



ST. AGNES
ACADEMY
for GIRLS

ST. DOMINIC
SCHOOL
for BOYS

The Dominican

COMMUNITY *of* SCHOOLS

January 2, 2022

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas break and an opportunity to enjoy time with family. As we begin the new year, I am looking forward to the upcoming semester.

Our health team monitored the dramatic rise in COVID cases throughout the break and reviewed our mitigation plans. As always, we remain focused on two goals: keeping our community safe and keeping our students in school. While the Omicron variant does not appear to pose as significant a threat to our safety as previous variants, its increased transmissibility can force our students and faculty out of school.

Therefore, we will begin the semester with masking required for all students, faculty, and visitors indoors on our campus.

Government protocols require that students and staff in close contact with a positive case must also quarantine. Masking, along with increased spacing, will reduce the number of close contacts associated with any positive case, resulting in fewer students restricted from campus.

Our families can also help reduce the likelihood of large-scale quarantines by keeping students home whenever they have any COVID symptoms. Many cold and flu symptoms are similar to those associated with COVID. Please do not assume your child only has a cold. We expect all community members to stay home when sick, get tested when recommended, and comply with quarantine and isolation protocols when exposed to an individual with COVID.

The CDC and Tennessee Department of Health recently issued updated Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines. These guidelines shorten the minimum isolation and quarantine period. Our school nurse will work with you to determine when your child may return to school following an illness or COVID exposure. We will update our COVID documents to reflect this new guidance this week.

We will continue to monitor transmission rates in the greater Memphis area and our St. Agnes-St. Dominic community as well as consult with healthcare professionals. Epidemiology experts expect this surge to die out as quickly as it grew. **We will regularly assess our protocols and return to a mask optional posture as soon as practical.**

If your child is vaccinated, please forward information on their vaccination status to immunizations@saa-sds.org. This will speed up any contact tracing and if vaccinated, get your child back to class as soon as possible.

I remain proud of our caring community and grateful for your prayers and support.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Hood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and the last name "Hood" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Hood
President, St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School

"Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as in fact you are doing."

1Thessalonians 5:11
