would prefer not to do so. Students and staff will base their decision on their own circumstances, and we will respect whatever decision they choose.

Going forward, the district will maintain its cleaning and ventilation procedures already in place. Air purifiers will continue to be utilized in all classrooms, and we will continue to open classroom windows for greater ventilation. We will also provide additional outdoor opportunities as the weather permits. Finally, it remains essential that families screen students before sending them to school and keep the school nurse informed of positive COVID-19 tests and COVID symptoms.

Regarding updated guidelines for students and staff, we continue to face the challenge of ever-changing guidance from the NJDOH and the CDC. We will be reviewing all of the recently updated recommendations and formulating revised protocols for the Hawthorne Public Schools. We once again ask for your patience as we make adjustments to our health and safety procedures.

Since the pandemic began in March of 2020, we have all worked together to navigate this pandemic and support students and families in various ways. Our goal is to continue to work together for the safety of all staff, students, and families. We remain optimistic that each passing day brings us one step closer to the end of this pandemic.

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

With Appreciation,

Richard A. Spirito