



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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121 FAIRVIEW AVENUE
VERONA, NEW JERSEY 07044

DR. LYDIA E. FURNARI,
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/
BOARD SECRETARY

MATTHEW LARACY,
TREASURER OF SCHOOL MONIES

February 9, 2022

Dear Members of the Verona Public Schools Community,

On February 7, 2022, Governor Murphy declared, that the universal statewide mask mandate for schools and childcare settings will be lifted on Monday March 7, 2022. Last night, at the Verona Board of Education meeting, I shared that the Verona Public Schools will implement a “mask optional” approach as of March 7, 2022. I also shared that we are “cautiously optimistic” that the anticipated guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), will not place unmanageable restrictions on our ability to implement our plan as we intend. This guidance, which has yet to be released is supposed to help school districts update policies and plans to accommodate the lifting of the mask mandate, while ensuring a safe learning environment for all students and staff. With the lifting of the mask mandate, we anticipate the guidance will address other considerations such as social distancing, use of plexiglass desk shields, use of spaces in our facilities, exposure to COVID-19 positive individuals, contact tracing, vaccination considerations, transmission rate, etc. which may have to be adjusted as well.

Every decision we make is based on our understanding of the needs of our students and staff whether they relate to their education, their social-emotional, mental or physical health. A mask optional approach relies heavily on each person’s daily decisions. As such the District will continue to provide staff and students with a mask if they forget their own and still want to wear one. We ask that each person’s choice with regard to mask wearing is treated respectfully by all members of our school community.

As we move toward this next phase of the school year, you will find that activities such as parent conferences, math nights, workshops and other various events will be held in person.

Student field trips are also being planned. You will hear more about these and other activities from your child's school.

I understand that there will be many questions concerning these changes. I expect that a number of them will be answered as we interpret the NJDOH guidance and share its implications for our District. Additionally, we will be posting Frequently Asked Questions by topic on our District website. One of these FAQs will be specific to changes to our COVID-19 protocols. I encourage you to continue to communicate with your child's school and with me. We truly appreciate your partnership and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lydia E. Furnari". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Lydia E. Furnari, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent