

April 30, 2021

Dear Parents and Faculty/Staff,

I come to you today with continued good news as we move toward the end of this year and look ahead to next year.

We are making some changes to the masking protocols at TFS in light of recent changes from the State as regards COVID restrictions. The Governor's executive order, being implemented today and found [here](#), removes the masking requirement for those outdoors in North Carolina. This is being done in light of the well-established science that transmission of the virus is virtually non-existent when outside with good ventilation.

After consultation with our TFS COVID Task Force and Parish leadership, we have decided to make changes to some of our procedures. What does this mean for TFS? Starting Monday, May 3rd, the following will be our protocol as regards outside masking:

- Students and faculty/staff at recess outside will NOT be required to wear masks for the time that they are outside.
- Masking is still REQUIRED inside buildings on campus for all and when traveling across campus.
- We will still NOT mix cohorts on campus.
- At afternoon car pool, and when students are dropped off in the mornings, students and faculty/staff, as well as anyone coming to pick up children, are required to be masked. This is due to the proximity and number of people present.

We realize that these may seem like small incremental steps, but as soon as we are able to loosen restrictions safely, and in consultation with the advisory bodies we have in place, we will make changes to reflect current conditions.

Thank you, once again, for all of your patience and support.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Mike Watson, Principal at The Franciscan School