

Dear Northside Community,

We hope you are enjoying a wonderful break and are staying healthy! Due to the surge in Omicron, we have a few important updates for you.

First of all, we have updated our current return from break COVID testing requirement to the following: as you are already aware, ALL students, faculty, and staff MUST submit a negative PCR test report, taken between January 1-4, 2022. Please upload ALL test reports to Magnus, under the requirement " PCR Covid Test Results Compliance." **Given delays in PCR testing results, we will initially accept a negative rapid test while awaiting the PCR results. The rapid test must be taken either Monday, January 3 or Tuesday, January 4 and can be from an at-home kit. If this is what you are submitting, please send a picture of the results with your child's name and grade to Nurse Anita by Tuesday, January 4.**

Secondly, we are now requiring all members of the community at both buildings to wear N95, KN95, or KF94 masks. **Single cloth masks will no longer be accepted. If it is not possible for your child to wear an N95 or KN95 mask, it is acceptable for them to double mask by wearing a cloth mask over a surgical mask or two surgical masks.** For more information on the efficacy of these masks, please see this article: <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2021/12/why-you-should-upgrade-your-face-mask-to-an-n95.html>

Finally, in an effort to protect all, **we ask that parents and caregivers wear masks at pick up and drop off.** Due to the highly contagious nature of the Omicron variant, we ask that you help protect the students and faculty/staff who greet you in the morning and afternoon by wearing a mask.

Both buildings will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before our return to school on January 5, 2022. In addition, we are working on an updated testing schedule, as we hope to test every member of our community once a week at least through March break. More information to follow.

Please note that all guidelines and policies are subject to change. We will continue to react to the latest conditions with our concern being the safety of our families, children, faculty, and staff.

I sincerely wish you a happy and healthy new year. Please feel free to reach out to Shiva McClellan, Lisa Melore, Anita Thomas, Teresa Smith, Amanda DiMeo, or me if you have any questions or concerns.

All the best,

Elie

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